



I think we were all hoping that we would be continuing to see a decline in COVID cases at this time, but the Delta variant has taken hold and, unfortunately, we are seeing a significant uptick in cases. One way the city has been

trying to advance the science surrounding this pandemic is by participating in a project with the Department of Health and Human Services to measure the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in the city's wastewater. It has been shown that increased concentrations in wastewater can be a precursor to an increase of cases in the community. The testing results have shown a substantial increase in the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in the city's wastewater from June through August, which have preceded the increase in positive cases in the community. This project has illustrated new ways to leverage water quality data, in this case wastewater data, to help manage and protect public health.

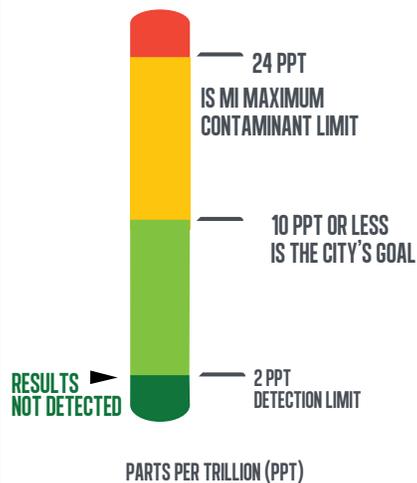
Now let me transition to a topic that I mentioned in the July/August newsletter, which is the start of an infrastructure project that would prepare the city's water system for the next several generations. With portions of the water treatment plant more than 80 years old and still in operation, renewing infrastructure is one of our highest priorities. Our first milestone is quickly approaching. On Sept. 13, we will host a City Council work session to review some preliminary work that occurred in 2015, where the city evaluated several alternatives for the future of the water system. The alternatives evaluated included rehabilitating the existing water treatment plant, connecting to a regional water supply, and augmenting the city's groundwater supply with additional wells. Several of these alternatives will be reviewed at the work session, as well as providing City Council and the community the opportunity to provide feedback on a preferred direction.

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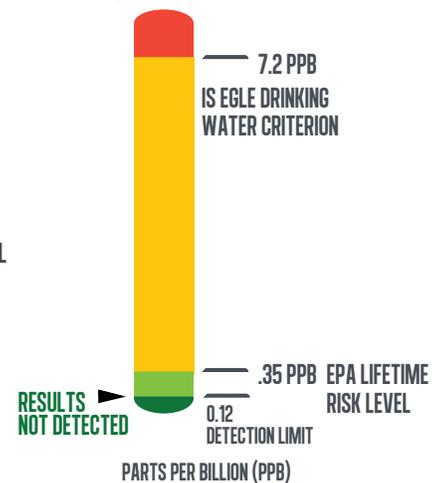
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE



Check out our [YouTube video](#) on the importance of infrastructure reinvestment.

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Background information and a summary of work performed to date is on the [project webpage](#). Also available is the [2015 Water Treatment Plant Alternatives Evaluation Report](#).

New investments in water infrastructure are necessary to ensure the longevity of our water treatment plant for decades to come. The decisions made by City Council today regarding the future of the water system will impact the next several generations of Ann Arbor residents and water system customers. I encourage you to review the background information that we have prepared and staff recommendations, and provide feedback to your Council members. Information on how to participate in the Sept. 13 meeting will be available on the [project webpage](#).

Be well.

Brian Steglitz

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

Sign up for emergency notifications

The City of Ann Arbor wants to make sure you know about emergencies and incidents right away. The city joined Washtenaw



County's emergency notification system, powered by Everbridge, in August 2020 to send alerts about issues that may affect your safety. This system, www.washtenaw.org/alerts, allows the city and county to contact thousands of residents in seconds via phone, email or text in emergency situations.

A2 EMERGENCY ALERTS

This system was most recently used during a boil water advisory that was issued for a portion of the city due to a water main break that occurred in August. The success of this service, however, relies on YOU. Having your latest contact information on record in the system is the only way to ensure you can be contacted quickly via phone, text or email during an emergency.

Please sign up for emergency notifications from the City of Ann Arbor at www.washtenaw.org/alerts. It only takes a minute to enroll!

Calling all artists!

The City of Ann Arbor is seeking an artist(s) to create and complete a painted mural in the stairwell of the Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant Administration Building. The plant, originally constructed in 1938, with a rated capacity of 50 million gallons of water per day, seeks to enhance the educational experience provided by staff to the public. The stairwell is approximately 8'W x 18'L x 21'H. The award will provide \$17,000 for the work, which shall be completed by November 2022 or earlier. The first application deadline is Oct. 31, 2021. Applications can be obtained at www.a2gov.org/watermural.

As a way of educating the public about how the city collects and treats its drinking water, the city conducts extensive public outreach. This includes a water plant open house each May and frequent tours to schools throughout southeast Michigan. Over the course of a year, more than 2,000 people visit the city's water treatment plant. The tours highlight the history of the plant, its raw water sources, its treatment processes and the city's commitment to delivering safe drinking water and exceeding all regulatory requirements. Additionally, the mural shall become part of the city's public art program through the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission, giving the mural wider visibility.

For more information on the space and to download the "call to artists" details, please visit www.a2gov.org/watermural.



Project update

The City of Ann Arbor has reached a milestone in its water meter replacement project, completing nearly three-quarters of the installations, a total of 19,146 meters, as of Aug. 12, 2021. The project, which began last year has continued despite the COVID pandemic. Residents who had previously requested a delay in the work, due to health and safety concerns, and are now feeling comfortable to have the work performed, are encouraged to make their upgrade arrangements as soon as possible. More information about the project, including how to schedule an appointment, is available at www.a2gov.org/meterupgrade.