

CITY OF TUMWATER

Water Quality Report

INSIDE



Drinking
Water



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Water



“It’s the Water”

The Olympia Brewery has been an important symbol in Tumwater for over a century. Our City’s groundwater rose to fame because of the beer’s logo, “It’s the Water.” Shortly after the Brewery closed, Tumwater, along with the Cities of Olympia and Lacey, started working together to put the Brewery’s famous water back into use. Over the next year, the City will be designing a new wellfield to begin pumping and treating water for our region from the former Brewery water rights. Located on the bluff along Cleveland Avenue, the new wellfield will be able of producing over 2 million gallons of water per day for our residents and businesses.

Work on this project will begin this year and Brewery water will be flowing to Tumwater customers by 2022! The waters that once served the Olympia Brewery are again being used to quench the adult thirst of Tumwater residents and beyond!

Well 24 Brewery water, back in action!

Crafted by Master Distillers, Olympia Artesian Vodka can now be found on shelves across our region.

Not only is our historic aquifer replenishing bar tops across our City, those same Master Distillers have been hard at work over the last few month making sanitizer for first responders and community organizations. We’re always grateful for community-minded businesses to help our residents. It’s even more special when we’ve helped make that magic happen.



Water Utility

Your Drinking Water

Your clean and safe drinking water comes from 11 groundwater wells located at the Bush, Palermo, and Port wellfields. The water pulled from these wells comes from a deep underground aquifer called the Vashon Aquifer. This aquifer acts as a sponge, holding water that soaks into the ground from above and creates very high-quality water that needs little treatment.

To protect your health and improve water quality, your drinking water is disinfected using chlorine. Chlorine destroys bacteria, parasites, and viruses. At City treatment facilities, air is pumped into the water in a process called aeration. In addition, sodium hydroxide is added to raise pH levels to make the water less corrosive to pipes and reduce the number of contaminants that can be dissolved.

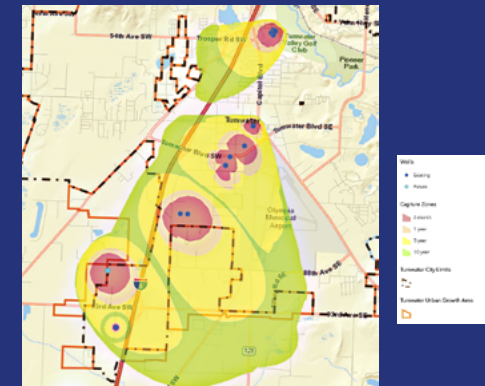
The City uses sensors to monitor your water 24/7 to make sure there is enough water for everyone. Our water operators take bacterial and water quality samples every day to make sure that water remains clean and safe. The City of Tumwater’s water quality in 2019 beat state and federal water quality standards, continuing our history of providing clean, safe water to all our customers.

Protecting Our Water

All of our drinking water comes from right beneath our feet. Our groundwater can easily become dirty if harmful materials soak through the soil and end up in our aquifers. Places that use, store, or dispose of hazardous materials all have a chance to pollute our water.

The good news is the City’s Wellhead Protection Program works hard to keep our water clean and safe by working closely with businesses and homeowners. One way we do this is through our computer-modeled Wellhead Protection Areas. A wellhead protection area is the surface and subsurface area surrounding a well of a public water system. These maps help show us how long it will take a spill to reach drinking water. By mapping these areas and working closely with the community we help to ensure that we have clean and safe water for years to come! Contact Water Resources for information on our Source Water Assessment Program for wellhead protection.

Wellhead Protection Area map



Water Quality Report

The City monitors and tests drinking water extensively throughout the year. Your drinking water met all state and local drinking water standards and continues to be of excellent quality. To see a complete list of contaminants, please visit the City website.

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/WaterQualityReport

Water Quality Table Definitions

90th Percentile: 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

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

Aeration: Drinking water treatment that uses air to dissolve gases or volatile compounds and raise the pH of drinking water.

Contaminant: Contaminants, as seen in this table, are not all "bad." Contaminants are anything found in your water other than hydrogen and oxygen, which make up water, and can be both healthy and unhealthy, depending on the particular substance and quantity.

Distribution System: Water supply network that delivers potable water from a treatment plant or wells to water consumers.

EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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: The level of a contaminant in your drinking water is below the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) number indicated, then there is no known or expected risk to your health.

mg/L: unit of measure, stands for milligram per liter.

N/A: Not applicable, there is no unit of measure for total coliform only the absence or presence of.

ppm: 1 part per million = mg/L.

TT: Treatment Technique. Enforceable procedure or level of technological performance that public water systems must follow to ensure control of contaminants.

Tier 3 Monitoring Violation

We are required to report the results of your drinking water for total coliform regularly. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During January 2020, we did not report the total coliform results to the state on time. While we took samples that month, we did not notify the state as quickly as we should have. We submitted them upon becoming aware of the missed deadline. We are no longer in violation and there is nothing that needs to be done at this time.

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest level in your water	Meets Standards	Potential Sources
Bacterial Pathogens						
Total Coliform	N/A	Presence of coliform in less than 5% of monthly samples	0.000	Not Present	Yes	Naturally-occurring, indicating the presence of fecal bacteria. Operations staff take over 800 coliform samples per year
Inorganic Contaminants						
Arsenic	ppm	0.010	0.000	0.001	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from waste
Iron	ppm	0.300	0.300	0.190	Yes	Naturally-occurring, found in the water system at very low concentrations
Nitrate	ppm	10.00	10.00	1.480	Yes	Naturally-occurring, found in groundwater, typically from agricultural run-off
Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	7.080	Yes	Naturally-occurring, found in water system
Unregulated Contaminants						
Manganese	ppm	0.050	0.050	0.014	Yes	Naturally-occurring, found in the water system
Disinfectant Byproducts						
Haloacetic acids (HAA5)	ppm	0.060	N/A	0.006	Yes	Byproducts of water disinfection (chlorine)
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	ppm	0.080	N/A	0.005	Yes	
Lead & Copper						
The water quality information presented in the table(s) is from the most recent round of testing done according to the regulations. All data shown were collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table(s). In 2019, tap water samples were collected and analyzed for lead and copper from 60 homes throughout the Tumwater service area. These samples are collected every three years as required by the Washington Department of Health. Our 90th percentile results were well below the action level. One sample site exceeded the action level for lead, and the homeowner was notified of the results.						
Copper	ppm	TT: Action Level = 1.300	1.300	0.364	Yes	Substance can enter drinking water when plumbing materials corrode. Out of 60 samples taken, all were below the action level. The 90 th percentile results were 0.212 ppm.
Lead	ppm	TT - Action Level = 0.015	0.000	0.019	Yes	Substance can enter drinking water when plumbing materials corrode. Out of 60 samples taken, one sample was above the action level. The 90 th percentile results were 0.006 ppm.
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 Tumwater is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. You can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. For more information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/lead						
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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1 (800) 426-4791. 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 infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and 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 1 (800) 426-4791. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration and the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.						



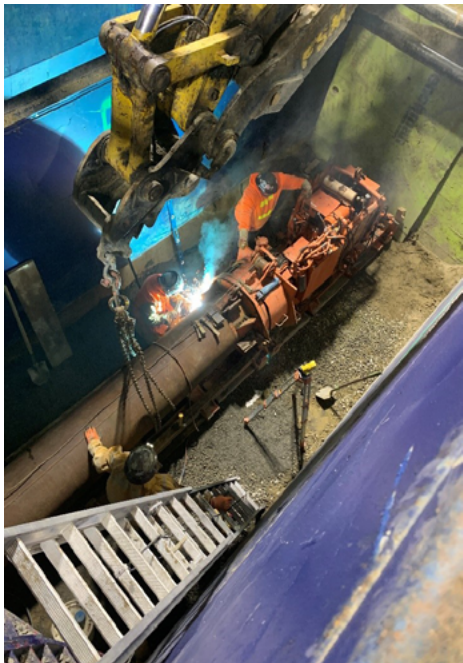
Sanitary Sewer

After the Flush

The City of Tumwater has over 90 miles of sewer pipe and 25 lift stations serving over 26,000 customers! The City Collections Team works to maintain the pipes and lift stations that send wastewater miles away to downtown Olympia for treatment. LOTT Clean Water Alliance, the wastewater agency made up of the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County, cleans the wastewater at the regional treatment plant.

At the Budd Inlet Treatment Plant, both physical and biological processes are used to clean wastewater. This begins with a mechanical screening step to remove large items like sticks, rocks, rags, toys, and other things wrongly flushed down the toilet. The wastewater then goes through a step to remove solid material as it floats to the surface or sinks to the bottom of large tanks. The next step breaks down bacteria and other pollutants. In the summer, nitrogen is removed to protect the water quality of Budd Inlet, where the treated water is discharged.

The final step is disinfection with ultraviolet light, that kills any germs before the water is released into Budd Inlet. LOTT always meets the high water quality standards needed to send water into the Puget Sound. LOTT also uses some of the treated water to produce reclaimed water, that can be used for non-potable purposes such as irrigation. LOTT uses a high-tech sand filter system to produce over 1.5 million gallons of reclaimed water a day.



Construction on Custer Way

As Tumwater grows and expands, the City has to update and fix things like roads, sidewalks, and pipes. The Custer Way Water and Storm Improvements project is working to improve water and stormwater pipes as well as the street. By doubling the size of the pipes and using safer material, the City is helping to ensure Tumwater's water is clean, reliable, and available for the next generation of Tumwater citizens!

Big projects like this are always a team effort, but hats off to David Mills, one of the City's engineers, for his hard work on the project! David has been serving as the lead inspector for the project and has worked day, night, and weekend shifts with a smile on his face.



Stormwater

Simple Tips for Stormwater Systems

Stormwater systems help cut down flooding after storms and improve water quality before rain runs into our streams and rivers. Stormwater systems come in many shapes and sizes, from catch basins to storm ponds and even underground vaults. Many of these systems can be found in your backyard! Most neighborhoods have stormwater systems that they are responsible for taking care of. While keeping these important systems working might seem like a big task, following these four easy steps can make it simple:

1. Find out what is in your system: All systems should have blueprints that tell you where things are located. If you can't find what you need, contact us—we can help!
2. Complete an annual inspection: These help to ensure small problems are caught before they become bigger and more expensive issues.
3. Develop a work schedule: Divide the work up over the year, remember not everything needs to be fixed right away, rank the work and divide it up to make sure it's manageable for your busy life.
4. Recruit help: Most fixes can be easily completed with hand tools and some neighbors! Qualified contractors can also help if the job is too big or technical.

Remember that the City of Tumwater is here every step of the way! We offer free in-field site visits at any step of the process from our Water Resources Specialist. We also hold free maintenance workshops every spring to help you get started. You can find more information by calling, emailing, or visiting our website.

Don't Drip and Drive

Did you know your car might be trying to talk to you?

Small leaks can be a sign of a bigger problem for you and the environment! Even small drips of oil in your driveway can be picked up by rainwater and wash into nearby streams, killing aquatic life and making local swimming spots dirty.

A simple trick to know if you have an oil leak is to place a piece of cardboard under your car overnight. If there are spots on the cardboard the next morning, you have a leak.

The good news is that many local auto repair shops will conduct visual leak checks for free and may offer discounts on leak repairs. A quick fix now can save you time and money down the road! Participating shops can be found by visiting www.fixcarleaks.org.



ECRWSS
Postal Customer



Reclaimed Water

Water for the Future

In the next 20 years, we are planning for twice as many people in Tumwater, doubling the need for cold, clean drinking water. Climate change is also predicted to create longer, warmer summers with less water in our streams. With a limited amount of water available, the City needs to make every drop count for our community.



One important tool for us is reclaimed water. Produced by LOTT Clean Water Alliance at the Budd Inlet Treatment Plant, specially cleaned water is sent back to the City for all sorts of uses including irrigation and construction. Earlier this year, the Tumwater City Council signed onto a regional deal to help plan for the access and use of reclaimed water, something Tumwater has already been using.

In 2019, the Tumwater Valley Golf Course used almost 37 million gallons of reclaimed water—enough to serve over 500 homes every day! The partnership with LOTT provided the City an opportunity to build the T Street Park atop a reclaimed water tank.

We Want to Hear from You!

We have been working to provide you quality water and excellent customer service for decades. Help improve your water utility by completing our quick, five-minute survey. Take it online or over the phone by calling (360) 754-4140.

Let your voice be heard and help us serve you better, after all, that is the Tumwater way!

Contact Us

Public Works Department | (360) 754-4140

Utility Billing | (360) 754-4133

Water Resources | (360) 754-4140

WaterResources@ci.tumwater.wa.us

EPA Water Quality Hotline
1 (800) 426-4791

Report a Spill 24-hour Hotline
(360) 754-4150

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