The Gilbert Water Treatment Plant can treat 30 mgd throughout the year and can treat up to 40 mgd during summer months when the Town’s residents’ demand for water is higher.

What type of water treatment is used at the plant?

The Gilbert Water Treatment Plant incorporates conventional treatment, ozone, and granular-activated carbon (GAC) filters.
- Conventional treatment uses alum as a coagulant to settle particles in the sedimentation basins.
- Ozone is used to reduce the total organics in the water.
- GAC filters provide a final polishing of the water before it is chlorinated and distributed to Gilbert residents.

What is the source of the water?

The Gilbert Water Treatment Plant receives its water from the Salt River Project (SRP) Eastern Canal. This canal can also transport water supplied through Central Arizona Project (CAP). SRP water comes from the Salt and Verde Rivers, and the CAP water supplies come from the Colorado River.

History of the Gilbert Water Treatment Plant

In the early 80s, the Town of Gilbert recognized that to plan for future growth, an alternative to pumping groundwater to supply its residents should be found. A comprehensive water resource master plan was completed in 1984.

In 1988, the Town passed the Water System Improvement Bond Election, which authorized the funding for the development of the water system and the design and construction of the water treatment plant. This strategic planning by the Town resulted in the first 15 million gallon per day (mgd) phase of the plant, beginning operation in the spring of 1997.

The second phase of the water treatment plant was completed in the summer of 2002, bringing the treatment capacity to 40 mgd to meet summer water demands. The water treatment plant can be expanded to an ultimate capacity of 60 mgd.

Water resource planning has been vital to the quality of life of the Town from its agricultural beginnings. A cornerstone of sustainable growth is the responsible planning and management of available water resources. The water treatment plant is a key component in the Town’s overall water resource management plan.