



# Macomb Township

## Water Connection

# Water Quality Report



# 2019

Published May / June 2020

Department of Water and Sewer  
51650 Card Road, Macomb, MI 48042  
Business (586) 598-0687  
Emergency (586) 598-1790

Gerry Wangelin, Superintendent  
Ed Koenig, Assistant Superintendent

## **A Message from the Superintendent**

Macomb Township is honored to provide you with the 2019 Annual Water Quality Report known as the "Water Connection". This report reviews the sources of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains important information about water, health and ways to use water responsibly which will lead to saving money. Unfortunately, water and sewer rates are increasing every year. In an effort to help control these increasing costs, this report will offer many money saving ideas. It should also be noted that on May 13, 2009 the Township Board adopted a summer water use ordinance. The content of this ordinance as well as many helpful idea's are available at all of the Township building's and also on our website at [www.macomb-mi.gov](http://www.macomb-mi.gov) and click on Water & Sewer Dept.

Macomb Township is pleased to show you we have surpassed water quality standards as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the 2019 calendar year. Macomb Township Water & Sewer Department provides drinking water to approximately 29,444 metered customers in the 36 square mile area. The systems water is drawn from three master meters. Two along 24 Mile Road, the third in the 21 Mile and Fairchild Road area. Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. Macomb Township and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are committed to meeting state and federal water quality standards including the Lead and Copper Rule. With the Great Lakes as our water source and proven treatment technologies, the GLWA consistently delivers safe drinking water to our community. Macomb Township operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. This year's Water Quality Report highlights the performance of GLWA and Macomb Township's 22 water professionals in delivering some of the nation's best drinking water. Together, we remain committed to protecting public health and maintaining open communications with the public about our drinking water. Macomb Township and the GLWA are committed to safeguarding our water supply and delivering the highest quality drinking water to protect public health. Please contact us with any questions or concerns about your water.

Sincerely,  
**Gerry Wangelin**, Superintendent

## **Our Primary Source of Water, Lake Huron Treatment Plant**

Macomb Township is supplied by the Great Lakes Water Authority where the water is produced by the Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant near Port Huron. From this point, the water travels through large water mains to a point where it enters Macomb Township. Your source water comes from the lower Lake Huron watershed. The watershed includes numerous short, seasonal streams that drain to Lake Huron. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very low" to "very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The Lake Huron source water intake is categorized as having a moderately low susceptibility to potential contaminant sources. The Lake Huron water treatment plant has historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards.

In 2015, GLWA received a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to develop a source water protection program for the Lake Huron water treatment plant intake. The program includes seven elements that include the following: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection area, identification of potential of source water protection area, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new sources and public participation and education. If you would like more information about the Source Water Assessment Report, please visit the Macomb Township W & S website at [www.macomb-mi.gov/water](http://www.macomb-mi.gov/water) or call (586) 598-0687.

## **Our Mission**

***Macomb Township Water & Sewer Department is dedicated to the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Community. Our goal is to meet and exceed all Federal, State and Local Requirements in providing the highest quality of drinking water, fire protection flows and the most efficient sewage disposal system.***

# WATERING BASICS 101

## WHY DOES MACOMB TOWNSHIP HAVE AN OUTDOOR WATERING ORDINANCE?

On May 13, 2009 the Macomb Township Board passed Ordinance No. 242 which puts limitations on water use. "Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances for The Township of Macomb is hereby amended and revised for the purposes of protecting the public health, safety and welfare; providing for decreases in maximum water usage at peak hours in order to achieve a better water rate from the GLWA; provide for a decrease in peak water usage in order to provide for better water pressure throughout the entire system during peak flows in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare."



## WHAT IS PEAK WATER USAGE?

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) monitors each communities water usage during **peak periods**. The **peak period** for all communities is from **5 am to 11 pm EST daily**. The highest amount of water used during this time period equals a community's **Peak Usage**.

## HOW ARE WATER RATES DETERMINED?

The peak time for water usage is from **5 am to 11pm EST**, when the majority of customers are using the most water for activities such as bathing, cooking, lawn sprinkling, etc. In order to provide for this higher usage of water at these specific times, the GLWA must design its system to supply the water to the customer for these times. That means larger pumps, larger water mains, and more electricity to operate the water system. All of these things equate into increased costs of operating the water system.

## MACOMB TOWNSHIP'S PEAK USAGE HABITS:

Macomb Township has continued to have a higher water demand during peak periods, **especially due to automated irrigation systems**. The consequences of not shifting heavy use from automated irrigation systems to **NON-PEAK HOURS (11pm to 5am EST)** is a higher water supply charge incurred to the Township from GLWA.

## HOW CAN MACOMB TOWNSHIP MANAGE WATER RATES?

The only way to manage the rates charged from GLWA is to shift the heavy water use to **non-peak hours** which are **11pm to 5am EST**.

## HOW IS THE ORDINANCE ENFORCED?

The Macomb Township W&S Department will be taking a more aggressive approach to enforce the Outdoor Watering Ordinance. Violators will be given a notice of the violation with the following posted on their door.



## WATER CONSERVATION DOES NOT AFFECT WATER RATES?

Despite what may be happening in other parts of the country, water conservation does not have an affect on water rates in our area. Michigan is fortunate to have an abundance of water available in the Great Lakes for use as drinking water. The GLWA has designed their water system and rate structure so that customers may use as much water as they need. It is the extra cost of supplying water during peak times that drives water rates higher.

Public water systems are similar to the road system in that a water system must be designed to handle its "rush hour traffic" 5am to 11pm EST. If Macomb Township took part of this traffic (water demand) and moved it to early morning 11pm to 5am EST, when most people are sleeping, GLWA would spend less to provide the same amount of water. This cost saving would help keep water rates lower for all Township customers.

**\*IMPORTANT\***  
THIS IS A  
**FINAL NOTICE**

YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN  
**VIOLATION**  
OF MACOMB TOWNSHIP'S  
OUTDOOR WATERING ORDINANCE

*Please reset your irrigation timers  
to water between the hours of  
11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.*

**ANOTHER VIOLATION MAY  
RESULT IN A CITATION**


Macomb Township enacted this ordinance for  
the purpose of shifting heavy use from automated  
irrigation systems to NON-PEAK HOURS.  
In addition, the shift in peak usage will assist  
in managing water rates.

To review this ordinance, go to  
[www.macomb-mi.gov](http://www.macomb-mi.gov)  
and click on the *Water & Sewer page*  
or call the *Water & Sewer Dept.*  
586-598-0687  
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE: \_\_\_\_\_



## KNOW YOUR WATER METER!

Like reading the odometer on your car, you can read your water meter by recording all numbers from left to right, including any zero's to the right of the moveable numbers. Write down this reading along with the date. Take a second reading later and subtract the first reading from the second reading. This will give you the total water usage (to the nearest ten gallons) over the period between the readings. The sweep hand on the meter makes one complete revolution for every 7.5 gallons of water used. (Note the tens digit advance with each sweep.) If you have any questions about reading your meter, please give us a call (586)598-0687.



### Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (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 the water poses a health risk.

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 organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### People with Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 disorder, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare 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** (1-800-426-4791).

*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)*

### Lead was not detected in Macomb Township's Water Sources

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. Macomb Township 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 2 minutes 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 on the web at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



## Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant 2019 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

2019 Inorganic Chemicals—Monitoring at the Plant Finished Water Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	06/11/2019	ppm	4	4	0.61	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	06/11/2019	ppm	10	10	0.46	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	05/16/2017	ppm	2	2	0.01	n/a	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

2019 Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System, Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2019	ppb	n/a	80	50	11-68	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2019	ppb	n/a	60	17	7.9-19	no	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Disinfectant Residuals Monitoring in Distribution System by Treatment Plant								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MRDLG	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest RAA	Quarterly-Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	Jan-Dec 2019	ppm	4	4	0.84	0.65-0.92	no	Water additive used to control microbes
Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique 2019							Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each quarter and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.							Erosion of natural deposits

2019 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water				
<i>Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU</i>	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)		Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.14 NTU	100%		no	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

2019 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System					
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	in one month/0	no	Naturally present in the environment.
<i>E.coli</i> Bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E. coli</i> positive.	entire year/0	no	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

### Water Analysis for 2019

State and Federal laws require Macomb Township and the GLWA to routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water. We are providing you with the results of the contaminants that were detected in our water. The table above and on the next page denotes the monitoring period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

## Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant 2019 Regulated Detected Contaminates Tables

2019 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customer Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2019	ppb	0	15	0.0 ppb	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2019	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.029 ppm	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.								
2014 Radionuclides								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Combined Radium Radium 226 & 228	5/13/14	pCi/L	0	5	0.86 + or - 0.55	no	Erosion of natural deposits	

### Special Monitoring

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected 2019	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.74	Erosion of natural deposits

### Detected Contaminants Definitions

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
>	Greater than	
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, Dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
Level 1	Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.
Level 2	Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four quarters.
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	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRLDG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
n/a	not applicable	
ND	Not Detected	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity
ppb	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
RAA	Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for all samples during the previous four quarters.
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level	An MCL which involves a biological, chemical or physical characteristic of water that may adversely affect the taste, odor, color or appearance (aesthetics), which may thereby affect public confidence or acceptance of the drinking water.
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
µohms	Microhms	Measure of electrical conductance of water

## Eliminate FOG's (Fats, Oils, and Grease) from our Sanitary Sewers

### Where Does Grease Come From?

Most of us know grease as a by product of cooking. Grease is found in meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter or margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces and dairy products.

Most often grease is washed down into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the inside of the sewer pipes (both on your property and the Township sewer system). Over time, the grease can build and block the entire piping system.

Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the sewer system. Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

#### THE RESULTS CAN BE:

- Raw Sewage overflowing in your home or neighbor's home
- An expensive & unpleasant cleanup at the cost of homeowner
- Increase in operation & maintenance costs for Township sewer department which results in higher sewer bills for customers

#### HOW CAN THIS BE PREVENTED:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets
- Scrape grease & food scraps from dishes, pots, pans, utensils, grills, and cooking surfaces into the trash for disposal
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps & other solids and empty into trash.



#### Did you Know?

Fats, oil and grease are not just bad for your arteries and your waistline: they are bad for sewers too!

## Overflow or Backup of Sewage Water or Storm Water System

Under the guidelines of **Public Act 222**, any resident or business owner having experienced an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, please contact the Macomb Township Water & Sewer Department **immediately** at (586) 598-0687 or after hours at (586) 598-1790.

You must file a written claim with Macomb Township within 45 days after the overflow or back up is discovered. To receive a Notice of Claim Form, please contact the Macomb Township Water & Sewer Department at (586) 598-0687 or by mail at 54111 Broughton Road, Macomb, MI 48042. Failure to provide the required notice will prevent recovery of damages.

## Public Participation

The Macomb Township Board of Trustees conducts regularly scheduled business meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. These meetings allow the general public an opportunity to address significant concerns to the Board.

The Board of Trustees oversees the operations of the Water and Sewer Department. These meetings in particular do not discuss water quality but will address all purchases, functional activities and concerns that may arise. The office of the Water & Sewer Department welcomes your comments and opinions about this report and will be happy to answer any questions you may have by contacting our department representatives at (586) 598-0687, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm or the website at [www.waterandsewer@macomb-mi.gov](http://www.waterandsewer@macomb-mi.gov)



## Before you dig, call MISS DIG at 1-800-482-7171

Before you put that shovel or spade in the ground in your yard or make any major improvements on your property, you must know where all your utilities are located. Utilities can be buried from 2 inches to more than 10 feet in depth and can be located anywhere on your property. There is an agency called **MISS DIG** which is a toll free phone call and provides you a free service to locate these utilities. We ask that you call MISS DIG before you dig. It will save costly repairs for the utilities and may save your life.

# Cleaner Safer Environment, We Can All Pitch In !



Did you know that over three million people depend on our lakes and streams for their drinking water? And that in Southeast Michigan there are over 300,000 registered boaters and 3.5 million people visit a local park each year?

With this many people depending on our lakes and streams for drinking water and recreation, we need to be careful how we treat our water. You might not be able to see the stream or lake from your house, but it's there! It might be a small stream or ditch or even a storm drain in the street. All of these lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, what we do at home affects our water!

Here are seven simple steps you can take in your home and yard to protect our lakes and streams.

- **Help keep pollution out of storm drains.** Storm drains lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, never dump oil, pet waste, leaves, dirty water, or anything down a storm drain. Remember, only rain in the drain.
- **Fertilize carefully and sparingly.** Excess fertilizer that gets into storm drains pollutes our lakes by causing large algae blooms and using up oxygen fish need to survive. Sweep excess fertilizer back onto your lawn, use a low or no phosphorus fertilizer, and have your soil tested to see what, if any, fertilizer is needed.
- **Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil.** Instead of putting hazardous products like antifreeze, motor oil, and pesticides in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, take them to a local hazardous waste collection day.
- **Clean up after your pet.** Whether on a walk or in your yard, promptly clean up after your pet. Not only will you be a good neighbor, you will also protect our water from harmful bacteria.
- **Practice good car care.** Consider taking your car to a car wash or washing your car on the grass.
- **Choose earth friendly landscaping.** Protect your pets, kids, and the environment by using pesticides sparingly. Also, water your lawn only when it needs it and choose plants native to Michigan.
- **Save water.** Over watering our lawns can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. Consider using a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway. This will help save our lakes and streams and save you money.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) or [www.macomb-mi.gov/pages/water\\_and\\_sewer.htm](http://www.macomb-mi.gov/pages/water_and_sewer.htm) and visit the Storm Water Links. Remember, our water is our future – and it's ours to protect!

If you suspect or are aware of a water pollution issue, please contact the Macomb County Water Pollution Hotline at (877) 679-4337.

## Macomb Township Board of Trustees

Supervisor **Janet I. Dunn**

Clerk **Kristi L. Pozzi**

Treasurer **Karen M. Goodhue, MiCPT, CPFIM**

### TRUSTEES

**Timothy F. Bussineau**

**Nancy J. Nevers**

**Charles Oliver**

**Kathy Smith**