Brief History of the Fremont Water Treatment Plant

1883
The original Fremont City Waterworks consisted of an open reservoir and infiltration galleries from the Sandusky River. Two steam powered pumping units pumped partially settled water unsuitable for drinking to a standpipe 100 feet high by 25 feet diameter (356,000 gallons) located at Fountain Park. The distribution system consisted of ten miles of mains and 856 service connections with ten of them metered. Potable water was supplied by various wells around the city.

1927-1928
The water treatment plant was constructed at Rodger Young Park.
Treatment plant/pumping capacity was 3 million gallons per day (MGD).
Treated water was stored in a 450,000 gallon clearwell located at the treatment plant and in a 300,000 gallon elevated tank at Whittlesey Street.

1950-1953
An expansion project doubled the treatment plant capacity to 6 MGD.
Treated water storage expanded with the construction of an additional 550,000 gallon clearwell at the treatment plant and a 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank at Wilson Street.

1959
A 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank was constructed at Walnut Street to increase the treated water storage to 2,300,000 gallons. The Ballville Dam was purchased from Ohio Power Company for use as a gravity flow raw water intake with a capacity of 12 MGD.

1969
Two 3 MGD and two 6 MGD high service pumps were installed at the treatment plant.
Improvements made to the Ballville Dam, including concrete repair.
A 2,000,000 gallon elevated storage tank was constructed at Cedar Street increasing the treated water storage to 4,300,000 gallons.

1971-1972
Sludge handling improvements were made with the installation of a centrifuge for dewatering lime sludge and the construction of a filter backwash water holding basin and recycling pumps.
A new chlorine storage building and dry chemical feeders were added to improve the chemical feed process.

1981
The original sludge lagoon was abandoned and three new sludge-drying lagoons were constructed.

1982
Existing sand and anthracite filter media were replaced with granular activated carbon for taste and odor control.

1983-1984
A new building was constructed for the administrative offices, and the chemical and microbiological labs.

1989
The Whittlesey Street elevated storage tank was demolished after 62 years of service.

1989-1990
Filter improvements were made with the installation of a new filter underdrain system and media. New valves and controls for filters were installed as well as a filter backwash pump. An emergency backup power generator was constructed.

1994-1996
The treatment plant was expanded to a filter capacity of 7 MGD and treatment capacity of 10.5 MGD.

2002
Approximately 145 acres of land was purchased southwest of the City of Fremont in Ballville Township. This was the future site of a 700 million gallon raw water storage reservoir.

2004-2006
Treatment plant capacity was increased to 14 MGD. Chemical storage was increased, eight additional filters and an additional 1 million gallon clearwell was constructed.
Two additional high service pumps, 1@3MGD and1@6MGD were installed with a total pumping capacity of 22.6 MGD.
A sludge thickener and press building were constructed. Water removal structures were installed at the existing sludge lagoons.
16,000 feet of 16" and 24" waterlines were installed.

2008
Design, bidding, and groundbreaking of a 700+ million gallons raw water storage reservoir was completed in 2011.

2013
The Fremont Reservoir was placed in service on March 27, 2013. When full, the reservoir holds 700+ million gallons of water.
