

2025

Water For Living

Drinking Water
Consumer Confidence Report
City of Columbus, Ohio



COLUMBUS
WATER & POWER

Who We Are

While we adopted a new name last year, Columbus Water & Power (CWP) continues its commitment to the health and safety of our customers.

We are proud to state that the water delivered to your home meets all of the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

As a public, not-for-profit utility, we are committed to serving you (our customers) and ensuring the reliable delivery of fresh drinking water to your homes, businesses, schools, and buildings throughout the communities we serve.

Within this report, you will find information about your drinking water including test results, maximum contaminant levels (MCL), general health information, and ways you can participate in decisions and programs offered by CWP.

In This Report

Water Sources & Treatment

Where your water comes from and how it's treated using a multi-barrier process: **pages 3, 6, and 7**

Water Quality & Compliance

Columbus drinking water meets all federal and state standards. Test results and contaminant data: **pages 8 and 9**

Regulatory & Health Information

Lead service line programs, PFAS monitoring, and health-related guidance: **pages 12 and 13**

FAQs & Customer Guidance

Common water questions, household water quality tips, and safety information: **page 14**

Customer Programs & Public Engagement

Bill assistance, service line programs, service area map, and public board meetings: **page 15**

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received it directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do so by posting this report in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. You can request additional copies or contact us by calling customer service at 614-645-8276, emailing WaterQuality@columbus.gov, or viewing online at columbus.gov/Water-CCR.

Water Quality Assurance

Columbus' Water Quality Assurance Laboratory (WQAL) is a large modern water lab with a long history of distinguished public service, that started under the noted water quality chemist Charles Hoover. The lab continues to maintain that tradition of excellence and technical innovation in the ongoing use of state-of-the-art equipment for water analysis while continuing to research the latest advancements in water treatment techniques.

The lab performs water quality monitoring and treatment research to ensure that Columbus' drinking water meets or is better than all federally mandated Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) standards. The WQAL also provides water quality information to the water plants and addresses customer complaints and inquiries regarding water quality.

In 2025, the WQAL's EPA-licensed and certified laboratory staff completed over 70,000 analyses relating to 33 different organic, inorganic, and microbiological water quality parameters. All to maintain compliance with current SDWA regulations, monitor our watershed, ensure quality within our distribution system, and inform treatment processes. Additionally, the lab is closely involved in planning for the construction of our fourth water plant, watershed improvement, and security surveillance and detection measures throughout the distribution system.

As with the WQAL staff, the State of Ohio licenses and certifies the water plant operators who are charged with running and maintaining each of the three water plants, and our drinking water system. These operators also perform the critical task of treatment and process monitoring to ensure that the water leaving the plant is of the highest quality. To stay current in the ever-changing technical field of water purification, these operators spend many hours of continuing education in the classroom every year.

These operators, the WQAL staff, and all of the Division of Water employees are dedicated to providing WATER, a life-sustaining resource, for the well-being and economic vitality of the community. This is our mission.



Ohio EPA Certified

Columbus Water & Power has a current, unconditioned license to operate our public water system.



Source Water Assessment Information

A high-quality source water supply allows the Division of Water (DOW) to provide consumers with quality water at a reasonable cost. Protecting our raw water sources requires investments to secure the needs of a growing population, now and in the future. As part of its ongoing efforts to maintain regulatory compliance and monitor our water supply, the DOW has completed two Source Water Assessment Plans – one for groundwater and one for surface water. Both plans are endorsed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) as an effective source water protection strategy. Below is a synopsis of the results.

Columbus' water system uses surface water from the Scioto River and Big Walnut Creek, as well as ground water pumped from sand and gravel deposits of the Scioto River Valley. All three sources of water have a relatively high susceptibility to contamination from spills or releases of chemicals. The ground water pumped at the Parsons Avenue plant is susceptible (compared to other ground water systems) because there is no significant clay overlying and protecting the aquifer deposits. The Scioto River and Big Walnut Creek are even more susceptible because they are more accessible and less protected from spills.

The drinking water source protection areas for the Columbus' three water sources contain numerous potential contaminant sources, especially the protection area for the Dublin Road Water Plant (extending along the Scioto River). These include industrial activities, storm water runoff from developing areas, and a heavily traveled transportation network running alongside and over the water bodies. Runoff from agricultural fields is a concern in both the Scioto River and Big Walnut Creek watersheds.

Columbus treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment protocol can address all potential contaminants. The DOW has been proactive in pursuing measures to further protect its source waters. These include land stewardship programs and incentive-driven programs to reduce erosion and run-off of pesticides and fertilizers into the Scioto River and Big Walnut Creek and their reservoirs.

A summary of Columbus' Drinking Water Source Assessment Report can be viewed by calling the Watershed section at 614-645-1721.

Visit columbus.gov/watershed for more details about watershed management and the land stewardship program.

Less than 1% of the world's fresh water supplies are available for human consumption.



We All Have a Hand in Water Protection

Help Protect Our Water by Making Smart Choices

Our quality of life is greatly dependent upon the quality of our water. Fish and other wildlife also rely on our ability to keep it clean. We can all help protect our waterways. As storm water travels over surfaces (yards, roofs, driveways, parking lots and roadways) it picks up and carries anything in its path including litter, yard waste, oil, fertilizer, animal waste and more. These pollutants drain untreated into local waterways. By taking simple steps at home, you can help keep it clean.

Make Simple Lawn Care Choices

Choose native plants, hand pull weeds or spot treat them, and consider less toxic alternatives such as beneficial insects (ladybugs, mantids, etc). Choose native perennial plants; they thrive in our soil and climate and require little maintenance, water or chemicals. Dispose of yard waste properly, including pet waste. Use the mulching feature on your mower instead of bagging the grass clippings or create your own compost from your yard waste.

Make Smart Choices on Car Maintenance

Maintain vehicles to prevent leaking fluids. If you have a leak or spill, absorb the material with sand or cat litter, then sweep up and place in the trash. Wash your car over gravel or in the yard. Go to a commercial car wash when possible – the soapy water goes into the sanitary sewer system, so it will be treated. Sweep debris from sidewalks and driveways to place in the trash.

Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Properly

Pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, antifreeze, adhesives, drain cleaners, bleach, fluorescent bulbs, paint or solvents are harmful to our watershed if disposed of improperly. Never dump these items into a storm drain, open waterway or ditch. Storm drains empty directly into streams without the benefit of treatment, unlike the drains inside your home which connect to the sanitary sewer system. Beyond posing a threat to our health and environment, such dumping is illegal. For proper disposal and free drop-off locations, contact the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio at 614-871-5100 or visit www.swaco.org.

Fun Facts

- Used motor oil is the single largest source of oil pollution in our waterways and we spill 180 million gallons of it per year; that's 16 times the amount of the Alaskan Valdez spill.
- Watershed health begins to decline with 10% impervious surface; 30% cover causes severe impairment.

Visit columbus.gov/CWP/KeepItClean or columbus.gov/CWP/BeMoreGreen to learn more.

Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Pave only the area needed on your property. Landscaped areas absorb water and generate less runoff than hard surfaces. Green space also provides a natural pollution filtering system. Better yet, pave with pervious surface; it slows down, soaks in and cleans up stormwater naturally. Plant a rain garden using deep rooted, native plants arranged in a recessed bowl-shape to slow and filter rainwater. Plant trees and shrubs – the roots hold water in the ground, slow runoff and reduce erosion. Use a rain barrel to collect rainwater for later use; use soaker hoses or drip irrigation and don't over-water (1" per week is enough for most lawns). Aim sprinklers away from paved surfaces.

Protecting Our Water Sources with GI

We use green infrastructure (GI) to improve the quality of storm water entering the reservoirs that supply our drinking water. Benefits of protecting our watershed include: shoreline stabilization, quality drinking water sources, erosion control, clean rivers for recreation and healthy habitats for plants, fish, and animals.



What's Not in Your Water

Reports in the media often raise concerns about the health risks associated with the presence of certain minerals, chemicals, or other contaminants in your food or water. The Columbus Division of Water performs tens of thousands of tests each year to ensure drinking water quality. Many substances that the division tests never appear in this report because they are not found in the drinking water. For example, there are 51 volatile organic chemicals as well as arsenic, perchlorate, asbestos, MTBE, radium 228, microcystins, mercury, 1,2,3-trichloropropane (TCP) and ammonia (just to name a few) that are *not* found in your drinking water. A list of substances that are sampled for and their average results can be found on page 11. As noted, many of these substances are not detected in your drinking water.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in drinking water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must 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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Protecting Our Water from Backflow

Homes with underground irrigation systems and most non-residential buildings are required by the Division of Water to have a backflow prevention device. These backflow devices protect the public water system from any potentially contaminated water flowing back into the public system from a customer's plumbing. Some examples requiring backflow systems include: swimming pools, restaurants, medical facilities, laboratories, car washes, automotive shops, industrial sites, and property with a well or pond.

A cross-connection is a physical connection between a possible source of contamination and the drinking water system piping. If the pressure of the source of contamination is greater than the water system pressure, contaminated water may backflow into the drinking water system. Pressure drops in the public water system caused by water line breaks, pump failures, and fire-fighting can also cause a backflow situation. If our rules and regulations require a backflow preventer, it must be tested annually by a tester you hire who is approved by our office. Additional information is on our website at columbus.gov/backflow.



The Water Treatment Process

The Division of Water uses a complex multi-barrier approach utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and the latest treatment technologies.

Please note: When ground water is used (as in the case of the Parsons Avenue Water Plant), screening (2), initial sedimentation (3, 4), ozone (8), and UV disinfection (10) are not needed.

- 1 Raw Water**
Water flows to treatment plant from the river, stream, or well field.
- 2 Screens**
Rotating screens remove large debris.
- 3 Rapid Mix**
Alum is added to cause coagulation. Coagulation is a process where small suspended particles join together to make larger particles called floc.
- 4 Flocculation & Sedimentation**
After mixing, water remains in a basin while sedimentation of floc occurs. The settled floc (water treatment residuals) are pumped from the bottom of the pools and stored in holding lagoons to dry. Clarified water moved from the top of the basin to softening.
- 5 Softening**
Sodium carbonate (soda ash) or caustic soda and hydrated lime are added to remove calcium and magnesium ions that are responsible for water hardness.
- 6 Sedimentation**
After mixing, water remains in a bin where calcium and magnesium deposits settle out similar to step 4.

- 7 pH**
Carbon dioxide is added to lower the pH level to approximately 7.8.
- 8 Ozone**
Ozone is added to the water to reduce dissolved organic matter.
- 9 Filtration**
Water flows through biologically active filters made from granular activated carbon, removing any remaining particles and further reducing dissolved organic matter.
- 10 Ultra Violet Disinfection**
UV light is used to disinfect the water.
- 11 Final Disinfection & Finishing**
The addition of chlorine to disinfect water, fluoride to protect teeth, and a corrosion inhibitor take place at the end of the process before water is held in underground clearwells.
- 12 Pumping**
Water is pumped to the distribution system and the community.
- 13 Testing**
Water is tested both before it enters the distribution system and out in the community to ensure it meets all standards.



2025 Water Quality Report

This report shows the types and amounts of key elements in your water supply, their likely sources, and the maximum contaminant level (MCL) the EPA considers safe. Your drinking water meets all Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) standards.

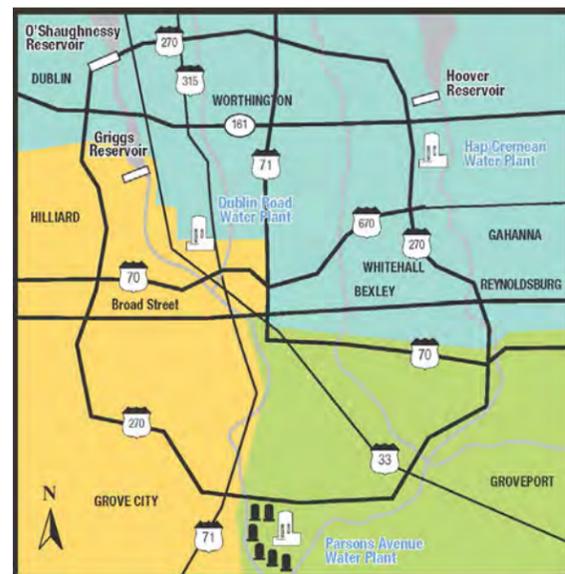
Total Organic Carbon

The value reported under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest running annual average ratio between the percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements. The value reported under "Range" for TOC is the lowest monthly ratio to the highest monthly ratio.

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported, Columbus' highest recorded turbidity result for 2025 was 0.68 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 97%.

Water Service Area Map



REGULATED CONTAMINANTS											
Substances we detected (units)	When we checked	What's allowed? (MCL)	What's the goal? (MCLG)	Dublin Road Water Plant		Hap Cremean Water Plant		Parsons Avenue Water Plant		Violation?	Where did it come from?
				Level Found	Range	Level Found	Range	Level Found	Range		
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	0.96	0.32-1.00	0.97	0.80 - 1.00	0.98	0.79 - 1.03	No	Water additive - protects teeth
Barium (ppm)	2025	2	2	ND	N/A	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppm)	2025	0.005	0.005	ND	ND	0.001	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	6.3	ND - 6.3	1.4	ND - 1.4	ND	ND	No	Agricultural fertilizer runoff
Atrazine (ppb)	2025	3	3	0.2	ND - 0.84	0.11	ND - 0.21	ND	ND	No	Agricultural herbicide runoff
Simazine	2025	4	4	0.01	ND - 0.06	ND	ND	ND	ND	No	Agricultural herbicide runoff
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2025	80	No goal set	58.4	16.5 - 83.9	64.1	22.8 - 60.3	27.6	22.3 - 34.2	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2025	60	No goal set	22.4	5.8 - 29.2	37	4.5 - 41.1	4.7	3.1 - 6.6	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon	2025	TT (removal ratio >1)	No goal set	2.24	1.73 - 2.65	2.56	2.25 - 2.87	N/A	N/A	No	Naturally present in environment
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2025	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	1.44	1.28 - 1.59	1.4	1.20 - 1.47	0.97	0.87 - 1.04	No	Disinfectant
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	TT (<1 NTU)	No goal set	0.12	0.00 - 0.12	0.68	0.03 - 0.68	N/A	N/A	No	Soil runoff
		TT (% meeting Std.)	No goal set	100%		97%		N/A			
Bromate (ppb)	2025	10	0	2	ND - 13	ND	ND	N/A	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water ozonation
Substances we detected (units)	When we checked	Action Level (AL)	What's the goal? (MCLG)	Concentration at 90th percentile		Individual Results over the AL		# of sites found above the Action Level		Violation?	Where did it come from?
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	1.3		N/A		0 out of 50		No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.049		N/A		0 out of 50		No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS OF INTEREST											
Substances we detected (units)	When we checked	What's allowed? (MCL)	What's the goal? (MCLG)	Dublin Road Water Plant		Hap Cremean Water Plant		Parsons Avenue Water Plant		Where did it come from?	
				Annual Average	Range	Annual Average	Range	Annual Average	Range		
pH (units)	2025	7.0 - 10.5 (SMCL)	No goal set	7.8	7.8 - 7.8	7.8	7.8 - 7.8	7.9	7.8 - 7.9	Treatment process	
Hardness (ppm)	2025	No set level	No goal set	125	122 - 132	98	85 - 118	123	122 - 127	Naturally occurring	
Hardness (gpg)	2025	No set level	No goal set	7.3	7.1 - 7.7	5.7	5.0 - 6.9	7.2	7.1 - 7.4	Naturally occurring	
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	No set level	No goal set	63	54 - 74	39	35 - 45	43	40 - 52	Naturally occurring; Treatment process	
Sodium (ppm)	2025	No set level	No goal set	69.2	37.6 - 119.7	19.2	17.7 - 23.7	86.7	77.8 - 102.2	Naturally occurring Treatment process; Road salt	
Potassium (ppm)	2025	No set level	No goal set	4.8	3.8 - 5.8	4.2	3.7 - 4.6	3.6	3.2 - 4.0	Naturally occurring	
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	250 (SMCL)	No goal set	129.3	91.8 - 175.7	54.5	43.9 - 65.5	207.8	176.3 - 233.1	Naturally occurring; Treatment process	
Chloride (ppm)	2025	250 (SMCL)	No goal set	62	37 - 115	31	27 - 36	62	58 - 67	Naturally occurring; Road salt	
Conductivity (uS/cm)	2025	No set level	No goal set	569	371 - 876	295	253 - 362	670	524 - 818	Naturally occurring Treatment process; Road salt	

If you have any questions about this data please call the Columbus Water Quality Assurance Lab at 614-645-7691, go to columbus.gov/CWP, or email us at WaterQuality@columbus.gov.

KEY
■ Hap Cremean Water Plant (HCWP)
■ Dublin Road Water Plant (DRWP)
■ Parsons Avenue Water Plant (PAWP)

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS											
Substances we detected (units)	When we checked	Dublin Road Water Plant		Hap Cremean Water Plant		Parsons Avenue Water Plant		Violation?	Where did it come from?		
		Average Level Found	Range	Average Level Found	Range	Average Level Found	Range				
Metolachlor (ppb)	2025	0.06	ND - 0.38	ND	ND	ND	ND	No	Agricultural herbicide runoff		
Trichloromethane (Chloroform) (ppb)	2025	8.7	1.5 - 14.8	16.6	10.5 - 23.5	2.5	1.4 - 3.7	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination		
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2025	8.5	2.9 - 18.7	6.5	4.6 - 8.5	5.3	3.8 - 6.5	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination		
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2025	7.6	1.6 - 17.0	2.2	1.9 - 2.4	8.7	7.0 - 11.2	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination		
Tribromomethane(Bromo-form) (ppb)	2025	2.2	1.3 - 3.4	0.3	ND - 0.7	6.4	3.7 - 9.3	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination		

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Sampling

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024 Columbus participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). For a copy of the results please contact the Water Quality Assurance Lab at 614-645-7691, waterquality@columbus.gov.

Definitions and Terms

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

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

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

Secondary MCL (SMCL): A non-enforceable numerical limit set by the U.S. EPA for a contaminant on the basis of aesthetic effects to prevent an undesirable taste, odor, or appearance.

N/A: Not Applicable

ND: Non detect

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of particles held in suspension in water.

Parts per Trillion (ppt): Are units of measurement for concentration of a contaminant.

Nanograms per Liter (ng/L): A part per trillion corresponds to about thirty seconds out of every million years.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L): Are units of measurement for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in roughly 31.7 years.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L): Are units of measurement for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in roughly 11.5 days.

Grains per Gallon (gpg): A non-metric unit of measurement for hardness used in North America.

Microsiemens per Centimeter (uS/cm): Are units of measurement for electrical conductivity. Freshwater is usually between 0 and 1,500 uS/cm, while sea water has a conductivity value of about 50,000 uS/cm.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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.

The “>” symbol: This symbol means “greater than.”

The “<” symbol: This symbol means “less than.” For example, a result of < 5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. For Total Organic Carbon (TOC) the level must be above 1. For turbidity the level must be under 0.3 NTU 95% of the time, and always < 1 NTU.

Turbidity: A measurement of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indication of water quality and the effectiveness of our treatment process.

Average Chemical Values

The Columbus Division of Water performs tens of thousands of tests each year to ensure drinking water quality. Many substances are not found in the drinking water. A list of substances that are sampled for and their average results can be found in the table below, as well as many of our average water quality parameters.

Contaminant	MCL	Columbus Water	Contaminant	MCL	Columbus Water
Volatile Organics			Synthetic Organics		
Benzene	0.005	ND	Alachlor	0.002	ND
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.005	ND	Atrazine	0.003	0.000
Chlorobenzene	0.1	ND	Metribuzin	NR	ND
1,2-Dichlorobenzene (o-dichlorobenzene)	0.6	ND	Metolachlor	NR	0.000
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (p-dichlorobenzene)	0.075	ND	Simazine	0.004	0.000
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.005	ND	2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)	0.07	ND
1,1-Dichloroethene	0.007	ND	Pentachlorophenol	0.001	ND
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	0.07	ND	Picloram	0.5	ND
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	0.1	ND	Carbofuran	0.04	ND
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.005	ND	Oxamyl	0.2	ND
Ethylbenzene	0.7	ND	Inorganics		
Methylene Chloride	0.005	ND	Aluminum (Secondary MCL)	0.05-0.2	0.016
Styrene	0.1	ND	Ammonia	NR	ND
Tetrachloroethylene	0.005	ND	Antimony	0.006	ND
Toluene	1	ND	Arsenic	0.01	ND
1,1,1-Trichloroethylane	0.2	ND	Barium	2	0.01
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.005	ND	Beryllium	0.004	ND
Trichloroethylene	0.005	ND	Bromide	NR	0.055
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.07	ND	Cadmium	0.005	0.000
Vinyl Chloride	0.002	ND	Calcium	NR	34
Xylene (Total)	10	ND	Chloride (Secondary MCL)	250	52
Miscellaneous			Chromium	0.1	ND
Total Dissolved Solids (Secondary MCL)	500	313	Copper (90th percentile)	1.3	0.049
Total Organic Carbon	TT	1.74	Cyanide	0.2	ND
pH	6.5-8.5	7.8	Fluoride	4	0.91
Alkalinity	NR	48	Iron	NR	ND
Hardness (as CaCO3)	NR	115	Lead (90th percentile)	15	1.3
Turbidity (NTU)	0.3	0.05	Magnesium	NR	8
Conductivity	NR	512	Mercury	0.002	ND
Total Coliforms	< 5%	0.00%	Nickel	NR	ND
Cryptosporidium	TT	ND	Phosphorus, Ortho	NR	0.44
Giardia	TT	ND	Nitrate	10	1.3
Disinfection ByProducts			Potassium	NR	4.2
Total Trihalomethanes	0.08	0.038	Selenium	0.05	ND
Haloacetic Acids 5	0.06	0.019	Sodium	NR	58
Bromate	0.01	0.001	Sulfate (Secondary MCL)	250	130.5
Trichloromethane (Chloroform)	NR	0.009	Thallium	0.002	ND
Bromodichloromethane	NR	0.007	Zinc (Secondary MCL)	5	0.256
Dibromochloromethane	NR	0.006			
Tribromomethane (Bromoform)	NR	0.003	Results and MCLs in ppm unless noted		

Lead in the Home

The lead concentration in the drinking water leaving our water plants is below the level of detection. Most homes in the Columbus area do not have lead service lines and have little to no detectable levels of lead in their tap water. The lead and copper rules require public water systems like Columbus to develop and maintain a service line inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with drinking water. To view our Service Line Inventory and see the material type(s) for your location, please visit columbus.gov/SLInventory. You can also call 614-645-6725 for your free copy of "Reducing Exposure to Lead in Water." This information can also be found online at columbus.gov/LeadandWater.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Columbus is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 3 minutes (or until you feel a temperature change) before using water for drinking or cooking.** If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

How We Treat Water for Lead

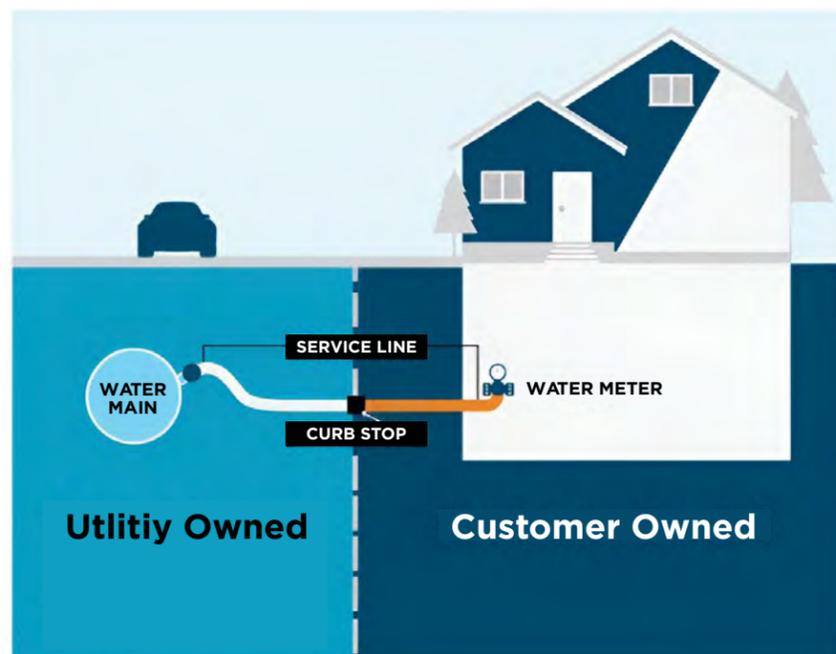
Columbus has a very effective program that protects pipes from corrosion. Certified water operators adjust the water's chemistry (pH) and add zinc orthophosphate, a food grade additive, to the treated water. This treatment process makes the water less corrosive and creates a coating in the pipes to serve as a barrier. This prevents conditions that can cause lead to leach into the water.

Lead Service Line Replacement Program

The Division of Water is dedicated to providing equitable access to high-quality water and protecting public health. In addition to our highly effective corrosion control program, in 2024, the city established a Lead Service Line Replacement Program dedicated to removing all public and private lead and galvanized service lines within the city by 2040. Customers will be notified when they are scheduled for replacement. Please visit www.columbus.gov/LSLR for more information.

Want to Replace Lead or Galvanized Service Line Sooner?

Customers who would like to replace their lead or galvanized service line before they are scheduled by the city can participate in Columbus' Lead Elimination Assistance Program (LEAP). LEAP may be used to replace a lead or galvanized service line, either proactively or when it is leaking. There is no upfront cost to the customer. LEAP is a no-interest construction loan with deferred repayment, secured as a mortgage against the property. More information can be found at www.columbus.gov/LSLR or by emailing LEAP@columbus.gov.



Columbus Offers Drinking Water Lead Testing



Columbus offers free lead drinking water testing to all residents year round. To request a lead drinking water sample, fill out a short form by scanning the QR code below or call 614-381-9949 for more information.

Health Concerns

Columbus' water is regularly tested for organisms that could be harmful to people – including *Cryptosporidium* (Crypto). In 2025, Crypto was detected 2 out of 12 times in the Scioto River and 7 out of 12 times in Big Walnut Creek. Crypto was not detected in either the DRWP tap water or the HCWP tap water. PAWP's source water is groundwater and is not impacted by surface water contaminants like Crypto.

Crypto is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Monitoring of source water indicates the presence of these organisms. Although filtration removes Crypto, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. However, Columbus has a multi-barrier approach to disinfection, utilizing both chemical and physical disinfection treatment. In addition to filtration, chlorine is used as the primary and secondary disinfectant to kill disease-causing organisms, which include viruses and Giardia. Ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection is also used for additional disinfection at both Dublin Road and Hap Cremean water plants. UV disinfection is effective at inactivating Crypto.

Current test methods for Crypto do not enable us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Crypto must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 infection. 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 1-800-426-4791.

Newborns and Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk to infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Seasonally, the Scioto River can experience elevated levels of nitrate due to agricultural runoff. To reduce the health risk to infants the City of Columbus added a treatment process, called anion exchange, to the Dublin Road Water Plant to remove nitrate. Anion exchange works like a water softener and pulls nitrate from the water as it flows through a bed of resin beads. Extensive water quality testing in the watershed upstream of the water plant by the Water Quality Assurance Laboratory helps to determine when we need to turn on the anion exchange system. Then additional water quality testing of the finished drinking water confirms that the nitrate level has been reduced below 10 ppm and is safe for infants. **Additional information about nitrates can be found online at columbus.gov/Nitrate.**

PFAS

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick. They are used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others.

In 2024, U.S. EPA established maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for five PFAS compounds alongside a hazard index for certain combined PFAS. Utilities will be required to begin monitoring in 2027 and comply with these new standards in 2029. We take pride in being protective of public health. Should future sampling results indicate we will not comply with the federal standards, we will install treatment to ensure we meet them. Learn more at columbus.gov/PFAS.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my water look cloudy?

Cloudy or milky looking water is usually caused by dissolved air bubbles coming out of the water, which is harmless. It can be caused by pressure and temperature changes, water that is hot (above 140F), and faucet aerators. Fill a clear glass with tap water and observe it for about a minute. If the glass clears from bottom to top, then it is dissolved air. Cloudy water is common in the winter.

Why is my water yellow or rusty?

Rusty or yellow water occurs when rust deposits are stirred up by a change in water flow in pipes and main lines. Changes in flow can be caused when a water line breaks or when hydrants are flushed or used to fight fires. Rusty water will generally clear up within 2-3 hours after the line is repaired or hydrants are closed. Rusty water is not a health concern, but you should avoid doing laundry as it can stain light colored clothing. Once work or hydrant flushing is completed, run your cold water tap until it is clear.

Why does my water smell funny?

There are several different types of odors that are commonly reported to our lab, including:

- **Earthy, musty, or fishy**

These seasonal phenomena can be caused by the biannual turnover of reservoirs or with the presence of algal blooms. We treat the water to reduce the compounds that cause this odor. It is important to note that when or if this taste and odor is present, it poses no health concern.

- **Sulfurous (rotten egg)**

The most likely cause of a sulfurous or rotten-egg-like odor is either the water trap below the sink (P-trap) or from within the faucet itself. As organic material settles in the water trap, the odor is often mistakenly perceived as coming from the water. If you pour a glass of water and walk away from the sink with it and do not smell it anymore, it is likely the drain or faucet aerator. Cleaning with chlorine bleach usually clears this up.

What are these pink or dark stains that are on my toilet or fixtures?

Airborne organisms are usually the cause of pink or dark stains in a toilet. You may see grey, black or pink film on surfaces that are regularly moist like shower tiles. These organisms do not come from your drinking water. Regular cleaning and ventilation should reduce these.

Do I need to filter the water coming into my house?

No. The water delivered to your home meets all federal and state requirements, and our own high water quality standards. However, if you choose to utilize a filter, it must be properly maintained in order to be effective. Filters that are improperly maintained can cause water quality issues for your household. It should also be independently certified by NSF/ANSI or the Water Quality Association (WQA).

How do I maintain water quality in my household?

Actions taken at home can help maintain the quality of water in your household. We recommend these actions:

- Flush your tap if the water has been unused for 6 or more hours. Do this by turning on the cold water and letting it run for 30 seconds to 3 minutes or until you feel a temperature change. This brings fresh water into your home.
- Remove your faucet aerators and clean them regularly.
- Maintain your water heater according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Check your plumbing for cross-connections and make sure you have a backflow prevention device installed if required. Learn more at [columbus.gov/backflow](https://www.columbus.gov/backflow).

Assistance Programs

Water, Sewer, and Power Bill Discounts

Eligible Applicants: Columbus water/sewer customers currently enrolled in a qualifying low-income program or with household income less than 200% of the current U.S. Census Bureau federal poverty level.

614-645-8276

utilityleadrep@columbus.gov

[columbus.gov/payassist](https://www.columbus.gov/payassist)

Lead/Galvanized Service Line Replacement Assistance

Columbus water customers may qualify for replacement of lead or galvanized water service lines through LEAP (0% interest, 99 year construction loan - up to \$10,000 - secured as mortgage) or for free if the line is leaking and the customer meets income qualifying criteria.

Eligible Applicants: Any property owner who receives a Columbus water bill.

614-724-2534

LEAP@columbus.gov

Service Line Insurance

Columbus Water & Power has partnered with Service Line Warranties of America via HomeServe to offer voluntary protection for home water service lines that connect their home to the city's system. Policies may be purchased through SLWA for a low monthly fee to cover unexpected repair costs.

Eligible Applicants: All Columbus Water Customers

866-922-9006

[slwofa.com](https://www.slwofa.com)

Contact Us

Customer Service:

For questions, about billing, accounts, service calls, payments, and additional copies of this report.

614-645-8276

utilityleadrep@columbus.gov

Water Quality:

614-645-7691

waterquality@columbus.gov

[columbus.gov/drinkingwater](https://www.columbus.gov/drinkingwater)

Water Emergencies, Main Breaks, and Hydrant Issues:

614-645-7788

Utility Advisory Board:

We are interested in your questions and concerns about your water. The Utility Advisory Board meetings are open to the public.

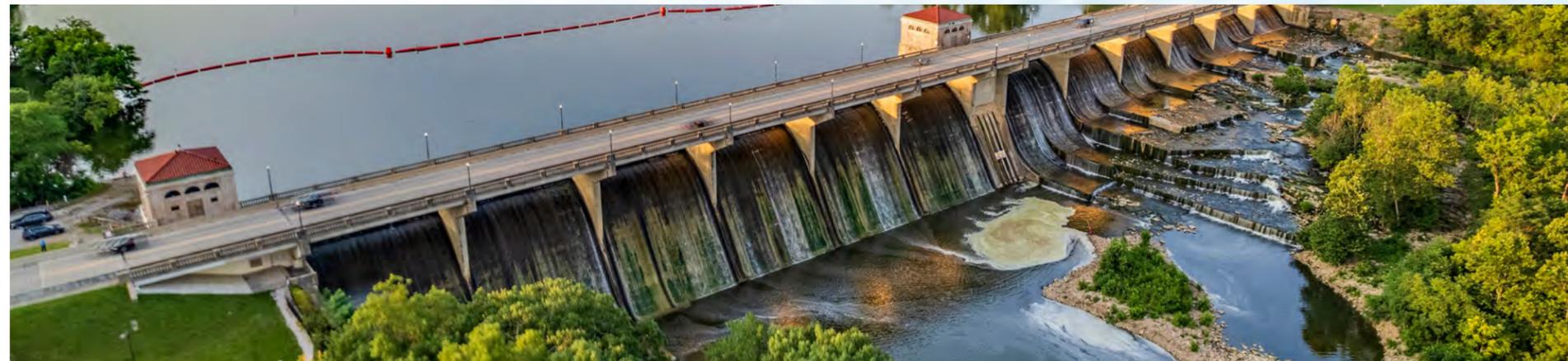
614-645-6141

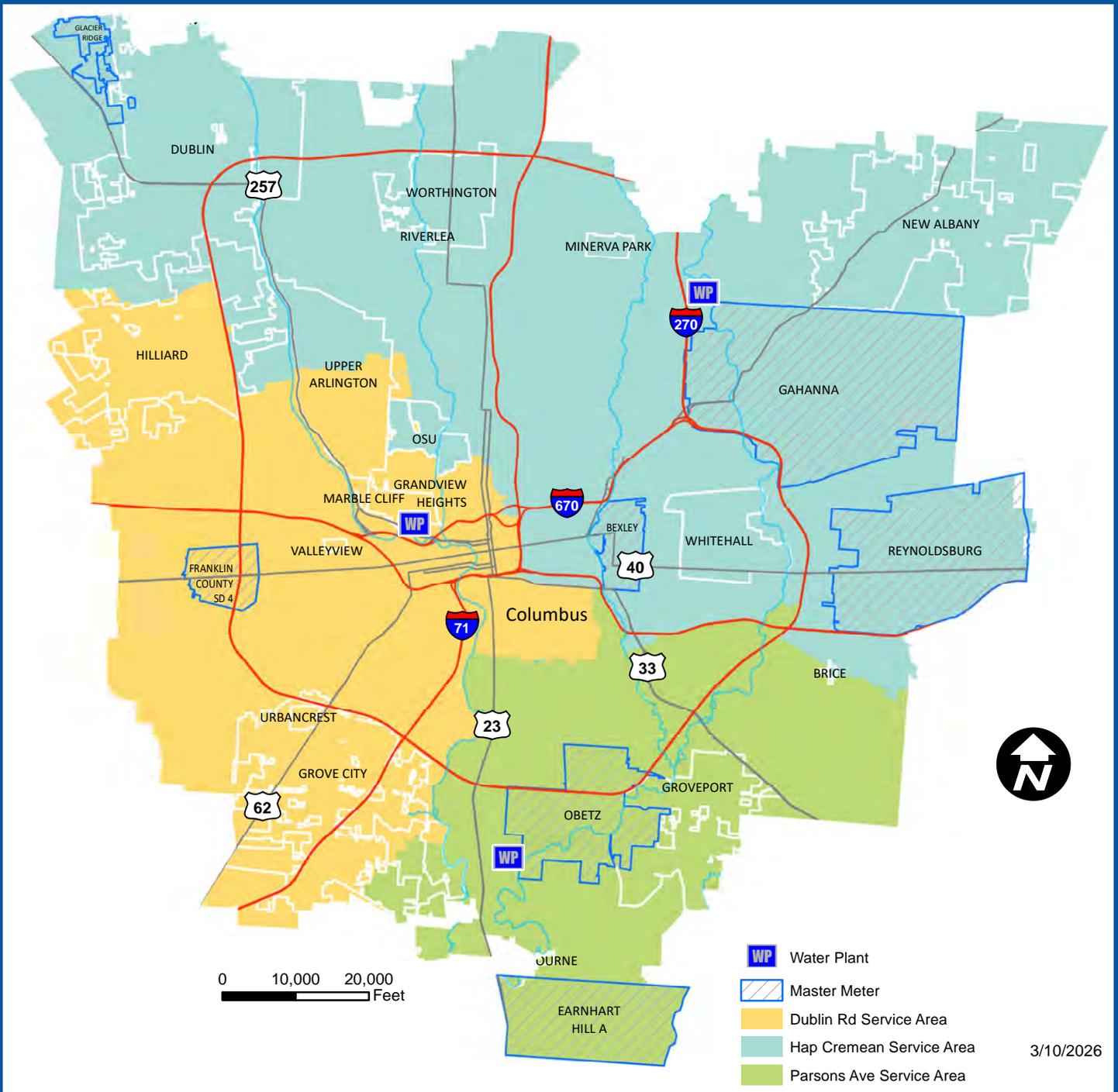
For city services:

311

614-645-3111

[columbus.gov/311](https://www.columbus.gov/311)





Water Service Area Map

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Each home, school and business in the greater Columbus area receives water from one of the following three water plants.

Dublin Road Water Plant (**DRWP**) serves northwestern and southwestern residents using water from Griggs and O’Shaughnessy Reservoirs on the Scioto River.

Hap Cremean Water Plant (**HCWP**) serves OSU and northern residents. The water source is the Hoover Reservoir on Big Walnut Creek.

Parsons Avenue Water Plant (**PAWP**) draws water from wells and serves residents in the southeast.