



Spring is right around the corner and we are preparing to ramp up for construction season. Planned for this year are several water main improvement projects including:

- Barton Drive Watermain Replacement project between Pontiac Trail and Brede;
- South University Watermain project between State and East University; and
- South Boulevard Watermain project from Packard to the west end of South Boulevard.

In February, City Council approved authorization to begin the Filter Backwash Improvements Project and a bond ordinance to secure a low interest loan to fund the Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection System Project at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

The Filter Backwash Improvements project is associated with improvements the WTP has made to improve removal of PFAS from our source water. The new filter media (granular activated carbon) the WTP is using is lighter and when this new carbon is washed for reuse, wash water pumps are used to scour particles from the carbon. The lighter carbon can be washed away if scoured too aggressively at too high of a rate. This project will provide provisions to wash the carbon less aggressively and at a lower rate to prevent loss of carbon during the washing process. The city is fortunate that we received a grant from the State of Michigan that will cover 80 percent of the cost of these improvements.

The UV Disinfection System Project is well underway and is expected to be commissioned this summer. The additional disinfection that this project will allow the city's WTP to be able to effectively remove a microscopic parasite, *Cryptosporidium*, from our source water in the Huron River. UV disinfection is also a great tool to address other microbes that may live in the Huron River, and will serve to improve the already high quality drinking water provided to City of Ann Arbor customers. By funding this project through the State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund program, the city is able to secure a lower interest rate that we would otherwise not be able to obtain on the open market, allowing for more capital funds to be available for other water system needs.

Lastly, I want to share an update on our research efforts. WTP staff continue to actively be involved in advancing the science of water treatment. Through a partnership with North Carolina State University, city staff are studying how we can optimize our treatment processes for the removal of PFAS. By using a pilot plant, we are able to try different treatment methods on a smaller scale and evaluate multiple techniques and products to remove PFAS. This work is not just focused on those PFAS that the State of Michigan is currently proposing to regulate, but on the larger suite of chemicals in circulation so the city will be well positioned to address contaminants in the future.

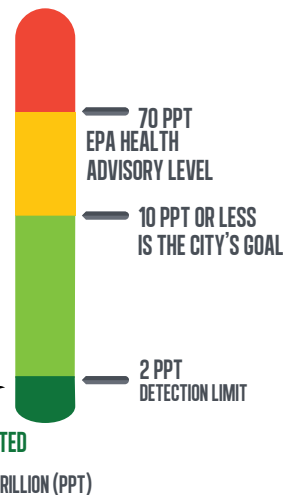
Being forward-looking has positioned the city to be recognized for our contribution to advancing the science of water treatment. One outcome of these efforts was my election in January to Chair the Tailored Collaboration Research Committee for The Water Research Foundation. It will be my honor to represent Ann Arbor as the Chair of the

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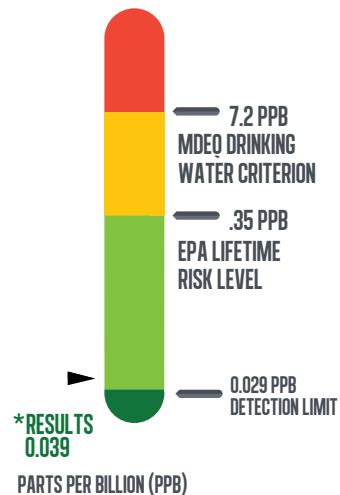
### MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



#### PFOS/PFOA



#### 1,4-DIOXANE



\*Note: Estimated concentration above the adjusted method detection limit and below the adjusted reporting limit. Laboratory method blank had a detection of 0.045 ppb suggesting that the sample may have been compromised. Location was resampled after receiving results.

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committee for the next three years. This committee is one of four research programs operated by The Water Research Foundation and it focuses on research partnerships between utilities and academia to develop applied solutions for the water community to address emerging issues. The city has been fortunate to benefit with funding from this program in the past and we hope to continue to be an active participant in the future.

*Brian Steglitz*

Brian Steglitz, P.E., Drinking Water  
License F-1, Water Treatment Plant Manager, Ann Arbor resident

## HURON RIVER WATERSHED

### Explore our local waterways this spring and summer

Volunteer with the Huron River Watershed Council to improve the health of our home river and streams, meet new people, and spend time outdoors. HRWC's Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program is gearing up for its spring launch. For nearly two decades, the program has engaged watershed residents in protecting clean water through seasonal water monitoring at dozens of sites in Southeast Michigan. From April to September, volunteers sign up for a number of dates to meet up with a small team of volunteers for two to three-hour excursions to area streams and the Huron River. On a typical outing, teams travel to a few sites located along local waterways, collect water samples, record chemistry parameters, and measure stream flow.



With the Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program HRWC has built one of the largest and most continuous records of watershed chemistry data in the country. This long-term dataset provides HRWC and others with critical information to identify potential restoration projects, track changes in the river, and develop tools to better predict water quality outcomes. A variety of state and local partners, including the City of Ann Arbor, use the data to improve water quality. Municipal collaboratives like the Middle Huron Partners, rely on it to inform shared efforts and track progress on work required by Clean Water Act stormwater permits. At the state level, the data helps inform water regulations that provide a strategic framework for reducing pollution.

Join the Huron River Watershed Council as a volunteer with the Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program. One-hour program orientations will be held on March 21 and 28 to introduce volunteers to the goals and method of water quality monitoring. For more information and to register for an orientation date, please visit [www.hrwc.org/chemflow](http://www.hrwc.org/chemflow).

## MARCH WATER CHAMPION

Congratulations to City of Ann Arbor Water Utility Supervisor **Jeff Keown** who is our March Water Champion. Thank you Jeff for enjoying your work so much and welcoming each and every challenge that comes your way.



*Jeff Keown*

"Do I like my job? Hail yes I dew! I find my job very rewarding in that it is always changing, there is always a perpetual flow of new projects to take on, and I get a front row seat watching the current that starts with a simple idea and streams into an innovative and collaborative process. I couldn't fathom working anywhere else!"

## SAVE THE DATES

### EARTH DAY FESTIVAL



Sunday, April 19, Noon-4 p.m.  
Gallup Park, 3000 Fuller Road  
[a2earthday.org](http://a2earthday.org)



**Water Treatment  
Open House,**  
Saturday, May 9,  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Huron River Day,**  
Sunday, May 17,  
noon-4 p.m.