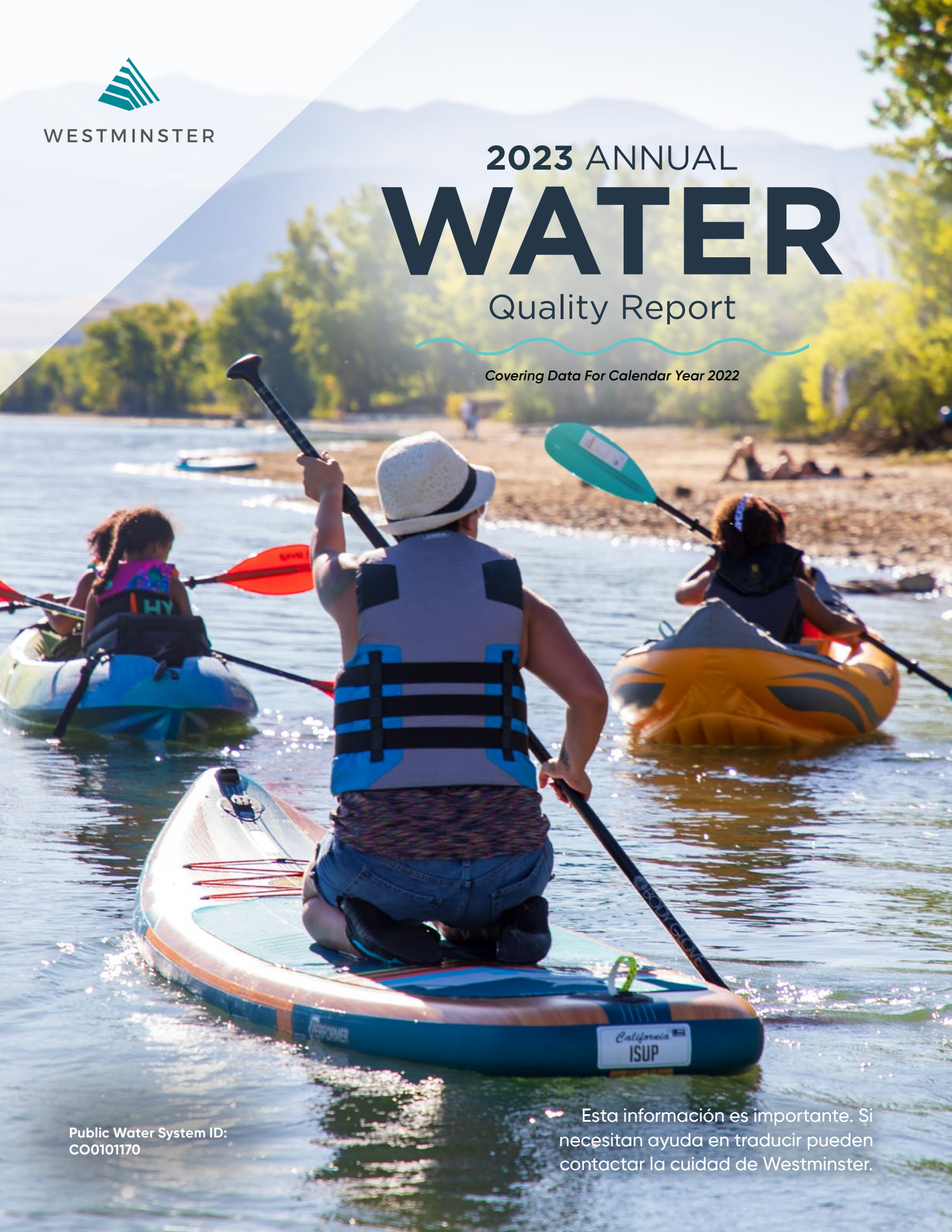




WESTMINSTER

2023 ANNUAL WATER Quality Report

Covering Data For Calendar Year 2022



Public Water System ID:
CO0101170

Esta información es importante. Si necesitan ayuda en traducir pueden contactar la ciudad de Westminster.



**Jessica,
Senior Water Quality Analyst,
Public Works And Utilities**

Jessica is analyzing water samples in the lab at the Semper Water Treatment Facility.



A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER MARK FREITAG

Dear Westminster Community,

This year marks a significant milestone for the health and wellness of our community. We are beginning design and construction of our new water treatment facilities project. This investment will extend the life of Westminster's aging water infrastructure and build a new water treatment facility to provide clean, safe, and affordable drinking water for future generations of Westminster residents. The new treatment facility will incorporate modern treatment technology to improve the City's ability to respond to wildfire pollution should it reach Standley Lake, and its smart, modular design will allow the City to add new treatment processes to meet future state and federal regulations effectively and affordably.

After the community raised concerns about affordability, the City carefully reevaluated the project to ensure it could continue to deliver clean and safe drinking water in a financially responsible manner. After this thoughtful process, the City identified nearly \$100 million in cost savings for the treatment facility, significantly cut water rates for all residents, and capped future rate adjustments at 4.5% annually over the next ten years. With an eye toward sound stewardship of public dollars, the City will ensure water will continue to be affordable for the community.

After a long and thoughtful process, we believe the new treatment plant will ensure the community continues to have clean, safe, and affordable drinking water for generations to come. To learn more about this critically important investment in our community's infrastructure, please read the Water Quality Report's water treatment facility article, and stay tuned for more updates from the City, as well as opportunities to engage in the process this coming year.

Sincerely,

City Manager Mark Freitag

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Freitag". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

The Safe Drinking Water Act

epa.gov/sdwa

Your Water Quality Report

cityofwestminster.us/waterquality

CDC Guide to Understanding

cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/understanding_ccr.html



OUR DRINKING WATER'S ORIGIN STORY

Westminster's water begins its journey as snow from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains along Clear Creek and is diverted to Standley Lake through a complex canal system. The lake stores up to 14 billion gallons of water. Half of the water belongs to the City of Westminster and the other half is reserved for Thornton, Northglenn, and other entities. Westminster's storage in Standley Lake is enough to serve City customers for one year. While Standley Lake's water supply varies throughout the year based on snowpack, rainfall, and seasonal weather, the lake's water level will typically be lowest in the summer when water irrigation demands are at their peak and rainfall is minimal.

Water is a precious resource, and we make every effort to save every drop. City staff partners closely with neighboring communities to monitor Clear Creek and the canal systems

to reduce potential threats to our source water. In an emergency, the City and our partner communities have the ability to reroute contaminated water around Standley Lake until the issue can be resolved.



1 Free-falling snowflakes land on the slopes of the Continental Divide.



12 INCHES

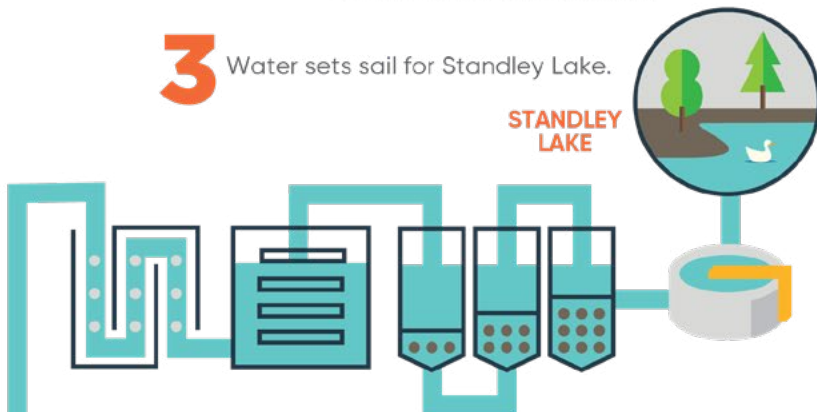


IT TAKES 10-12" OF COLORADO SNOW TO ACCUMULATE 1" OF H₂O.

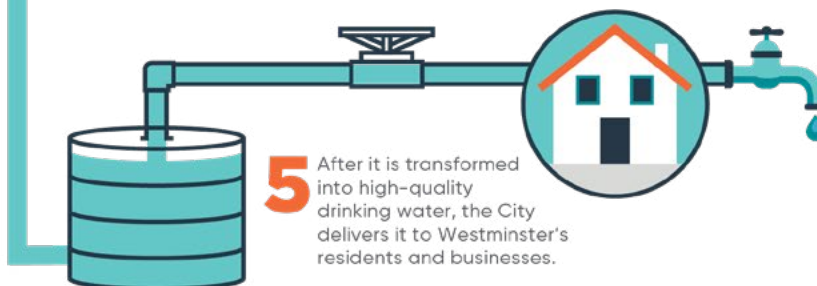


2 Things heat up when spring sunshine melts the snow and water runs off to Clear Creek and into one of three canals.

3 Water sets sail for Standley Lake.



4 Finding its way to the water treatment facilities, water passes through a complex system of treatment cycles, filters, pH balancing, and a clear well.



5 After it is transformed into high-quality drinking water, the City delivers it to Westminster's residents and businesses.

Source water assessment

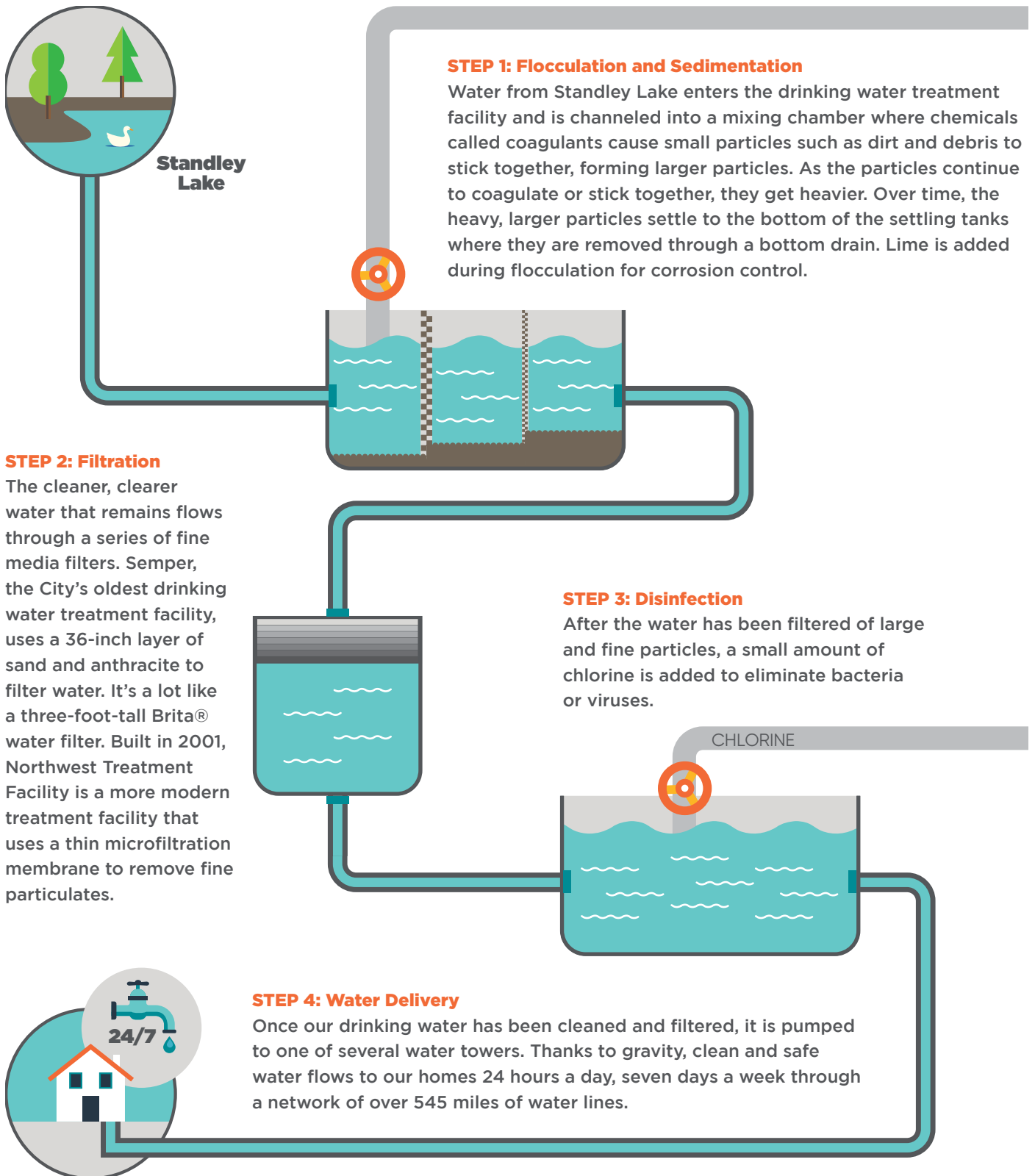
The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) completed a Source Water Assessment Project report (SWAP) for our water supply. It provides a screening evaluation of potential contamination that could occur in the Standley Lake watershed. It does not mean that the contamination has occurred or will occur. This information is used to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats.

A copy of the report is available by contacting our Water Quality staff at **303-658-2461** or by email at water@cityofwestminster.us.

Potential sources of contamination to our source water include existing/abandoned mines, above-ground and underground leaking storage tanks, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) abandoned contaminated sites, EPA chemical inventory/storage sites and toxic release sites, EPA hazardous waste generators, permitted wastewater discharges, solid waste sites, forests, fallow and pasture/hay, septic systems, oil/gas wells and roads, EPA Superfund Sites, commercial/industrial/transportation, residential areas, urban recreational grasses, quarries/strip mines, gravel pits, and row crops.

WATER TREATMENT

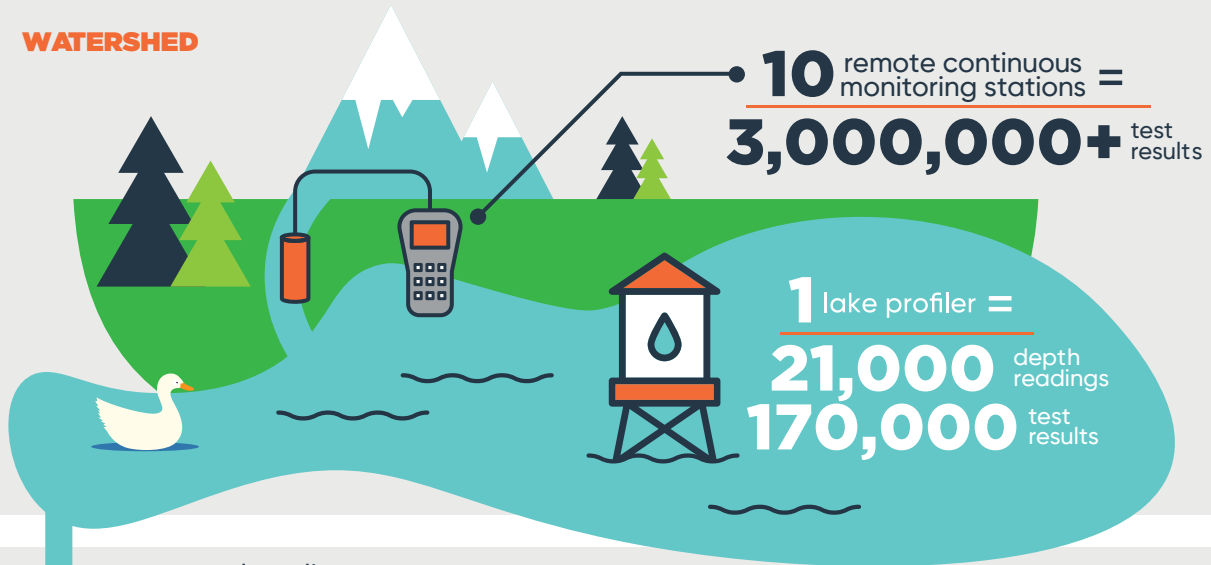
Here is how the City cleans our drinking water. Similar to most other drinking water treatment plants, the City uses four steps for treating water.



Monitoring Water Quality

Here's a glimpse into our evaluation of water quality during the year.

WATERSHED



manual quality control checks =

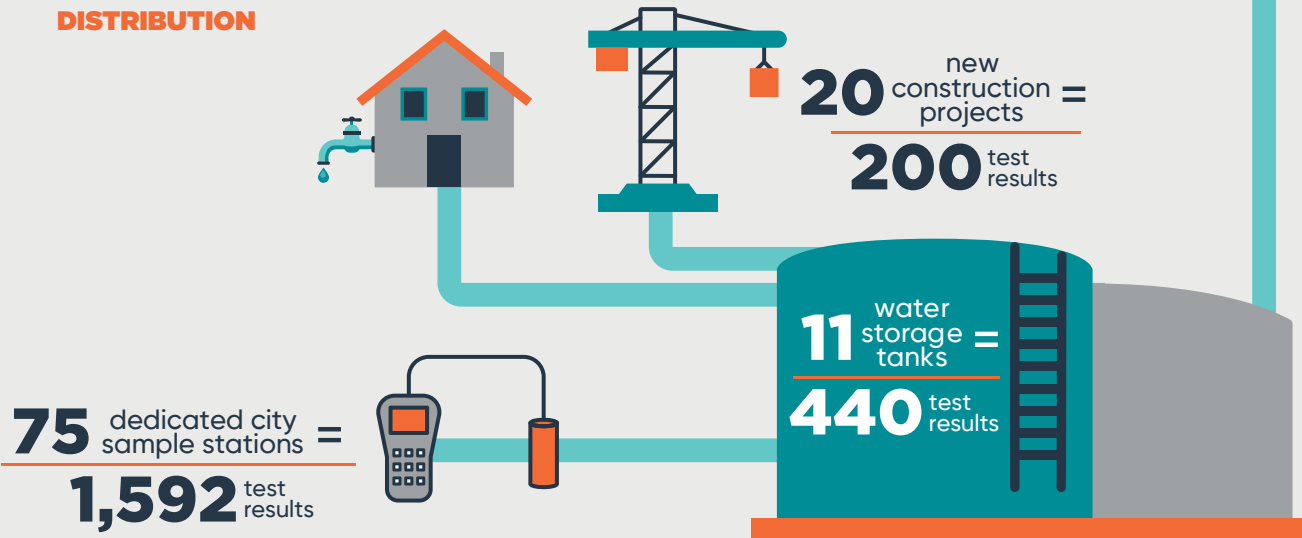
15,000+ test results

WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES



150 continuous monitoring locations throughout the treatment process

DISTRIBUTION



The History of Westminster's Water Treatment Plants

Over the years, expansions and upgrades to Semper Water Treatment Plant were needed to meet the needs of a booming Westminster. Semper was built back in 1969 when the city's population was approximately 20,000 people. According to the 2020 Census, Westminster is now home to about 116,000 residents.

The aerial photo of Semper in 2020, to the right, captures the 50-year-old facility that treats 65% of the City's water over the course of a year. Northwest Treatment Facility treats the remaining 35% of the City's drinking water supply.



WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES	PRODUCTION CAPACITY (million gallons per day)	FILTRATION TYPE	DISINFECTION	YEAR BUILT
SEMPER	44	Direct	Chloramines	1969
NORTHWEST	15	Membrane	Chloramines	2001

NEW WATER TREATMENT FACILITY COMING IN 2028

Beginning in fall of 2023, work will begin on a new, modern water treatment facility that will reliably provide 15 million gallons of water per day (MGD). The new facility will be built on property the City recently acquired on Westminster Boulevard just north of 98th Avenue, on a site that had been previously destined for development. The new water treatment facility will allow Westminster to retire portions of an aging water treatment plant that was built over a half-century ago.

The 40-acre site will allow the City to add additional treatment technology and processes as future regulations and detection capabilities change. While the City has not seen detectable levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in its water supply, the new facility will be able to add new treatment systems as the technology and regulations standards are developed.

The new treatment facility will also allow the City to enhance the walking trails network by connecting portions of the site with neighboring Hyland Ponds Open Space trails.

Modern Technology for Westminster's Water

The new facility will provide enhanced treatment processes including modern filtration design and mechanical systems to actively remove particulates from the water. Ozonation is an additional treatment process that may be included in the treatment facility based on City Council's approval. Ozonation provides a second layer of disinfection against bacteria and viruses, reduces heavy metals including iron, manganese, and lead, and addresses pollution related to wildfire and algae blooms.

The Project Has Begun!

Design of the new water treatment facility is already underway and scheduled for completion in late 2024 after a public engagement process. The community will start to see activity on the site as early as this summer, and construction is expected to be completed in 2028.

The City will begin a public engagement process to gather additional feedback from the community later this year.



View of the Rockies
standing on the banks
of Standley Lake.

PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER FROM WILDFIRES

The link between wildfires and our drinking water may not be obvious. When we watch the news and see crews battling wildfires hundreds of miles from our home, we don't typically think about our drinking water. But maybe we should.

It isn't about how much water goes to fighting the flames—it's about the devastation and contamination the wildfire leaves behind.

Westminster, in partnership with several Front Range communities, has been actively working to mitigate fires in our watershed for decades because a single wildfire could contaminate our source water for years after it's been extinguished.

To help keep our water clean, Westminster partnered with the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association to complete a watershed assessment. This study identified areas with

the highest potential for wildfires. Armed with this knowledge, crews will be able to mitigate wildfires in our watershed.

That's not all the City is doing to protect our ability to provide clean, safe, and affordable drinking water. We're also building a new, modern water treatment facility. The new plant will feature bigger, more robust filters that are better equipped to handle potential contamination from a major wildfire.

The future of Westminster's drinking water is clear: although we should all do our part to prevent forest fires, you can rest assured knowing the City works hard to make sure our water is safe and clean.





WATER SAMPLE TEST RESULTS

Westminster's drinking water is monitored for over 100 different substances on a strict sampling schedule, and more than 1700 water samples are taken annually across the entire distribution system. The water we provide to residents and businesses must meet specific state and federal health standards. To help you better understand what is in your drinking water, we are sharing the 2022 test results for regulated substances that were detected. The "Amount We Found" that is referenced in the tables on the following pages is reported as the maximum amount detected unless otherwise noted.

The frequency of testing for individual substances is determined by CDPHE based on the likelihood that the concentrations of the substance will change over time. Some test results are for samples that were collected in 2021.

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

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.

Treatment Technique (TT)

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Health-Based

A violation of either an MCL or TT.

Non-Health-Based

A violation that is not related to an MCL or TT.

Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.

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 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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)

Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Highest Level Allowed

Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90th Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

Violation

Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)

Measure of the radioactivity in water.

Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)

One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)

One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Not Applicable (N/A)

Does not apply or not available.

90th percentile (P90)

The Amount We Found levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper test results.

Not Detected (ND)

Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Alpha Emitters

(pCi/L)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2021
0.68	Health Goal (MCLG)	0
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	15
	Lowest Amount Detected	0.55
	Highest Amount Detected	0.68
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Barium

(ppm)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
0.048	Health Goal (MCLG)	2
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	2
	Lowest Amount Detected	0.046
	Highest Amount Detected	0.048
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Beta Emitters¹

(pCi/L)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2021
4.9	Health Goal (MCLG)	0
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	50
	Lowest Amount Detected	2.3
	Highest Amount Detected	4.9
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Chloramine²

(as Chlorine) (ppm)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
2.05	Health Goal (MRDLG)	4
	Highest Level Allowed (MRDL)	4
	Lowest Amount Detected	1.34
	Highest Amount Detected	2.50
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Water additive used to control microbes

Combined Radium³

(pCi/L)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2021
0.44	Health Goal (MCLG)	0
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	5
	Lowest Amount Detected	0.14
	Highest Amount Detected	0.44
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Fluoride

(ppm)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
0.58	Health Goal (MCLG)	4
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	4
	Lowest Amount Detected	0.57
	Highest Amount Detected	0.58
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Table Notes

¹ The MCL for Gross Beta Particle Activity (Beta Emitters) is 4 mrem/year. Because there is no simple conversions between mrem/year and pCi/L the Environmental Protection Agency considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Gross Beta Particle Activity (Beta Emitters).

² The Amount We Found for Chloramine represents the average of all individual sample results collected in the distribution system. 100% of the samples collected at the entry points to the distribution system met the TT requirement that for no more than four consecutive hours the chloramine result must be at least 0.2 mg/L.

³ Radium-228 is an individual alpha particle activity emitter, however it is not included in the gross alpha particle activity (Alpha Emitters) and is measured separately. Radium-228 sample results are combined with radium-226 sample results for the purposes of determining compliance.

Haloacetic Acids – HAA⁴

(ppb)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
11.4	Health Goal (MCLG)	NA
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	LRAA <60
	Lowest Amount Detected	6.9
	Highest Amount Detected	14.5
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Byproducts of drinking water disinfection

Total Trihalomethanes – TTHM⁴

(ppb)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
38.0	Health Goal (MCLG)	NA
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	LRAA < 80
	Lowest Amount Detected	27.1
	Highest Amount Detected	50.9
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Byproducts of drinking water disinfection

Total Organic Carbon⁴

(ppm)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
1.56	Health Goal (TT)	NA
	Highest Level Allowed (TT)	RAA <2
	Lowest Amount Detected	1.44
	Highest Amount Detected	1.71
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Naturally present in the environment

Turbidity⁵

(NTU)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
0.038	Health Goal (TT)	NA
	Highest Level Allowed (TT)	no sample above 0.3
	Lowest Amount Detected	0.014
	Highest Amount Detected	0.038
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Soil runoff

Turbidity

(Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
100	Health Goal (TT)	NA
	Lowest Level Allowed (TT)	95% of samples <0.1
	Lowest Amount Detected	100
	Highest Amount Detected	100
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Soil runoff

Uranium

(ppb)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2021
0.90	Health Goal (MCLG)	0
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	30
	Lowest Amount Detected	0.32
	Highest Amount Detected	0.90
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Violation	

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Table Notes

⁴ Total Organic Carbon is regulated as quarterly running annual average (RAA). HAA and TTHM are regulated as locational running annual average (LRAA). The Amount We Found represents the highest RAA or LRAA, and the Range Low-High represents individual sample results.

⁵ Turbidity is measured at the water treatment plant to assess cloudiness of the water as a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration process. The highest turbidity result was recorded in January 2022.

Copper⁶ (ppm)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2021
P90=0.15	Health Goal (AL)	NA
	Highest Level Allowed (AL)	P90=1.3
	Lowest Amount Detected	0.032
	Highest Amount Detected	0.21

How it gets in the water: Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

Lead⁶ (ppb)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2021
P90=2	Health Goal (AL)	NA
	Highest Level Allowed (AL)	P90=15
	Lowest Amount Detected	ND
	Highest Amount Detected	23

How it gets in the water: Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

Nickel (ppb)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
1.5	Health Goal (MCLG)	NA
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	NA
	Lowest Amount Detected	ND
	Highest Amount Detected	1.5

How it gets in the water: Corrosion of plumbing materials

Chromium (ppb)

Amount We Found	Year Samples Collected	2022
0.98	Health Goal (MCLG)	100
	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	100
	Lowest Amount Detected	ND
	Highest Amount Detected	0.98

How it gets in the water: Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits

Table Notes

⁶ Copper and lead were measured at residential taps throughout the city in 2021. The Action Level (AL) for lead and copper applies to the 90th percentile (P90) of all samples collected for each contaminant (e.g. 90% of all sample results for copper must be below 1.3 ppm). Amount We Found represents the 90th percentile and the Range Low-High represents individual sample results. One sample exceeded the AL for lead at 23 ppb which was traced to the homeowner sampling a water faucet that did not meet sampling criteria. The AL was not exceeded for copper at any location.

Additional Test Results

Some substances present in the drinking water are not strictly regulated because they do not pose a health risk to the general population. We include this information for customers who inquire about water quality data for beer brewing or optimizing aquariums, water softeners or dishwashers. These test results are for samples collected in 2022.

Additional Drinking Water Data for 2022

ANALYTE	CONCENTRATION RANGE
Total Dissolved Solids	199 - 265 ppm
pH (s.u.)	8.3 - 8.9
Conductivity	331 - 451 µS/cm
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	49 - 63 ppm
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	108 - 138 ppm (approximately 6 to 8 grains per gallon)
Sodium	27 - 31 ppm
Ammonia (as N)	0.33-0.67 ppm



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems especially for pregnant women and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking, cooking or preparing baby formula. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water.

Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline **1-800-426-4791** or at **epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water**.



Look out for our most vulnerable neighbors

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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

NO LEAD FOUND IN SURVEY OF ALL SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL SERVICE LINES

In 2019, the City inspected the water service lines for single family homes to verify that pipes on either side of the water meter were made of copper and not lead. CDPHE and the EPA have established new rules about needing a second point of verification that there are no lead service lines. As we work with our partners at the State you may hear from us as we continue to verify that no lead was found for our single-family residential lines.

How much are we talking about?



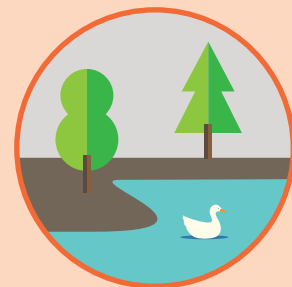
Parts Per Million (ppm)

1 drop in a hot tub
is equal to 1 ppm



Parts Per Billion (ppb)

1 drop in an Olympic-size swimming
pool is equal to 1 ppb



Parts Per Trillion (ppt)

1 drop in a 6-acre lake
is equal to 1 ppt

Non-Health-Based Violation

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During January 1–31, 2022 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for chlorine residual and therefore cannot be sure of the drinking water quality during that time.

During the month of January 2022, the City of Westminster's Northwest Water Treatment Facility was required to collect a total of 186 chlorine residual samples from the drinking water being pumped from the plant and into the distribution system. Though samples were collected and analyzed each day; due to online instrument failure only 171 samples were collected and analyzed. This resulted in a drinking water monitoring violation, which requires this public notification as directed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

What does this mean? What should I do? This monitoring error was a violation, but did not impact public health so customers do not need to seek alternative water supplies or take further actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What is being done? This violation was resolved by January 31, 2022 through enhanced, daily instrument verification procedures and improvements to online instrument programming sensitivity which will alert staff to a malfunction.

You may contact the City's Utilities Water Treatment staff at **6575 W. 88th Avenue, Westminster, CO, 80031** or **303-658-2500** for additional information regarding this public notice.

Please share this information with all the other 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 public places or by distributing copies.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and microbiological contaminants, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or visit [cdc.gov/parasites/crypto](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto).



How the EPA sets limits

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies pollutants and their impacts to the environment and people to determine the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Every water utility, including Westminster, is required by law to not exceed the MCL.

The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level at which there are no known effects on a person's health with an additional margin for safety. The MCL is set as close as possible to the goal.

Sometimes the MCL is higher than the MCLG. This is because of one of three possible reasons:

- (1) The technology needed to measure such small quantities of the MCLG is not available;
- (2) The technology needed to remove the pollutant or reduce it to the MCLG is not available yet; or
- (3) The cost of treating the pollutant to the MCLG outweighs the potential benefit of a lowered standard.

Substances that could be in source water

In order to ensure that drinking water is safe, CDPHE prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same level of protection for public health.

The water sources for tap and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals including potentially radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbiological contaminants: Viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants: 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: May come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants: Can be naturally occurring or a result of petroleum production and mining activities.

Organic chemical contaminants: Synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

DID YOU KNOW?

All 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 the water poses a health risk.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791** or visit [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

DRINKING WATER FAQs

Q *What should I know about fluoride in the water?*

A *The City of Westminster does not add fluoride during the treatment process. The 0.58 part per million fluoride level in the drinking water is from natural sources in the environment and is less than the recommended 0.7 part per million concentration established by the U.S. EPA for drinking water.*

Q *What if I need help paying my water bill?*

A *We understand that financial hardship happens, and we are here to support you with multiple opportunities. Income-qualified residents can view all programs and apply for assistance online at cityofwestminster.us/WaterBillAssistance or call 303-658-2392 with any questions. Programs include:*

Bill Credit Program: This program provides a \$180 credit applied over a 12- month period in \$15/month increments for residents who meet the income guidelines. If residents already qualify for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), they will also automatically qualify for this program.

Hardship Program: This program offers a one-time credit (up to \$750) to residents who may have been experiencing short-term difficulties paying their water bill due to a temporary interruption of income, such as an injury or medical emergency.

Indoor Efficiency Program: This program provides up to two free high-efficiency toilets and free indoor water-use inspections to income-qualified homeowners.

Emergency and Essential Repair Program: This program is available to income-qualified homeowners who may need emergency or essential home repairs up to \$5,000. Eligible repairs include addressing leaking indoor plumbing.

The State of Colorado also offers water assistance through its LIHWAP program (administered through LEAP)

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP): Financial assistance for income-qualified residents is also available from the state's LEAP and LIHWAP programs. Residents can find more information here: cdhs.colorado.gov/leap

Q *Is there PFAS in Westminster's drinking water?*

A *Westminster tested untreated source water and treated water for 18 PFAS compounds in March 2020. No PFAS compounds were detected in any of the treated water samples. The City is scheduled to analyze the finished water quarterly in 2024 for 29 PFAS compounds as required by the EPA for UCMR5.*

PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. The U.S. EPA proposed lowering the limit for PFAS substances earlier this year to a level it can be reliably measured at four parts per trillion – the equivalent of four drops for a 6-acre lake. The City of Westminster continues to work in partnership with the CDPHE and the EPA. We are monitoring and complying with new guidelines as they are established.

PFASs have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease, or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Because these chemicals have been used in an array of consumer products, most people have been exposed to them. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer. In 2006, eight major companies voluntarily agreed to phase out their global production of PFOA and PFOA-related chemicals, although there are a limited number of ongoing uses. Scientists have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood of nearly all the people they tested, but these studies show that the levels of PFOA and PFOS in blood have been decreasing. While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in the small percentage of communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an industrial facility where these chemicals were produced or used to manufacture other products or an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

**Dave,
Utilities Specialist I,
Public Works And Utilities**

Public Works and Utilities crews complete maintenance and flushing of all 4,482 fire hydrants in the city each year to ensure reliability and distribution water quality.



WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION

Although water is a precious and limited resource across the West, it is especially important in Colorado. Our four river basins – the Colorado, Platte, Rio Grande, and Arkansas – are the water source for 17 downstream states. Thanks to years of careful planning and strategic investments, Westminster has enough water for its current and future water needs as long as development continues in line with the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Wattenberg Reservoir is completed, and water conservation trends continue.



Drought remains the greatest threat to the city's water supply. Conservation measures by our residents and businesses continue to be the best way for the city to secure its water supply.

Visit www.cityofwestminster.us/conservation to learn more about programs to reduce water usage.

DID YOU KNOW?

Westminster's average residential customer uses four times more water in a summer month than in a winter month to water their lawn and other outdoor irrigation needs.

Save Water, Save Money, and Get a Yard Remodel!

The City offers a number of programs to help residents reduce their outdoor water usage. The City will pay up to \$750 towards the cost of removing lawn and replacing it with Colorado-friendly plants. The City also sells discounted water wise garden kits and provides FREE irrigation system consultations.



Upgrade to a Waterwise Yard

The City is offering residents up to \$750 toward transforming your thirsty lawn into a beautiful, waterwise landscape. We have partnered with Resource Central to make the process as easy as possible.



Garden In A Box

Garden In A Box kits are professionally designed for Colorado yards, and can help you save thousands of gallons of water each year compared to a traditional grass lawn. Starting at just \$119, Garden In A Box kits are beautiful, affordable, and easy to plant.



Slow the Flow Irrigation Consultation

Take the guesswork out of watering your lawn with a free sprinkler consultation from Westminster and Resource Central. Participants save an average of \$175 off total summertime water bills. Register now to schedule your appointment.



Waterwise Webinars

Please join us for over 20 free webinars led by Colorado low-water landscape experts. Some of our favorite upcoming seminars are focused on helping beginners get started, such as "New to Colorado Landscaping," and "Planting for Pollinators."



Visit www.resourcecentral.org to learn more about and sign up for these programs.

Please Help Us Keep Our Water Clean

The City has separate sanitary and storm sewer systems. Separate systems have two different pipes. One pipe carries sanitary sewage to the wastewater treatment facility. The other pipe carries stormwater (rain) from storm drains to local streams, rivers and lakes, such as Big Dry Creek with little or no treatment. Therefore, it's critical you don't throw anything into the storm sewer.



Pick up pet poop



Fix oil leaks
(don't pour used oil down drains!)



Use fertilizers sparingly



Compost leaves



Use commercial car washes

WHAT IF I NEED HELP PAYING MY WATER BILL?

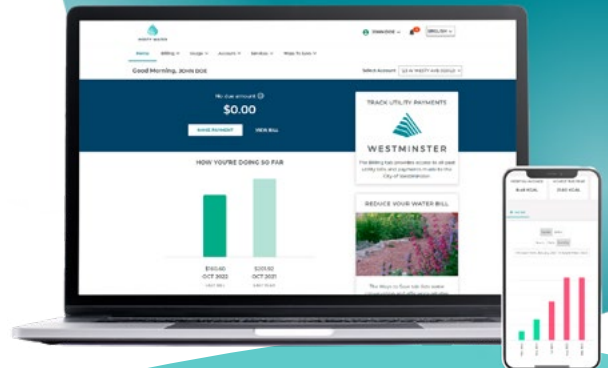
We understand that financial hardships happen, and we are here to support you. Income qualified residents can apply for assistance online at www.cityofwestminster.us/WaterBillAssistance. Please call 303-658-2392 for more information.



WESTY WATER

Westminster's new customer portal is here!

Westminster's new customer portal offers residents and customers the ability to monitor hourly water consumption and receive emergency leak alerts via email. You can compare past water use, pay your water bill, and learn about water efficiency programs that could help you save water and money.



Data Dashboard

The data dashboard allows customers to view their current month's water bill in comparison to the same month of last year in a friendly, visual dashboard.



Secure Billing & Payments

Track billing history, set bill payment alerts, and make bill payments online.



Receive Leak Alerts

Sign up for automatic emergency email notifications when a potential leak is detected at your home or business.



Monitor Usage

View your hourly, daily, and monthly water consumption to identify ways to conserve water and save money.

THIS IS YOUR WATER SYSTEM: GET INVOLVED!

Have a question or concern? Feel free to reach out directly to the Water Quality team by calling **303-658-2461** or by email at **water@cityofwestminster.us**.

City Council Meetings

Residents are invited to provide comments about drinking water quality, budgets, and plans during City Council meetings. Westminster City Council meets in regular session on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Westminster City Hall, 4800 W. 92nd Avenue. Please refer to the City's website at **www.cityofwestminster.us** for additional information including new ways to watch the council meetings and submit public comment via email and voicemail.

Social Media

 www.facebook.com/cityofwestminstercolorado

 www.nextdoor.com/city/westminster--co/

 www.twitter.com/westminsterco

 www.instagram.com/westminster.colorado/

 www.youtube.com/@WestminsterCO



Water Infrastructure Projects Update

Infrastructure projects are almost entirely funded by your monthly water bill. To learn about what we are doing to keep our drinking water clean and safe, as well as potential impacts of our construction projects, please visit **www.cityofwestminster.us/Water**.

The City of Westminster's Utilities Operations Division maintains the City's water mains. If you suspect problems in the water system such as main breaks, service line leaks, frozen meters, or pressure issues, notify us at **303-658-2500**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





WESTMINSTER

WWW.CITYOFWESTMINSTER.US