

2025

Annual Water Quality Report

For the City of Battle Creek, Emmett Township, and the City of Springfield.

Prepared and presented by:

The City of Battle Creek
PWS ID# 0000450



Table of Contents

03 Message from the City

- Water department contacts
- Ford Blue Oval Campus update

04 Get the Lead Out

- Lead Service Line Replacement
- Important information about your drinking water
- Information about lead

06 Infrastructure Improvements

- Water tower maintenance
- TTHM exceedance investigation
- Tier 2 Public Notice Violation

07 Your Drinking Water Source

- Verona Well Field update
- Contaminants that could be in the water
- Important health information

09 Water Testing Results

- Regulated contaminants
- Definitions and secondary contaminants
- UCMR 5 monitoring results

12 Wellhead Protection

- What you can do to protect our drinking water

Watkins Road Infrastructure Improvement Work



An overhead drone view shows Watkins Road under construction in 2025. Crews installed 1.5 miles of new water main, 47 new service connections, and 18 new fire hydrants.

Completed in August, the project strengthened water delivery, improved fire protection, and expanded capacity to support future growth. Flip to **page 06** to read more about the Watkins Road project.

From the City of Battle Creek

The City of Battle Creek is pleased to present our annual water quality report, covering testing between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025.

We remain dedicated to producing drinking water (DW) that meets all state and federal standards. We continually seek and implement new methods to deliver the best quality DW to you, our customers.

For help in another language, please call the Department of Public Works at, **269.966.3343**. The city will provide interpretation at no cost.

Por consultas o asistencia en español, por favor comuníquese con el Departamento de Obras Públicas al 269-966-3343. Se le conseguirá un intérprete de forma gratuita.

အခြားဘာသာစကားဖြင့် အကူအညီရယူရန်၊ ပြည်သူ့အလုပ်များဌာနကို 269-966-3343 သို့ ဖုန်းခေါ်ပါ။ မြို့တော်မှ အခမဲ့ဘာသာပြန်ပေးမည်။

Water Contacts

City of Battle Creek 269.966.3481	Emmett Township 269.968.0241	City of Springfield 269.965.2354	After Hours 269.966.3493	 City Alerts battlecreekmi.gov/alerts
---	--	--	------------------------------------	---

Ford Blue Oval Campus update

Over the past year, we have continued working with Emmett Township and the City of Marshall to prepare the water infrastructure needed to serve the Ford Blue Oval Campus. Transmission mains and supporting facilities installed in 2024-25 are now fully constructed, connected and ready for commissioning.

Although the City of Battle Creek has not supplied water to the site during construction, we expect the system to be activated once the facility becomes operational. Based on the current project status, the Blue Oval connection could be ready for service as early as spring or summer 2026. Throughout early spring, crews will complete required system flushing, operational checks and bacteriological testing to ensure the new water main meets all state and federal drinking water standards before it is placed into service.



BC 311

 269.966.3311

 battlecreekmi.gov



SCAN + SAVE 

Get the Lead Out

We secured Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) funding through a State of Michigan Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) award.

This funding supports a multi-year construction effort from 2026 through 2028, during which the city will replace approximately 850 lead service lines in the Post Addition and Piper Park neighborhoods.

Progress completed in 2025

Ahead of this larger effort, the city made significant progress in 2025 by replacing 425 lead service lines. Our Water Division and city-hired contractors completed this work, reducing lead infrastructure and preparing neighborhoods for expanded, block-by-block replacement work.

Work underway in 2026

Beginning in 2026, DWSRF-funded construction is expanding LSLR at a neighborhood scale. Funding was awarded for LSLRs and water main (WM) replacements in the Post Addition neighborhood.

The city also awarded a contract for LSLRs in the Piper Park area, including:

- Post Addition LSLRs & WM replacements
- Merritt's Addition LSLRs
- Arlington Hills LSLRs
- Riverview Addition LSLRs
- Fremont Heights LSLRs
- Maplewood Park LSLRs

Construction in these areas began in 2026 and will continue over the next three years.

The Piper Park area was selected based on the number of known lead service lines and the condition of local streets. Coordinating water and street work allows the city to complete projects more efficiently while minimizing disruption for residents.

Protecting water quality

LSLs can increase the risk of lead exposure; however, we test our DW daily and treat it with an anti-corrosion product to prevent lead from leaching into pipes.

Residents can help support this effort by reporting their pipe material.

[Scan the QR code to the right](#) to submit your information. This helps us prioritize and schedule replacements efficiently while meeting state and federal requirements.



Important information about your drinking water

Reporting requirements not met for the Battle Creek Water System

The City of Battle Creek received a violation notice because customer notifications for lead, galvanized previously connected to lead, and unknown service line materials were not sent by the required deadline in 2024. These notifications were due by Nov. 16, 2024, but were mailed on Dec. 26, 2024. All other required submissions to the state were completed correctly; only the timing of the customer notifications was late.

Although this missed deadline did not create a risk to public health, we are required to inform customers of the violation. The city has since sent the required notifications to affected customers and submitted certification to the State of Michigan confirming this.

With these steps completed, the city is back in compliance, though a Tier 3 public notice is still required for the record.

What should I do?

There's nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. Please note, boiling water does not remove lead from water.

What is being done?

While the notices were sent later than required, the city provided the required notifications to persons served on Dec. 26, 2024, and provided certification to the state on June 30, 2025. We are no longer in violation of this requirement.

Please share this information with 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 a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Information about lead

There is no safe level of lead in DW. Exposure to lead in DW can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems, or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in DW is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Battle Creek, Emmett Township, and City of Springfield is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least five minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Battle Creek.



Cassandra L. Allen
Water Superintendent,
Department of Public Works

150 S. Kendall St.
Battle Creek, MI 49037
Phone: 269.966.3355 ext. 1827
Email: clallen@battlecreekmi.gov

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the following EPA websites:

- epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water
- epa.gov/lead
- michigan.gov/mileadsafe/get-ahead-of-lead
- www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Water System By the numbers	City of Battle Creek	Emmett Township	City of Springfield
Total water services	18,818	850	1,627
Known lead services	2,949	0	0
Unknown material	5,682	0	0
Unknown material <i>*unlikely to contain lead</i>	5,772	0	0

Infrastructure Improvements

In addition to LSLRs, the city completed several major water infrastructure projects in 2025 to improve system reliability and support future growth.

Crews replaced a water main on Lakeview Avenue and installed a new water main along Watkins Road.

The Watkins Road project, which wrapped up in August, added 1.5 miles of new water main, 47 new water service connections, and 18 new fire hydrants.

These improvements strengthened water delivery, improved fire protection, and expanded service capacity in the area.

Water tower maintenance

We maintain six water towers and storage tanks citywide that store DW and help maintain reliable water pressure throughout the distribution system. We pump water from the Verona Pumping Station to these elevated tanks, where it is stored to help ensure customers have reliable access to water 24 hours a day.

To keep the tanks in good working condition, we perform regular maintenance based on consultant recommendations. We typically repaint tank exteriors every eight to 12 years and interiors every 12 to 15 years.

This work includes power washing and applying multiple protective coatings to prevent corrosion and protect water quality.

In 2025, we painted the east Brigden tank on Eldred Street and the Emmett Township water tower on 11 Mile Road, and completed minor repairs at costs of \$122,000 and \$64,680, respectively.

We also power-washed the west Brigden tank on Eldred Street and the Beckley Road tank for a cost of \$14,000 for each tank.

TTHM exceedance investigation

In 2025, routine quarterly testing showed elevated levels of total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in some areas of Battle Creek and Emmett Township, as well as for customers in Springfield and parts of Pennfield Township.

This was not an emergency, and affected residents were notified at the time.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

TTHMs form when disinfectant reacts with naturally occurring organic material in water. Well replacement work at the Verona Well Field temporarily increased the amount of this natural material and required higher disinfectant use, which contributed to the elevated levels.

To better understand the issue and track improvements, we began collecting additional water samples every two weeks, in addition to required quarterly compliance sampling.

We also reviewed system operations—including water age, storage tank use, and distribution system flushing—to identify opportunities to reduce TTHM formation.

These additional samples and operational reviews allow us to closely monitor trends and evaluate the effectiveness of corrective actions.

Results from these investigative samples show steady improvement. Test results from early 2026 are significantly lower than the highest levels observed in late 2025.



**Targeted hydrant flushing
in 2025**

This indicates that steps we have taken—such as targeted hydrant flushing to reduce water age, adjusting storage operations, and planning treatment improvements—are having a positive effect.

Tier 2 Public Notice Violation

In 2025, the City of Battle Creek received a violation for failure to issue a required Tier 2 Public Notice within the timeframe required by the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. This notice was required following a previously reported TTHM violation. This violation applied to the City of Battle Creek, City of Springfield, and Emmett Township water systems. Public water systems must provide notice to customers within 30 days of learning of certain violations and must also submit certification of that notice to the State.

The city was notified of the public notice requirements on May 30. The deadline to distribute the notice to customers was June 29, and certification of that notice was due to the State by July 9. The required public notice was distributed on June 30, and certification was submitted on July 1.

Because the notice was not issued by the June 29 deadline, the systems were in violation. Compliance was achieved on June 30 when the notice was delivered.

This violation was administrative in nature and related only to the timing of the required public notification.

Your Drinking Water Source

The City of Battle Creek, Emmett Township, and the City of Springfield uses groundwater from the Marshall Sandstone Aquifer, drawn from the Verona Well Field in the northeast section of the city. This is our sole source of DW.

We constructed wells in the sandstone formation to collect the water stored there. When enough water accumulates to supply a well, it's considered an aquifer. The city gets its water from a bedrock aquifer. We currently pump the water from 22 wells, with depths ranging from 100-150 feet.

Groundwater is water beneath the surface of the earth that fills openings, known as pore spaces, in sand, gravel, or fractured rock. Groundwater begins as precipitation from snow or rain, which passes through the soil and accumulates in the pore spaces.

Verona Well Field update

We continue our multiyear project to renew the Verona Well Field. All 21 replacement wells have been drilled, and we activated the first group of five in March 2026. These wells are now in service and actively pumping water into the system. The remaining wells will be brought online in additional groups of five as approvals are received from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

During this phased activation, the existing wells at Verona remain in operation and continue to meet all daily water quality testing requirements. We are working with our engineering team and EGLE to complete remaining documentation, inspections and permitting. We expect the full well field upgrade to be completed this summer, supporting long-term system reliability and a stable water supply for our community.

Contaminants that could be in the water

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. One can reasonably expect DW, including bottled water, to contain at least small amounts of contaminants.

The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. The sources of DW – both tap 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 - in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be 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.
- Pesticides/herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Treating our water

Our DW treatment process includes a series of steps at our Verona facility. First, we draw water from the groundwater aquifer, and send it to our Radon, Iron, and Manganese removal plant, or RIM plant.

Then, we add air through an aeration process to remove radon and oxidize iron and manganese. This helps by making iron and manganese form larger particles, which are easier to remove later in the treatment process.

Next, we filter the water to remove iron and manganese using dual-media, rapid sand filters. After filtration, we add a small amount of phosphate to prevent corrosion in our system's pipes and plumbing, which helps control lead and copper.

Finally, we send the water to an underground reservoir where we add low doses of fluoride and chlorine for dental health and disinfection, respectively. Then, we pump the water to our water towers and into your homes and businesses.

Source water assessment

The state assessed our Verona Well Field source water in 2003 to determine the relative potential for contamination.

The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tier scale, from very low to very high, based primarily on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry, and contaminant sources.

The susceptibility rating for Verona is “high.” It’s important to understand that these ratings don’t imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated in assessment areas.

There are remedies in place for known contaminant sources for Verona to prevent municipal well contamination.

To further protect our DW source at Verona, we developed a wellhead protection plan overseen by a team that meets quarterly.

Important health information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in DW than the general population.

Immunocompromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about DW from their health care providers.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities.

Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level, over a relatively short amount of time, could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level, over many years, could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium*, and other microbial contaminants, are available from the Safe DW Hotline.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe DW Hotline at 800.426.4791 or visit water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

Water Testing Results



The tables in the following sections list all the DW contaminants detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables is from testing conducted between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025.

The state allows us to monitor certain contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout all three water systems in 2025.

Coliforms are bacteria that occur naturally in the environment and are used as indicators that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a pathway exists through which contamination could enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.

When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct the problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year, we conducted one Level 1 Assessment, as required. As a result of this assessment, one corrective action was identified and completed.

Regulated Contaminants				City of Battle Creek			Emmett Township			City of Springfield		
Contaminant (unit of measure) Typical source	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDL]	Sample year	Amount detected	Range low-high	Violation	Amount detected	Range low-high	Violation	Amount detected	Range low-high	Violation
Chlorine (ppm) Water additive used to control microbes.	[4]	[4]	2025	0.9	.20 - 1.60	No	0.845	.23-1.46	No	0.735	0.21-1.26	No
Fluoride (ppm) Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer/aluminum factories.	4	4	2025	0.675	.47 - .88	No	0.715	0.59-0.84	No	0.65	0.45-0.85	No
TTHMs (ppb) By-product of DW disinfection.	80	0	2025	*107	64-150	Yes	*129	71-170	Yes	*86	56-120	Yes
HAA5 (ppb) By-product of DW disinfection.	60	0	2025	*33.175	12.3-39.8	No	*30.95	25.7-37.4	No	*26.85	17-32.7	No
Total coliform bacteria (TT) Naturally present in the environment.	5% / month	0	2025	2.0%	0-2.0%	No	0	NA	No	0	NA	No
Nitrate (mg/L) Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	10	10	2025	.24	0.24–0.24	No	Some contaminants are tested only at the Battle Creek Drinking Water Treatment Plant. Because this facility supplies water to both Emmett Township and the City of Springfield, those test results apply to all three communities and separate results are not available. LEGEND <i>*Value represents the highest locational running annual average (LRAA) measured at any sampling site.</i> <i>^ indicates Sites above AL (allowable limit).</i>					
Barium (mg/L) Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	2	2	2024	.18	0.18–0.18	No						
Gross Alpha (pCi/L) Erosion of natural deposits.	15	0	2021	1.2	.5-1.9	No						
Radium 226 (pCi/L) Erosion of natural deposits.	NA	0	2021	0.6	.4- .8	No						
Radium 228 (pCi/L) Erosion of natural deposits.	NA	0	2021	1.1	.4-1.8	No						
Combined Radium (pCi/L) Natural deposit erosion.	5	0	2021	1.7	1.0-2.4	No						
Contaminant (unit of measure) Typical source	AL	MCLG [MRDL]	90th % value	Range low-high	Sites ^ AL / Violation	90th % value	Range low-high	Sites ^ AL/ Violation	90th % value	Range low-high	Sites ^ AL / Violation	
Lead (ppb) Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings, fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits.	12	0	2	0-377	2/No	0	0 - 0	0/No	2	0 - 11	0/No	
Copper (ppm) Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	1.3	1.3	0.6	0-0.8	0/No	0.7	0.1-0.7	0/No	0.6	0.0 - 0.8	0/No	

Lead and copper sampling was completed from June 1, 2025, to Sept. 30, 2025.

As of May 2025, a 24-hour Tier 1 Public Notice is now required for lead action level exceedances (ALE)s.

Definitions

90th % value: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of all sites tested. This means 90% of samples are equal to or lower than the reported value.

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

ALE: Action Level Exceedance(s).

Contaminant (unit of measure): The substance tested and the unit used to measure its concentration.

DW: Drinking water.

HAA5: Haloacetic acids.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average.

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

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

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Evidence shows disinfectants are necessary to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity.

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter.

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter.

ppt: Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter.

Range low-high: The lowest and highest detected levels of a contaminant during the monitoring period.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): Standards developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water. These standards are not health-based.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant when numeric limits are not practical.

TTHMs: Total trihalomethanes.

UCMR: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule.

Violation: Indicates whether the detected level exceeded a regulatory limit.

Secondary Contaminants				City of Battle Creek		
Contaminant (unit of measure) Typical source	Sample year	AL	MCLG [MRDL]	Amount detected	Range low-high	Violation
Sodium Naturally in the environment; road salting; septic systems.	2024	NA	NA	25	23-27	No
Sulfate Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.	2025	NA	NA	67.5	60-75	No
Chloride Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.	2025	NA	NA	65	50-80	No
Manganese Erosion of natural deposits; leaching into groundwater; mining or industrial sources.	2025	NA	NA	0.026	0-0.026	No

UCMR 5 Monitoring Results		City of Battle Creek		
Contaminant (unit of measure) Typical source	AL	Amount detected	MCLG [MRDL]	Range
HFPO-DA (ppt) Discharge, waste from industrial facilities using the Gen X chemical process.	370	Non Detect	None	0
PFBS (ppt) Discharge, waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments.	420	Non Detect	None	0
PFHxA (ppt) Firefighting foam; discharge, waste from industrial facilities.	400000	Non Detect	None	0
PFHxS (ppt) Firefighting foam; discharge, waste from industrial facilities.	51	Non Detect	None	0
PFNA (ppt) Discharge, waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds.	6	Non Detect	None	0
PFOA (ppt) Discharge, waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments.	8	Non Detect	None	0
PFOS (ppt) Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities.	16	Non Detect	None	0
*PFPeA (ppt) Use of or degradation of other PFAS substances.	NA	3 ppt	None	0-3 ppt



Information on PFAS and Lithium is available on the State of Michigan website at: www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/drinking-water/statewide-survey.

Wellhead Protection

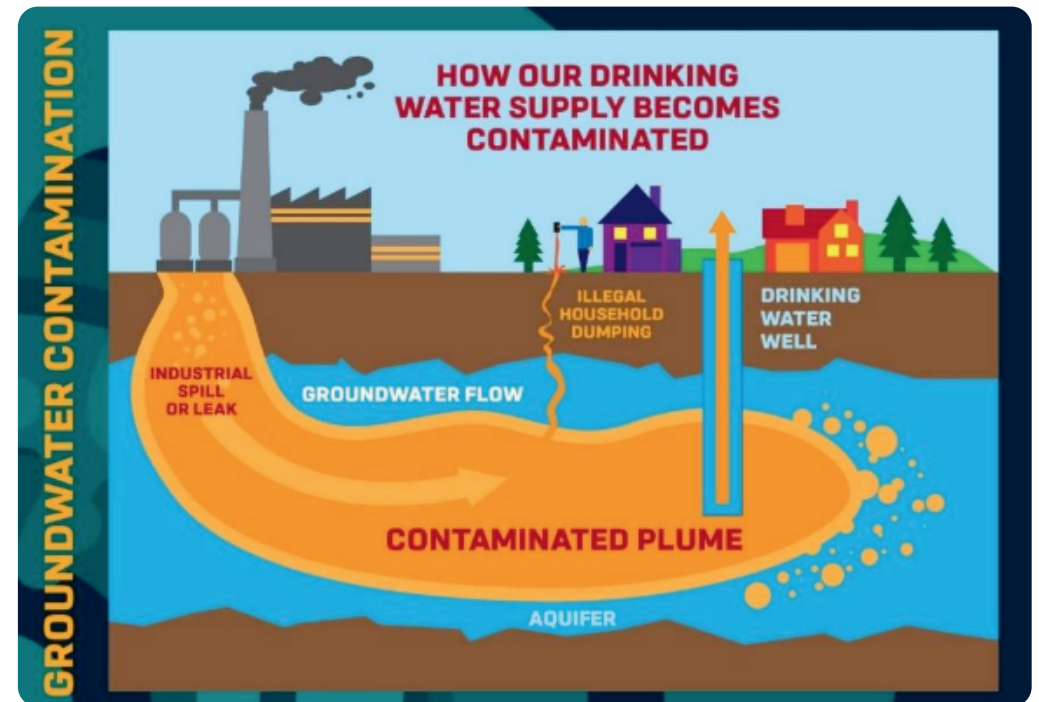
In Michigan, nearly half of the state's population relies on groundwater as a source of drinking water. Groundwater is also used for irrigation and industrial purposes.

The city began wellhead protection efforts in 1989, making it one of the early leaders in wellhead protection in Michigan. For more than three decades, the city has carried out actions outlined in its Wellhead Protection Plan, along with other groundwater and surface water protection activities.

What you can do to protect our drinking water

- Never dump household chemicals, fuels, oils or pesticides on the ground or down a drain. Attend a free household hazardous waste collection event in Calhoun County for proper disposal.
- For event information and disposal options, visit: calhouncountymi.gov/departments/recycling_and_solid_waste/events.php
- Do not throw unused or unwanted medications in the trash or flush them down the drain. Free Red Med drop-off locations are available at police and sheriff's offices and other locations for safe medication disposal.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash. Pet waste contains bacteria that can enter groundwater and pose risks to human health.
- Limit the use of de-icing salt. Excess salt can enter surface water and groundwater, increasing chloride levels that are harmful to aquatic life and human consumption.
- Conserve water by shortening showers, installing water-efficient fixtures, and watering lawns only when necessary.

For more water protection tips, visit bcwater.org.



Educational diagram labeled 'How Our Drinking Water Supply Becomes Contaminated.' An industrial spill or leak and illegal household dumping release pollutants into the ground. Contaminants move with groundwater flow through an aquifer, forming a contaminated plume that spreads underground and reaches a drinking water well.