

A²H₂O

Quality Water Matters



Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor
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Dear customers, Planning is underway to design the replacement of our older 1938 softening basins. As part of this planning process, we are seeking feedback on your drinking water priorities. This will help us as we evaluate

treatment alternatives for softening. An online survey is now open, which asks customers to rank their priorities such as:

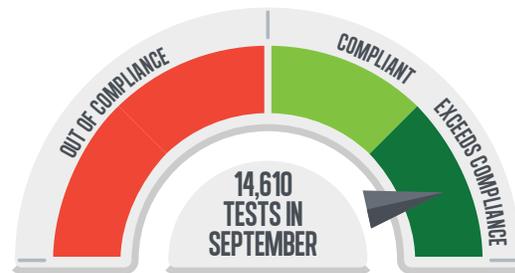
- Keep costs – and rates – down.
 - Give everyone access to clean drinking water, regardless of ability to pay.
 - Minimize variation in hardness, color, and flavor.
 - Prepare for climate change.
 - Manage contaminants, spills, and other threats to our water sources.
 - Provide a reliable water supply (replace old infrastructure, provide emergency backup).
- [Click here](#) to complete the brief survey.

The softening alternatives under consideration will all ensure the water quality baseline will not change. So regardless of the technology chosen, high quality drinking water – that exceeds the standards regulations require – will continue to be delivered to you, without interruption. We will replace our softening basins from 1938, but we will continue to use our downstream processes such as ozonation for disinfection of microorganisms, granular activated carbon filtration for removal of particles, PFAS, and compounds that contribute to taste and odor, and UV irradiation for additional disinfection.

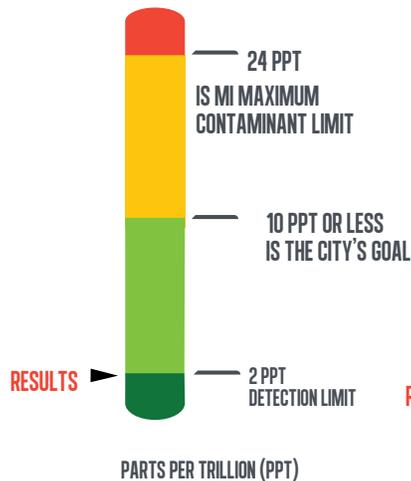
We do have some ability to change finished-water parameters through this project, such as controlling finished-water hardness. “Hardness” is a measure of the calcium and magnesium content of the water. While not a concern for public health, these minerals can be removed for aesthetic benefits through “softening.”

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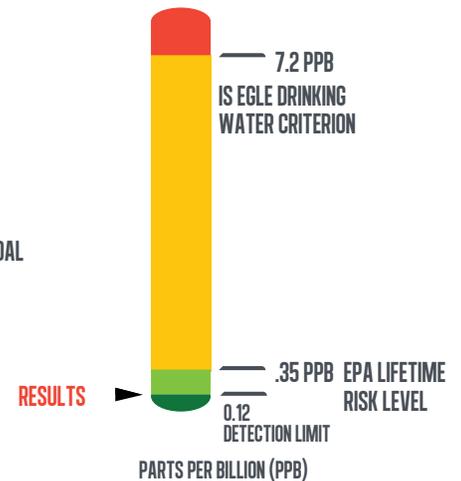
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



*PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE



*PFAS RESULTS NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER

Ann Arbor Water begins today

The City of Ann Arbor is introducing a new brand for its water services: Ann Arbor Water. The mission of Ann Arbor Water’s now-unified approach is to ensure the health of the community by providing high-quality drinking water, advanced wastewater recovery and robust stormwater management that protects and preserves the Huron River and the environment, for which, the city notes, we all are stewards.



ANN ARBOR WATER

In years past, the City of Ann Arbor’s three individual teams – providing drinking water, stormwater management and wastewater recovery – operated and communicated in silos. This seemingly disjointed approach masked how closely all teams actually work together to build and protect Ann Arbor’s critical water infrastructure. The new, focused effort and look will be used to communicate in all

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High hardness can cause pipes to clog, leave residue on dishes and fixtures, and is associated with variations in taste. Very low hardness, however, can contribute to pipe corrosion under the right conditions. Ann Arbor water has optimized hardness, alkalinity, and pH to form a thin protective scale on pipes to minimize corrosion, or leaching, of metals from pipes into water.

How do these factors impact the replacement planning process?

- Most of the alternatives being considered for softening technology vary only slightly in the amount of hardness that will be left in the water. But the more-expensive option can achieve lower hardness levels.
- The softening technology options also differ in space requirements. This is a critical factor since there is no room in our water treatment plant site to expand. The solution selected must leave available physical space on our site so that we can implement cost-effective, smaller-footprint solutions, as water plant improvements become necessary in the future.

- The options will differ slightly in maintenance requirements and reliability as well – important for service reliability as well as long-term operation and maintenance costs.
- The options will also differ in environmental impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions, amount of waste generated, and ease of waste disposal.
- Finally, the options will differ in cost, which could impact future water rates.

For more information, visit our table at the Mayor’s Autumnal Green Fair on Oct. 7 to talk with us, or check out the [Water Treatment Plant Facility Plan website](#).

As always, if you have any questions about your drinking water, please continue to contact us at water@a2gov.org or, in the case of an emergency, you can call us at 734.794.6426.

Becky Lahr

Becky Lahr, PhD, City of Ann Arbor, Drinking Water Quality Manager

Second annual Mayor's Autumnal Green Fair

Friday, Oct. 7 | 6–9 p.m. Downtown Ann Arbor, Main Street and Library Lot/Lane

Visit city staff to get answers to your water questions during the Mayor’s Autumnal Green Fair located on downtown Main Street and the Library Lot and Lane. The Green Fair also will feature a multitude of exhibits showcasing local green businesses and non-profits, along with A2ZERO collaborators. Stop by to learn what you can do to help us achieve Ann Arbor carbon neutrality goals and forge a cleaner, greener future for you and our planet! Check out some energy saving appliances; learn from interactive solar displays; ask questions of solar installers; learn about green commuting options like electric vehicles, e-bikes, and cargo bikes; engage with local green businesses and non-profits; or just enjoy some live entertainment – whatever you do, there’s something for everyone at Green Fair!

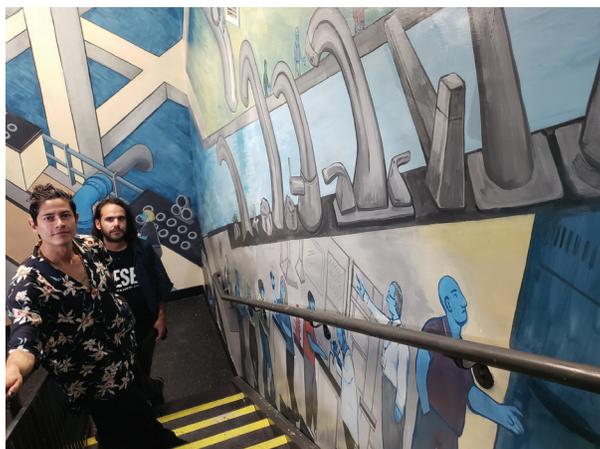
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future water-related matters to residents and business owners.

Visit www.annarborwater.org to learn about Ann Arbor’s water systems and commitment to quality; and to subscribe to receive the monthly newsletter (current subscribers to Quality Water Matters need not take any action.) Next month, our newsletter look, feel, and title will change, but we will continue to deliver water information to your email box that highlights our commitment to excellence in all things water.

October Water Champions

Congratulations to our October Water Champions **Alonso Bravo and Diego Goeury**, artists from Querétaro, Mexico, who recently finished painting a mural at the water treatment plant as part of a project to incorporate art into city spaces. Alonso and Diego found



out the city was seeking a muralist from an Ann Arbor resident who was visiting Mexico and passed by a mural they were painting. Their application was accepted after a competitive

review process by representatives from the Art Commission and city staff. Inspiration for their work comes from Diego Rivera’s work, mixed with water and the natural environment. Alonso explained water is life, as shown in his artwork by the people, animals, and natural environment at the top of the mural. In addition, the mural features the Huron River traveling through the natural spaces and down the stairs to the water treatment plant and pipes.

The public can view the beautiful mural during water treatment plant tours.

Thank you, Alonso and Diego, for beautifying the water treatment plant facility for staff and customers to enjoy for years to come!