

CITY OF ANN ARBOR:

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

With summary of your water data from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2024



ANN ARBOR
WATER

In this report you will find a summary of the 2024 drinking water quality data demonstrating the high quality of the drinking water Ann Arbor delivers. *(Photograph courtesy of Jeff Keown).*



KEEPING CUSTOMERS INFORMED

Protecting Safe Drinking Water

We are proud to present the 2024 drinking water quality report which contains information about your water, from source to tap.



2024 was a year of steady progress on planning for our future while continuing to provide the high quality drinking water the community has come to expect.

In March, we completed Ann Arbor's first Comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan. Did you know that Ann Arbor is the only community that uses the Huron River for drinking water? The plan takes this uniqueness into account and considers many factors that impact our source

water, including emergency preparedness, climate change, and land use, and provides recommendations to work regionally to better protect the river. To this end, we've already begun working with the Huron River Watershed Council to collaborate on this effort. We have also [created a video](#) for everyone who lives in the region to help them understand the importance of protecting our drinking water sources (a2gov.org/SWIPP).

In addition, work on the Water Treatment Facility Plan continues. In 2024 we worked with our consultant and a team from the University of Michigan to operate our pilot treatment plant. This small-scale version of a treatment plant allows us to evaluate new technology being considered for use to replace our current treatment basins that were built in 1938. This will continue into 2025 and when complete, the data will help guide our decisions about the future of Ann Arbor's water treatment plant.

Critical investments in our infrastructure to ensure continuous, reliable and high-quality water delivery remain an ongoing effort. In 2024 we made progress on several capital projects to replace aging infrastructure. We completed improvements to our 6 million gallon finished water reservoir, which involved replacing aging valves, access hatches and piping. We also replaced more than 25,000 feet of water main and kicked off a project to update our Water Distribution Plan. The results of this plan, coupled with the results of the Water Treatment Plant Facility Plan and the Source Water Protection Plan will be used to plan and prioritize water system improvement projects.

With all of that, we are proud to present the 2024 drinking water quality report which contains information about your water, from source to tap. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) require that all water suppliers produce an annual report that informs customers about the quality of their drinking water. In addition to this report, Ann Arbor Water routinely shares monitoring results for contaminants of concern and produces a newsletter to communicate on topics related to the water system. Visit www.annarborwater.org to sign up for our newsletter. We also offer tours and host an annual open house.

We are committed to providing you with safe, high quality, reliable water. As you will see in this report, we routinely test for both regulated contaminants as well as contaminants that are not regulated but we believe are important to monitor. If you have questions about this report, or water quality in the City of Ann Arbor, email us at water@a2gov.org, or visit www.annarborwater.org or call 734.794.6426.

Molly Maciejewski, Water Treatment Services Manager
F-1 Licensed Operator

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report covers the drinking water quality for the City of Ann Arbor (Water Supply Serial Number 0220) for the 2024 calendar year. The State of Michigan and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2024 and conducted additional monitoring to ensure we maintain better water quality than regulations require.

The information provided is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided to you in 2024. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States EPA and State standards.

What's inside this report:

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Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant with infrastructure from 1938 that is scheduled for upcoming replacement. (Photograph courtesy of Mike Koski).

HOW DO WE KEEP YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE?

Over the years, Ann Arbor has made investments to provide multiple lines of defense against contamination. For example, to protect against microbial contamination we use ozone, ultraviolet light, and monochloramine. To remove inorganic contaminants, particles, and organic material we use a softening process. To remove more organic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, particles and microorganisms we use a filtration process with granular activated carbon. We also monitor water quality, before and after treatment, to ensure everything is working. These treatment steps prove to be reliable year after year because of the exceptional people who operate the equipment, design the treatment processes, and maintain the distribution system 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

BEFORE TREATMENT: WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells (for both tap and bottled water). As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material or substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants in water does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

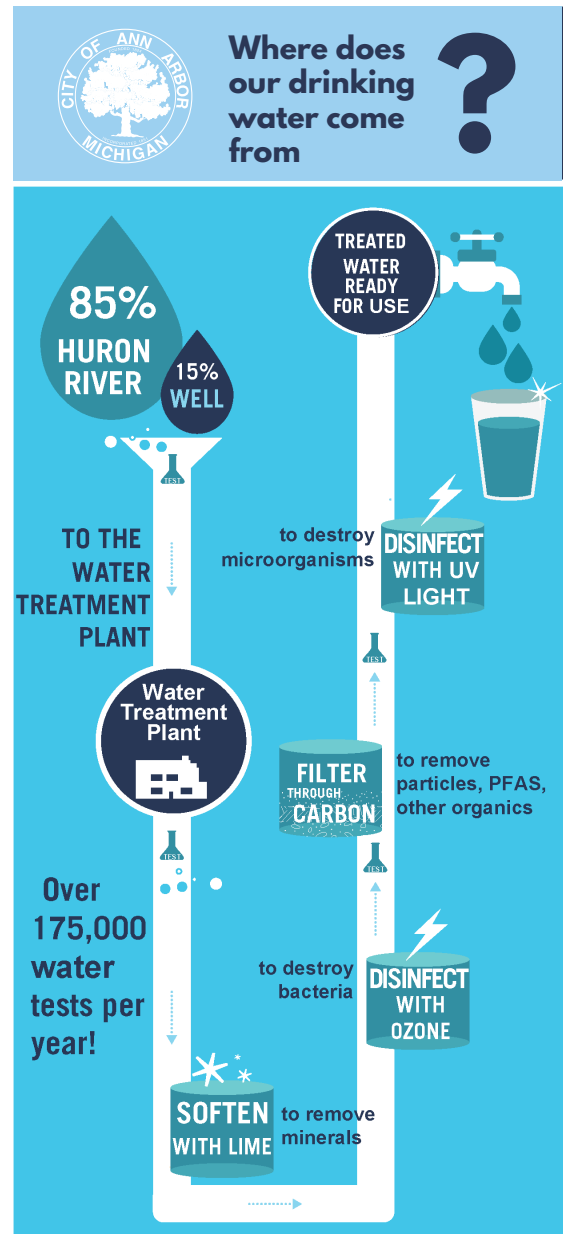
Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Federal regulations require states to develop and implement Source Water Assessment Programs (SWAPs) to compile information about potential sources of contamination for their source water supplies. This information allows us to better protect our drinking water sources. In 2004, the State of Michigan performed a Source Water Assessment on the city's system.

To request a copy of the assessment, call us at 734.794.6320. Implementation of this plan continues through our Source Water Protection Plan that was updated this year.



Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant. (Photograph courtesy of Mike Koski).

WATER QUALITY DATA

The City of Ann Arbor ensures excellent water quality through regular monitoring for contaminants, adhering to federal and state standards, and conducting additional tests. This report covers all detected regulated drinking water parameters for 2024. Contaminants' presence does not always mean a health risk. Numerous undetected parameters are not reported. The State of Michigan permits less frequent monitoring for some contaminants due to expected concentration stability. The data reflects water quality, though some may be over a year old. Unless specified, the presented data is from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2024.

Regulated Contaminants Detected (abbreviations and definitions on page 7)

Parameter Detected	Your Water Results		Regulatory Requirements		Violation (Yes/No)	Typical Source of Contaminant
	Highest Level Detected	Results Range	EPA LIMIT MCL, TT, or MRDL	EPA GOAL MCLG or MRDLG		
Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors						
Bromate (ppb)	5.0 ¹	<1-12.0	10 ¹	0	No	Byproduct of ozone disinfection
Chloramines (ppm) ²	2.5 ¹	0.4 - 3.4	MRDL: 4	MRDLG: 4	No	Disinfectant added at Water Plant
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5, ppb) ^{2,3}	12 ³	ND - 32.9	60	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	61.64% removed ⁴	55.30 - 67.40% removed	TT: 25% minimum removal	N/A	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM, ppb) ^{2,3}	5 ³	ND - 9.6	80	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Radiochemical Contaminants⁵						
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	3.75 ± 2.21	N/A	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 and 228 (pCi/L)	2.00 ± 0.85	N/A	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (ppb)	<50	N/A	2000	2000	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge of metal refineries
Fluoride (ppm)	1.2	0.47-1.2	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	1.1	0.2-1.1	10	1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	0.41	<0.10-0.410	1	1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity (NTU)	0.44	99.995 % of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU ⁶	1 NTU and 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	No	Naturally present in the environment
2023 Lead and Copper Results from Customer Faucets						
Parameter	Customer taps 90th percentile ⁷	Customer taps Range	Action level ⁸	MCLG	Violation (Yes/No)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppb)	100	0.0 - 200 (0 out of 61 sites above Action Level)	1300	1300	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2	0 - 22 (1 out of 61 sites above Action Level)	15	0	No	Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits

¹ Running Annual Average

² Measured in the Distribution System

³ Highest Locational Running Annual Average

⁴ Average percent removal

⁵ Gross Alpha analyzed in 2023 and Radium 226 and 228 in 2020.

⁶ Lowest monthly percentage of samples

⁷ 90% of samples taken from customer taps were less than or equal to this level

⁸ Lead and Copper are regulated by Action Levels. If 90th percentile at customer taps exceeds action level, water system must take additional action.

WATER QUALITY DATA

Special Monitoring

Parameter Detected (Units)	Your Water Results		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Average Level Detected	Results Range	
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	<0.07	<0.07	Groundwater contamination from manufacturing process and landfills
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (ppb)	<2.0	N/A	Byproduct of disinfection
Perchlorate (ppb)	0.25 ¹	N/A	Nitrate fertilizer runoff; contamination from industrial manufacturing process
Sodium (ppm)	70	53-100	Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS), Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS), Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA), Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS), Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt) ¹	<2.0	<2.0	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities; discharge from electroplating facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA, ppt) ²	<2.7	<2.9-4.7	
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA, ppt) ²	<1.5	<5.0-6.1	
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA, ppt) ²	<0.9	<2.9-3.5	

¹ PFAS samples analyzed for regulatory compliance by the EGLE approved method are included here. See www.a2gov.org/PFAS for more data.

² Results of the 2023 Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring are included here, are available at a2gov.org/PFAS, and are available upon request. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the United States EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps the U.S. EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether regulation of those contaminants is needed.

Other Water Quality Parameters of Interest

Parameter Detected (Units)	Your Water Results	
	Average Level Detected	Results Range
Alkalinity, total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	77	38-143
Aluminum (ppm)	<0.050 ¹	N/A
Ammonia as N (ppm)	<0.10	<0.10 - 0.13
Arsenic (ppb)	<2.2	N/A
Calcium (ppm)	41	20-70
Chloride (ppm)	116	90-160
Chromium (total) (ppb)	<5.0	N/A
Conductivity (µmhos/cm)	656	539-731
Hardness (CaCO ₃) (ppm)	135	90-216
Hardness (CaCO ₃) (gpg)	7.9	5.3-12.6
Iron (ppm)	<0.20	N/A
Lead at Water Treatment Plant (ppb)	<3.0	N/A

¹ Analyzed in 2023

Parameter Detected (Units)	Your Water Results	
	Average Level Detected	Results Range
Magnesium (ppm)	11	5-19
Manganese (ppm)	<0.020	<0.020
Mercury (ppb)	<0.20	N/A
Non-Carbonate Hardness (ppm)	58	0-107
pH (S.U.)	9.3	9.0 - 9.5
Phosphorus (total, ppm)	0.27	0.11-0.32
Potassium (ppm)	3.3 ¹	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	47	22-86
Temperature (Degrees Celsius)	16.1	6.2-25.5
Total Solids (ppm)	369	350-420
Zinc (ppb)	<10	N/A
Nitrite in Distribution (ppm)	0.026	<0.10 - 0.220



DO I NEED TO TAKE ANY SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 800.426.4791.

CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN

1,4-DIOXANE

Gelman Sciences (now Pall Corp., a division of Danaher Corp.) polluted groundwater in Washtenaw County, including parts of the city as well as Ann Arbor and Scio Townships, when it improperly disposed of industrial solvents containing 1,4-dioxane between 1966 and 1986. That pollution has since spread through the surrounding groundwater. While cleanup of the Gelman site has been managed by the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) since the discovery of the contamination in 1985, local officials and stakeholders have advocated that the Gelman site be considered for listing on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) to bring more resources to bear on site monitoring and remediation. The EPA completed a Site Assessment Report in November 2023, concluding that the Gelman Site is eligible to move forward as a candidate for inclusion on the NPL for high levels of 1,4-dioxane. Governor Whitmer signed a letter of concurrence in December 2023 transferring cleanup management of the Gelman Site from EGLE to the EPA. The EPA posted its proposal for inclusion on the NPL for a 60-day public comment period from March 7–May 6, 2024 and received over 150 comments. As of December 2024, EPA was evaluating comments and generating a response. If the Gelman site is formally listed on the NPL following public comment, further studies will ensue to determine the nature and extent of the contamination and to help identify potential treatment options.

The City of Ann Arbor has been monitoring its water sources and the plume for more than 30 years to ensure the long-term safety of the city’s drinking water. Analytical results for the city’s source and drinking water can be found at www.a2gov.org/DrinkingWater.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals that have been classified by the EPA as an emerging contaminant. PFAS have been around since the 1950s, but we didn’t know much about their effects until the early 2000s, when scientists began releasing data on PFAS health impacts and their persistence in the environment. For decades, they have been used in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. They are still widely used today. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population. PFAS are persistent, which means they do not break down in the environment. They also bioaccumulate, meaning the amount builds up over time in the blood and organs.

Currently, granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration is the best available technology for removing PFAS in drinking water. Use of this technology has allowed the city to produce water with PFAS concentrations significantly below all Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) adopted by the State of Michigan in 2020. On April 10, 2024, the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized drinking water regulations for PFAS. We continue to meet all established PFAS regulations in our finished drinking water. The city continues to monitor both regulated PFAS compounds and unregulated PFAS compounds in source water and drinking water and remains committed to providing safe drinking water that is better quality than regulatory guidelines require. Samples collected by the city are analyzed by an independent lab each month and we post all data for source water and drinking water PFAS monitoring on our website. We also continue to lobby at the state and federal level to hold polluters accountable and stop PFAS at its source. Measures like these better protect our source and help to keep our water affordable. Additional information and PFAS results can be found online at www.a2gov.org/PFAS.

LEAD

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. City of Ann Arbor is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.

Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Ann Arbor for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you

continued on page 7



University of Michigan researchers studying removal of contaminants of concern in a pilot-scale version of Ann Arbor’s treatment process (from left, Alex Szczuka, Seth Sandoval-Skeet and Lut Raskin).

can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The City of Ann Arbor has no known homes with lead service lines, but some of our customers do have lead components to their internal plumbing. Homes with copper plumbing installed before 1988 are most likely to have lead solder. Faucets, fittings, or valves sold before 2014 may have a higher lead content than newer plumbing materials. The City of Ann Arbor offers one free lead and copper test per household that you can sign up for by visiting www.a2gov.org/LCR. There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water, but not in the finished water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the detected organisms in our source water are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. Immunocompromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing severe illness. Immunocompromised people are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. To address the occurrence of Cryptosporidium in the Huron River, the city added ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection to the water treatment process. UV disinfection is the best available technology to inactivate Cryptosporidium.

ABBREVIATIONS/DEFINITIONS & MORE

AL-Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.

CaCO₃: Calcium carbonate.

GPG-Grains per Gallon: A unit of water hardness defined as 1 grain (64.8 milligrams) of calcium carbonated dissolved in one gallon of water.

MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG-Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL-Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG-Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or

expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

N/A: Not applicable. When listed under the range column, N/A indicates that only a single sample was analyzed for the year.

NTU-Nephelometric Turbidity Units:
A measure of cloudiness in the water.

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter.

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter.

S.U.: Standard Units.

TT-Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

µmhos/cm: Microohms per centimeter (a measure of electrical conductivity).

There are many ways to stay informed about your drinking water

- Sign up for Ann Arbor Water [email notifications](#) and our monthly newsletter at AnnArborWater.org.
- [Request a Water Treatment Plant Tour](#).
- Email water@a2gov.org or call 734.794.6426 with your water questions.



Please share this report with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand and mail. To receive a printed copy of this report please call 734.794.6320, email water@a2gov.org, or visit www.a2gov.org/DrinkingWater.

SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS

Galvanized iron water service lines connected via lead goosenecks can release lead when disturbed by utility or road work. The city has data on public portions and is gathering data on private portions to replace eligible galvanized iron lines.

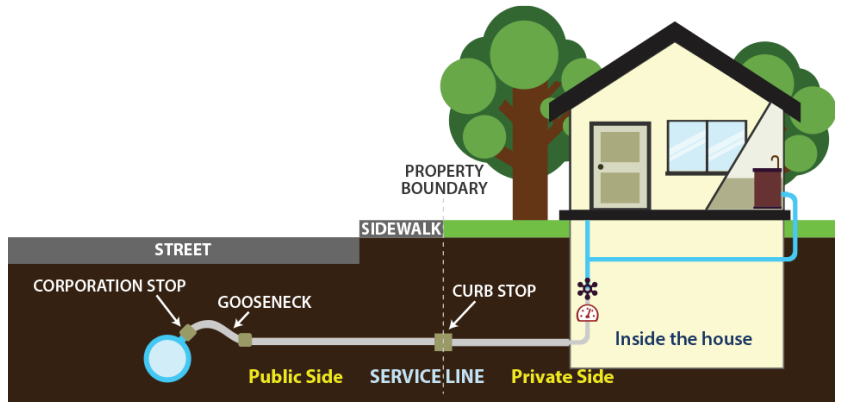
If eligible, you will receive a letter from the city after your service line is inventoried. If you don't receive a letter, your line was never connected to lead piping (which is great news!). Check eligibility on our [Water Service Line Material Dashboard](#). As of Dec. 31, 2024, 464 service lines have been replaced. These replacements are coordinated with water main and road projects. For more information, visit a2gov.org/LCR.

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The city is required by Michigan's Lead and Copper rule to inspect all water service lines to determine material type and eligibility for replacement. The inventory is nearly 94% complete, however more than 1,200 lines must still be inventoried. We need your help to finish the work. A dashboard and map is available to provide details on service line material. The inventory map shows replaced service lines, those eligible for replacement, and those needing in-home verification. Follow the steps below to check if your home or business has been inspected.

1. [Open the dashboard that includes a map](#)
2. Use the search function on the map to find your address and zoom into your address located within the map.
3. If the circle isn't completely filled in, your line has not been inspected.

If you have not had your line inspected, please send an email to leadandcopper@a2gov.org with your address and contact information and staff will reach out to you. Or call 734.794.6350 ext. 43324 to schedule an appointment for staff to inspect the service line. You can also take pictures of the service line where it enters the building and attaches to the water meter (picture should include threads or solder at the connection point) and submit them to leadandcopper@a2gov.org. Once received, the images will be reviewed, and staff will notify you of their findings.



SERVICE LINE INVENTORY STATUS UPDATE



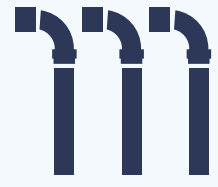
OF LEAD SERVICE LINES

2020
2021
2022
2023
2024



UNKNOWN MATERIAL SERVICE LINES

4,760
1,337
1,053
263
0



TOTAL SERVICE LINES

25,864
25,864
25,914
25,947
26,059

Help us complete our Service Line Inventory by scheduling your water meter upgrade if you have not already done so. To schedule an appointment, please contact Customer Service by phone at 734.794.6320 or by email at customerservice@a2gov.org. Visit <http://www.a2gov.org/meterupgrade> for more information.

Water Meter Replacements

The city has replaced over 97% of its water meters, with fewer than 800 still needing replacement. If your meter is one of these, you will receive a letter soon to schedule the inspection and replacement. These meters are nearing the end of their lifespan and must be replaced before failure. Failure to respond and schedule the replacement will result in a \$50 monthly surcharge on your water bill, as authorized by city code Chapter 27 Section 2:38.

Tips to Reduce Potential Lead Exposure

It's important to note that even if your service line is copper or plastic, there could be other sources of lead in your plumbing. The city offers one free lead test per household. Please visit www.a2gov.org/leadsample or contact the Water Treatment Plant at 734.994.2840 to arrange pickup of a testing kit.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) www.michigan.gov/MILeadSafe
- [Reducing Potential Lead Exposure from Drinking Water Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

CROSS CONNECTIONS

What is a cross connection? Any piping arrangement which allows a potable (drinking) water system to be connected to a non-potable system. For example, a home's water connection to a pool or in a business to a fire sprinkler system.

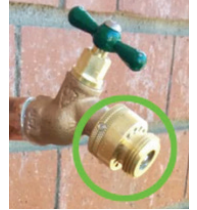
What does backflow mean? The undesirable reversal of the flow of water or other substances into the potable water distribution supply. It can be caused by backpressure, backsiphonage or a combination of both.

The City of Ann Arbor routinely inspects commercial and residential properties for potential cross connections to ensure drinking water remains safe. Property owners are required by plumbing code to have backflow prevention devices installed, inspected and maintained by licensed plumbers.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Hose bibs are the most common type of backflow source at residential properties. How do you protect yourself from backflow situations?

- Keep all hoses and faucets away from possible contaminants.
- Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- If you lose water pressure, an air gap is needed otherwise a hose can act like a straw and suck liquid backwards.
- Install backflow prevention devices on all hoses and threaded faucets. These devices are available at hardware and home improvement stores. Backflow vacuum breakers provide safety valves that prevent liquids from flowing backwards into a hose or faucet. See images: *Unprotected Hose Bib (top); Properly Protected (center); and Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker (bottom).*



BARTON DAM EMBANKMENT

Construction is underway for the City of Ann Arbor Barton Dam embankment remediation project. The construction site is adjacent to Barton Pond, Barton Nature Area, Bird Hills Nature Area and trails to and along the Huron River. As a result, public access within these areas will be restricted for the duration of the project, including:

- The walking path beneath the railroad bridge at Barton Nature Area
- North of the pedestrian bridge on the west side the railroad crossing
- The right embankment including the canoe portage on Barton Pond
- The spillway
- The left embankment
- No public on-site access to Barton Pond

Visitors to this area are asked to comply with the posted safety restrictions, barricades and signage on site and to use caution in areas that remain open, such as the parking lot, pathway and other areas west of the Huron River, as some of these open areas will be shared by construction operations and construction traffic. The city is also taking this opportunity to issue a reminder that crossing railroad tracks beyond designated, posted access points is extremely hazardous and is against the law.

The pedestrian bridge over the Huron River and the city canoe launch downstream of the pedestrian bridge will be accessible.



Barton Dam embankment.

Work at Barton Dam is anticipated to be completed by June 2027 and will include stabilizing a berm on the downstream slope of the right embankment to address seepage and stability concerns. These planned improvements are required to maintain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) compliance. This project is included in the city's Capital Improvements Plan and will receive funding in the amount of \$2 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (Resolution Enactment #R-24-280). Additional work will include improving site access and other dam maintenance as required by FERC.

Updates, as available, will be posted on the [Barton Dam embankment remediation project webpage](#); City of Ann Arbor [Facebook](#) page; and/or [NextDoor](#) (for city residents).

CLEAN YARDS, CLEAR WATER: THE CASE FOR SCOOPING POOP

The City of Ann Arbor is home to approximately 119,000 people and an estimated 23,000 dogs. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates a single dog can produce $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of waste per day. This totals to approximately 17,000 pounds of pet waste produced in the City on any given day. What would happen if this waste was not disposed of properly?

In addition to being a smelly, unsightly mess, pet waste can transmit disease-causing bacteria and parasites such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, Canine Parvovirus and roundworms. These pathogens can not only make us or our canine family members sick, but it can also pollute our waterways.

Even if you do not live directly on the Huron River, all rain that falls within the City travels through storm drains, over the land and eventually makes its way into the River. On its way, it picks up pollutants from the ground, including dog poop, and fertilizers. Unlike sanitary waste, stormwater is not treated prior to entering the Huron River, which makes proper pet waste an essential part of protecting water quality.

Dogs are not a natural part of the ecosystem, and neither are the characteristics of their waste. Wild animals such as deer, birds and

coyotes receive nutrients from the environment where they deposit their waste, contributing to seed distribution and natural fertilization processes. In contrast, domesticated dogs consume nutrient-dense pet food, do not exchange nutrients with the natural system in the same way and often deposit waste in concentrated areas. This accumulation can lead to an excess of nutrients in a natural system, disrupting ecological balance.

The nutrients in pet waste, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus, can contribute to harmful algal blooms. Algal blooms occur when algae populations rapidly increase in a body of water. They result in thick mats of green, brown or reddish algae on the water surface.

Sometimes, the blooms can produce a strong odor, discoloration, and they can deplete oxygen in the water. Eventually the lack of oxygen and the decreased sunlight penetration can kill native fish and plant life. In some cases, these algal blooms can produce toxins that can be harmful to human and pet health.

To minimize these impacts, pet owners should consistently clean up after their pets. At minimum, pet waste should be scooped from your yard prior to rain to prevent runoff from carrying nutrients and



pathogens off your property and into storm drains. When walking your dog, scoop the poop every time. Not only is it your responsibility as a pet owner to clean up after your pets, it's required in [City Code](#) to remove any pet waste that is generated on any property that is not your own immediately. Be prepared with pet waste bags when heading out for a walk with your pet. If you are at one of City's public parks, check for a nearby waste station. After scooping the waste, make sure it reaches a trash can. When you scoop and bag pet waste but do not put the bagged waste in the trash, you are creating another problem - plastic in the river.

Picking up pet waste is an easy, yet important, way to keep the Huron River and our community as a whole safe and healthy.



Argo Dam on Huron River (Photograph courtesy of Mark MacArthur).

ADOPT A STORM DRAIN

Are you looking for a way to make a big impact on stormwater quality in your community? Join the effort to keep the Huron River clean and healthy by adopting a storm drain today!

What is a storm drain?

Storm drains, often called catch basins, are structures designed to collect stormwater from streets, parking lots and other paved surfaces. They are located at low points along roads, sidewalks and parking lots all over the city. They help keep the Huron River clean by straining out large debris and providing a space for sediment to settle out. They play a crucial role in reducing pollution, preventing clogs within stormwater pipes, and preventing roadway flooding.



Regular maintenance, like clearing leaves and debris from the grates of catch basins, is essential to keep them functioning.

What does it mean to adopt a drain?

Adopting a storm drain means you pledge to do your best to help keep the grate free from debris on a regular basis. You can pledge to keep the storm drain in front of your home, work or along your commute clean. You could even team up with a friend, neighbor or community service group! Most often, the grate will only require a simple sweep to remove the leaves, sticks or trash that have accumulated. Leaves and sticks can be disposed of with your other yard waste. It is helpful to clear grates before or after storms to keep the drains performing their best during the storm. However, you should never attempt to remove the storm drain grate. If you suspect there is an issue below the grate, you can submit a request through [A2FixIt](#).

How do I get involved?

To adopt a storm drain today, visit the [Huron River Watershed Council website](#) and follow their instructions. Together, we can protect our waterways and keep our community clean!



ARE YOU READY FOR A CAREER WITH VARIETY?

Ann Arbor Water hires skilled individuals from all walks of life – whether you're a licensed electrician, a mechanical expert, a scientist, an engineer, or a math enthusiast. We hire talented problem solvers who care about our community and our water resources. Check our website today to see our current openings and start your journey with us!

Scan the code or visit: WWW.A2GOV.ORG/JOBS

UNSUNG WINTER WATER HEROES

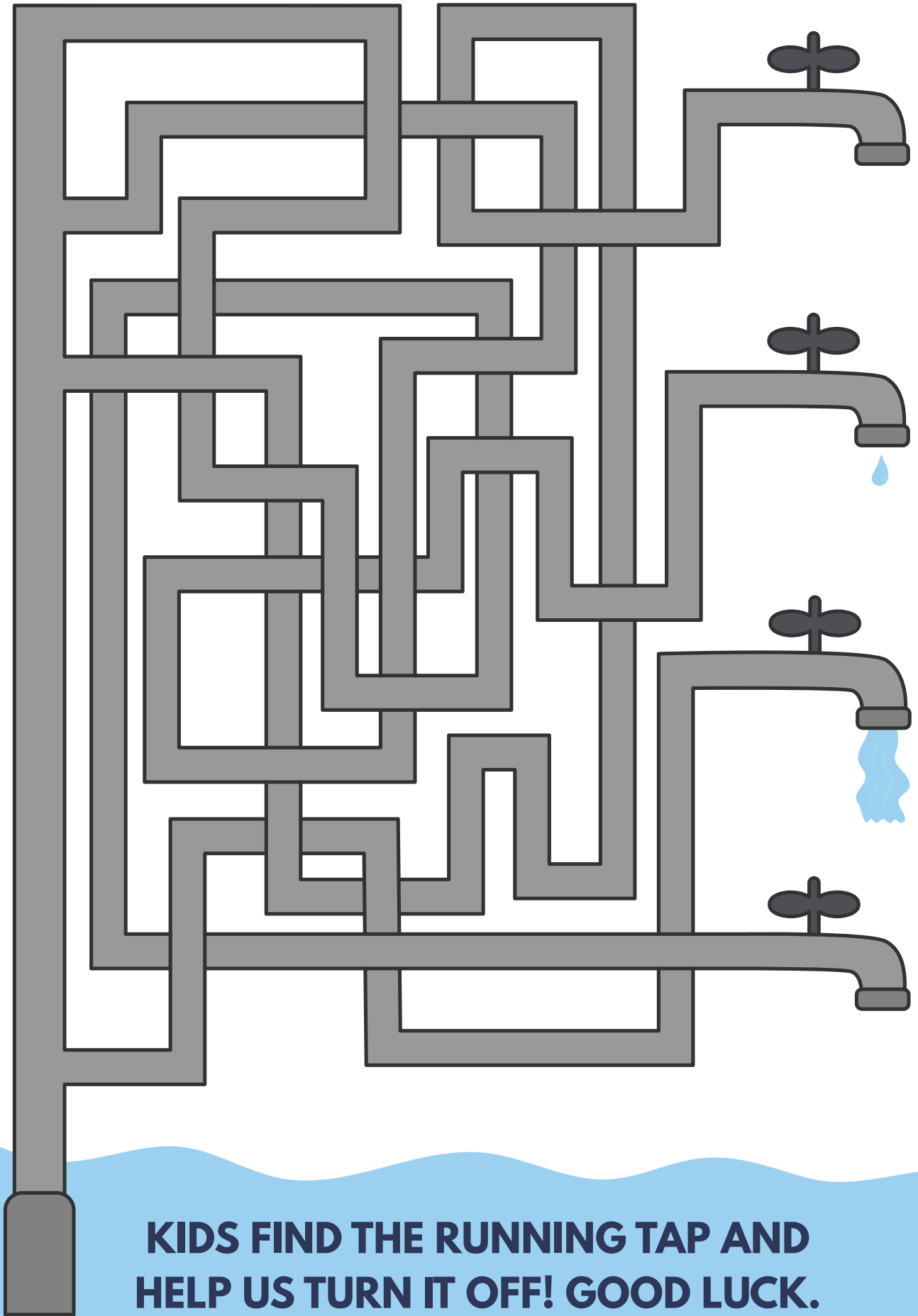
Winter is the season for water main breaks due to the increased pressure exerted on underground pipes as the ground freezes and low water temps cause metal pipes to become more brittle. These seasonal breaks become more frequent the colder it gets. Public Works crews responded to **81 breaks** last year and often work through the night to complete repairs and restore service.



Cold weather repairs are especially challenging for staff as they navigate icy work sites, staying warm while struggling to keep pumps and dewatering equipment from freezing up. One especially difficult repair occurred on Plymouth Road between Commonwealth and Georgetown. This required rotating crews to work over 24 hours straight before repairs could be completed.

Thank you very much to the dedicated unsung water heroes of City of Ann Arbor's Public Works unit.

KIDS MAZE ACTIVITY



**KIDS FIND THE RUNNING TAP AND
HELP US TURN IT OFF! GOOD LUCK.**