Saint Paul Regional Water Services

Water Quality Report

2026

McCarrons Treatment Plant

A New Era Begins

Last fall, the utility officially brought the new McCarrons Water Treatment Plant online, marking the largest capital improvement project in the utility's 143-year history. After more than four years of planning and three years of construction, the $250 million facility is now providing safe, reliable drinking water to our 450,000 customers across Saint Paul and 13 surrounding communities.

The moment was celebrated with a glass-raising led by General Manager Racquel Vaske, Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, Maplewood Mayor Mary Lee Abrams, members of the Board of Water Commissioners, and representatives of the engineering firm Jacobs. While the public event drew attention from local media, the milestone reflects the dedication and hard work of many SPRWS staff, contractors, and partners who kept this complex project moving on schedule and under budget.

Building for the Future
The previous McCarrons plant had been in service since 1920. While it delivered excellent water for more than a century, key components were approaching the end of their useful life.

Some systems had no built-in redundancies, meaning if a piece of equipment went offline, there was no backup. The modernization was a proactive choice to prevent failure and to prepare for the future growth of our region.

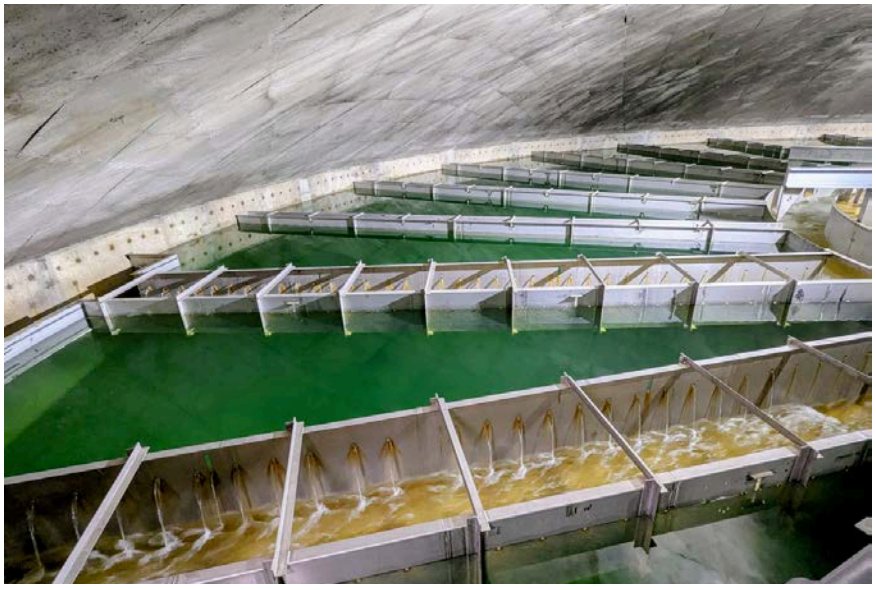
The new plant was constructed on the same site as the original, allowing the old facility to remain operational throughout the project. This careful sequencing ensured uninterrupted service even as massive new clarifiers, ozone generators, and recarbonation basins took shape next door. Four new clarifiers, each capable of treating 28 million gallons per day, anchor the process. With all systems online, the new plant can treat up to 84 million gallons daily, providing more capacity than the grid currently requires.

New Technology, Greater Resilience
For the first time in SPRWS history, ozone is being used in the treatment process. Ozonation helps with taste and odor control, provides an additional layer of disinfection, and positions us to address contaminants that may emerge in the future. The plant also incorporates new lime-softening clarifiers, recarbonation basins, and digital monitoring systems.

Together, these upgrades create a safer, more flexible operation with built-in backups that give staff time and breathing room to address issues without risking service disruptions.

What's Next
While the new facility is now producing water, work continues on the site. Old structures have been demolished and a new state-of-the-art water quality laboratory and office space is underway, with completion expected by the end of 2026. Once construction is finished, SPRWS plans to reopen the plant for public and school tours.

A Shared Accomplishment
The McCarrons rebuild is more than just a new building, it is an investment in public health, community trust, and the future of our utility. Every SPRWS employee, whether working at the plant, in the lab, on the mains, or in customer service, played a role in keeping operations steady while this massive transformation unfolded.
The next time you turn on the tap, take a moment to reflect: the water flowing out represents not only our treatment expertise, but also years of planning, teamwork, and commitment to serving our community.



Clarifier

Clarified water moves through the clarifier.

Top, oxygen tanks for the new ozonation process. Bottom, a gauge on the new ozonation tank.

ABOUT THESE RESULTS

This report contains our monitoring results from

JAN. 1 - DEC. 31, 2025

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants.

Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's web page Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota at: tinyurl.com/y653g4on.

The tables on pages 4 - 5 show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the table.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year.

If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the table with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act.

To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

*The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month. The system met all TOC removal requirements, unless there is a "No" in the Meets Standards column.

KEY TO CHART

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

Contaminant: Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

EPA: 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 (Maximum contaminant level goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal): 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.

NA (Not applicable): Does not apply.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).

ppm (parts per million): One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb (parts per billion): One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/l).

ppm: 1 second in about 11.6 days

ppb: 1 second in about 31.7 years

ppt: 1 second in about 31,709 years

PWSID: Public water system identification.

TBD (To be determined): Determined at a later date.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulated Substances Related to Disinfection and Tested in Drinking Water

Substance (Units)	EPA Limit (MCL or MRDL)	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	Range Detected	Highest Aver-age or Single Test Result	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	80	NA	21.40 - 45.80	42	Disinfection by-product	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	NA	12.70 - 33.80	29.4	Disinfection by-product	Yes
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0	4.0	3.02 - 3.52	3.19	Water additive to control microbes	Yes

Inorganic and Organic Substances Tested in Drinking Water

Substance (Units)	EPA Limit (MCL)	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range Detected	Highest Average or Single Test Result	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	N/A	0.15	Fertilizer, sewer, natural deposits	Yes

Other Substances Tested in Drinking Water

Substance (Units)	EPA Limit (MCL)	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range Detected	Highest Average or Single Test Result	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.69 - 0.72	0.7	Additive to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits	Yes

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

Contaminant (With Year if Tested Outside Current Year) (Units)	EPA Limit (MCL)	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range of Detect-ed Test Results	Highest Aver-age or Highest Single Test Result	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Perfluorooactanesulfate (PFOS) (PPT)	4.0	0	N/A	0.91	Discharge from manufacturing & industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, certain firefighting actvities	TBD in future
Perfluorooactanoic Acid (PFOA) (PPT)	4.0	0	N/A	1.6		TBD in future

Treatment Indicator Tested During Treatment

Substance (Units)	Removal required	Lowest Monthly Percent of Results in Compliance	Highest Test Result	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	100%	0.066	Soil runoff	Yes

Disinfection By-product Indicator Tested in Source Water and Drinking Water

Substance (Units)	Removal Required	Range of Percent Removal Achieved	Average Percent of Removal Achieved	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Total Organic Carbon*	Variable	41 - 65	54	NA	Yes

Regulated Substances Tested at the Customer's Tap

Substance (Units) (Date if sampled in previous year)	EPA Action Level (AL)	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Number of Homes with High Levels	90% of Results Were Less Than	Range of Detected Test Results	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Lead (ppb)	90 % of homes must be under 15.0	0	2 out of 105	8	0 - 63.6	Corrosion of home plumbing	Yes
Copper (ppm)	90 % of homes must be under 1.3	0	0 out of 105	0.03	0.00 - 0.14	Corrosion of home plumbing	Yes

Unregulated substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. MDH, EPA and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impracticle for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions.

We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

More information is available on MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water
https://tinyurl.com/bdfjcnbu
Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4)
https://tinyurl.com/34ba52x8
EPA has developed a UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet
https://tinyurl.com/5b77j4px describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.
In the past year, your drinking water may have been tested for additional unregulated contaminants and results are still being processed as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule
https://tinyurl.com/ypn79p33

EPA UCMR 5 Data Finder: The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results.
www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder.

Unregulated Substances Tested in the Drinking Water

Substance (Units)	Comparison Value	Highest Average Results or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Anatoxin-a	0.1 ppb	0.02 ppb	0.00 - 0.27 ppb
Cylindrospermopsin	0.7 ppb	0.01 ppb	0.00 - 0.19 ppb
Sodium* (2024)	20 ppm	26.6 ppm	N/A
Sulfate (2024)	500 ppm	21.3 ppm	N/A
Perfluorobutanesulfonate (PFBS)	100 ppt	1.7 ppt	N/A
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)	7000 ppt	17 ppt	N/A
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA)	N/A	2.5 ppt	N/A
Perfluorohexanesulfonate (PFHxS)	47 ppt	0.87 ppt	N/A
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	200 ppt	2.2 ppt	N/A
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (2023)	N/A	0.09 ppt	0.00 - 0.37 ppt
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)	N/A	1.9 ppt	N/A

*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

In early 2024, MDH released new comparison values for two PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS. Additionally, EPA released final MCLs for PFAS on April 10, 2024, but has announced intent to make changes to this rule. Additional Information on PFAS system results may also be available in the PFAS MCL section of this report.

SOURCE WATER

Your drinking water primarily comes from surface water sources drawn from the Mississippi River and the Chain of Lakes.

SPRWS works hard to provide you with safe, reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements.

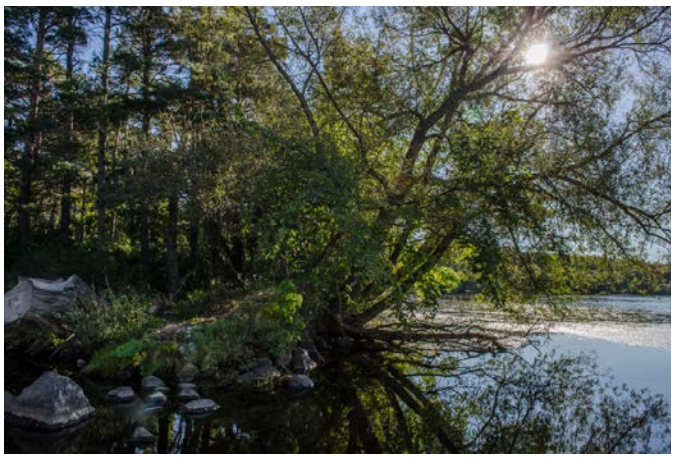
The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact our lab a 651-266-1635 if you have questions about SPRWS drinking water or email us at waterlab@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

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 visiting EPA.gov/safewater.

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater



is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land, and it supplies 75 percent of Minnesota drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are six main types of contaminants in drinking water sources. (See next page.)

Main source water contaminants

Microbial contaminants such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destorying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

Herbicide: Any chemical used to control undesirable vegetation.

Organic chemical contaminants include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

Source water assessments

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Saint Paul Regional Water Services is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments: Call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or go to tinyurl.com/y4xmkk5a.

Are you more vulnerable to contaminants?

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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available at EPA.gov/safewater.

Lead in drinking water

Lead can cause serious health problems, babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. There is no safe level of lead.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** before drinking tap water; flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.

- **Activities** such as taking a shower, doing laundry or dishes help keep water moving in your home system but are not a replacement for running the tap before you drink if it has not been used for a long period of time.
- **The only way to know** if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.

2. **Know your service line materials** by contacting your public water system, or you can search for your address online at the Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/) or go to stpaul.gov/lead-free.

- **Protect Your Tap:** A quick check for lead (https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.

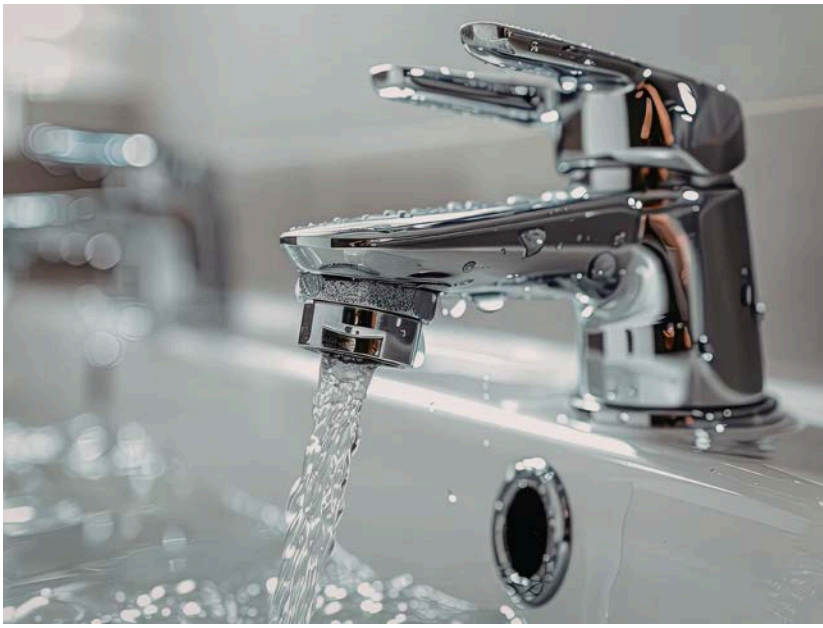
3. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.

4. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.

- **Contact a Minnesota Department of Health** accredited laboratory to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)

The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.

Or visit SPRWS at 1900 Rice Street M-F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



and pick up a sample bottle to have your water tested for lead for free.

5. **Treat your water i**f a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can use a filter certified with ANSI/NSF standards 42 and 53 for lead reduction.

- **Read about** water treatment units:

Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/pou-lead.html)

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and other steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at:

- **Visit EPA Basic Information** about Lead in Drinking Water (ht tp://w w w.epa .gov/safewa - ter/lead)
- **Visit the Minnesota department of Health Lead** in Drinking Water (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html)
- **To learn** about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html)

6. **Be Aware:** Head Start Programs, Child Care Centers, Public and Charter Schools all have requirements to test for lead in drinking water. You can Learn more about these programs and about requirements and resources for testing and remediation at MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares (https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html)

Service Line Material Inventory

Saint Paul Regional Water Services has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visting the lead inventory tracking tool at https://maps.umn.edu/lsl. You may also contact us at lead@stpaul.gov. Saint Paul Regional Water Services has extensive records determining the make-up of the materials used in service lines.

When in doubt, we scope the service line on site to determine the materials used. As of December 4, 2025, our inventory contains 17,772 lead, 4 galvanized lines requring replacement, 6,084 unknown material, and 74,869 non-lead service lines. A link to the inventory and additional information is available at stpaul.gov/lead-free.

Lead service line replacements hit 4,500 to date; 2,249 more planned

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) continues to make strong progress removing lead service lines from our system.

Since 2022, we have replaced approximately 4,500 lead service lines. In 2026, we plan to replace 2,249 more as part of our Lead Free SPRWS program.

If your property is scheduled for replacement in 2026, notification would have already been sent.

To complete the work at no cost to customers, property owners must sign and return the participation agreement. This allows crews to replace both the public and private portions of the service line safely and efficiently.

“This work represents years of planning, coordination, and sustained investment,” said Racquel Vaske, general manager of SPRWS. “Every lead service line we replace is a permanent improvement to our water system and an investment in the health of the residents of the communities we serve.”

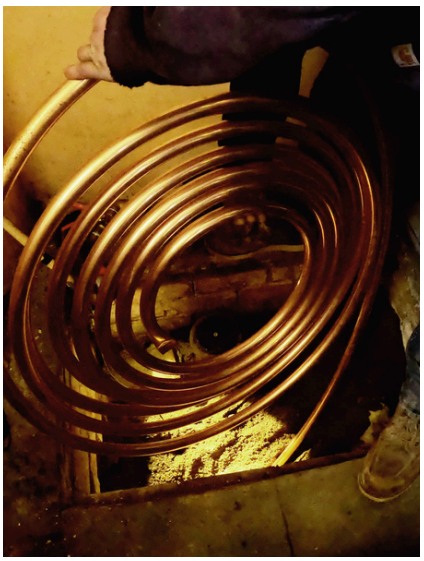
The 2026 work is supported by approximately $35 million in state funding through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority, allowing full replacements at no direct cost to participating property owners.

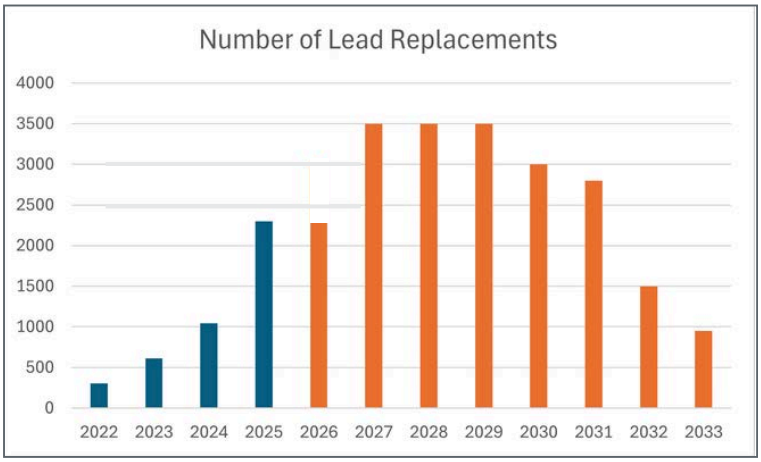
“Protecting the health of Saint Paul families is one of the most important responsibilities we have,” said Mayor Kaohly Her.

“Removing lead service lines is critical infrastructure work that delivers lasting public health benefits for generations. Securing the funding needed to complete this effort is a top priority for my administration. We will work closely with our state partners to ensure they understand the importance of sustaining this investment so that every Saint Paul resident has access to safe, lead-free drinking water. This is a long, critical fight, because no amount of lead is safe for our residents to drink.”

SPRWS will continue notifying customers as future areas are scheduled. You can check your service line material and learn more at stpaul.gov/leadfree or by contacting our customer service team.

We estimate it will cost an additional $250 million to remove all remaining lead service lines in our service area. Continued state investment is critical to keeping this work on schedule.





Lead replacement numbers by year. Those in orange are projected numbers.

A worker holds copper pipe in a home while another worker guides horizontal drilling equipment underground to allow for a new copper service line to be pulled through from the house to the street during a lead replacement.

COMMITTED TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

Attend a monthly Board of Water Commissioners meeting to find out more about how your water utility is managed.

We take pride in providing you with quality drinking water at a reasonable cost. Every day, SPRWS produces an average of 40 million gallons of drinking water and distributes it through 1,190 miles of water main to 450,000 residents of Saint Paul and the surrounding communities. To participate in decisions that may affect the quality of the water supplied by SPRWS, the public may attend the Board of Water Commissioners meetings held at 12 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month either in room 41 at Saint Paul City Hall., 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN, or at 1900 Rice Street, Saint Paul, MN. Please check the website at stpaul.gov/water for the location of that month's meeting.

Hmong
Tsab ntawv no muaj cov lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Hais kom leej twg muab txhais los yog tham nrog ib tug neeg uas nkag siab tau.

Somali Warbixintaan waxaa ku jira macluumaad muhiim ah oo ku saabsan biyaha aad cabtid. Ha laguu tarjumo ama la hadal qof fahamsan warbixinta.

Español Este informe contiene información importante sobre el agua potable. Solicite que alguien lo traduzca o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

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stpaul.gov/water
651-266-6350