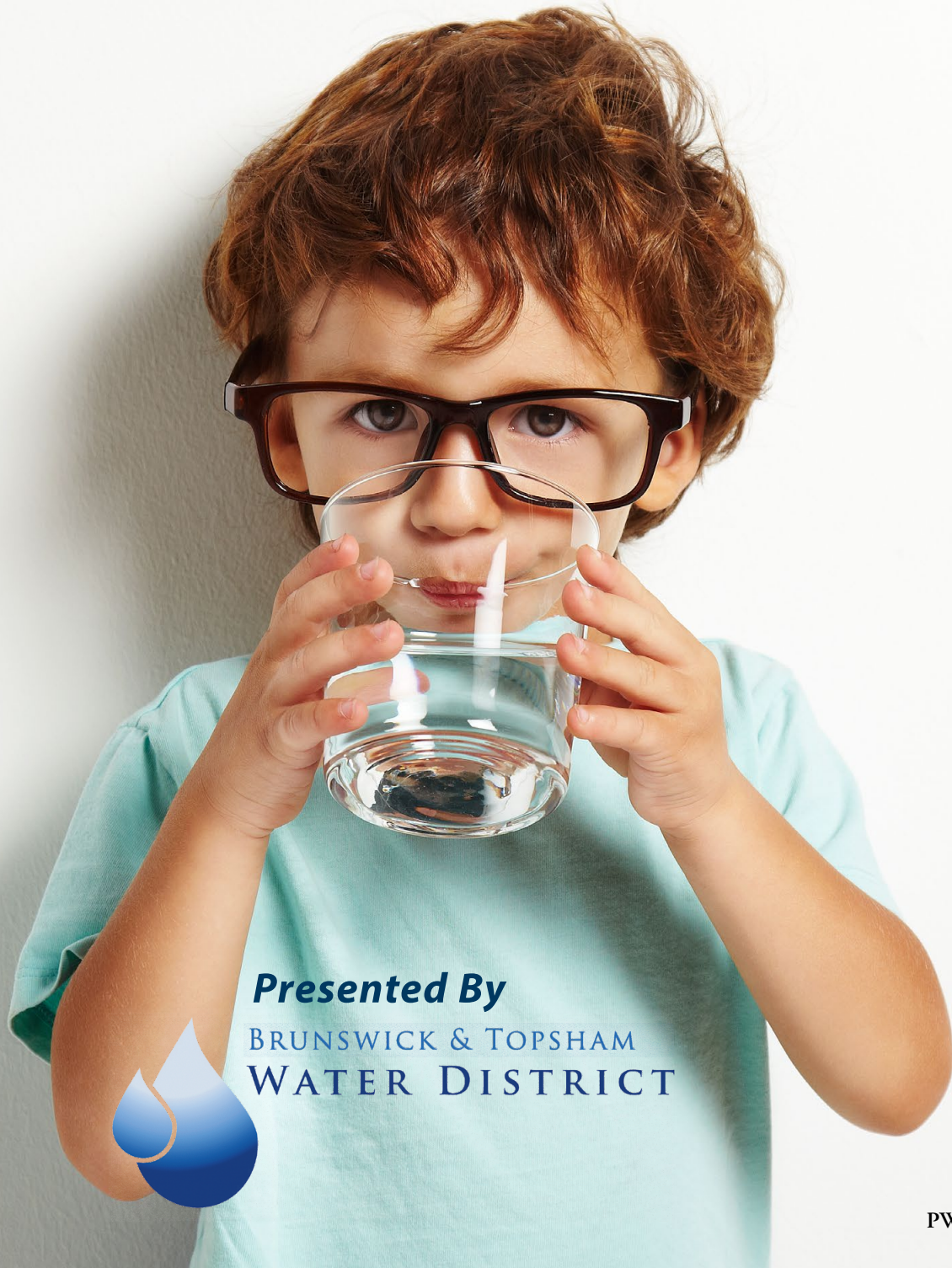


# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020



*Presented By*

BRUNSWICK & TOPSHAM  
WATER DISTRICT





## Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

## Source Water Assessment Program

In 1996, amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) required each state to complete assessments for each public water supply source. The assessments identify and describe conditions that may threaten the quality of water available to consumers. These assessments are the focus of Maine's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The State of Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) completed its SWAP report for the Brunswick and Topsham Water District in 2003. The report was sent to municipal officials in Brunswick and Topsham. The report can be viewed by contacting the Brunswick and Topsham Water District.

The responsibility for protecting public water supply sources from contamination falls largely to the public water suppliers. But municipal officials, not water suppliers, make land-use decisions. This means that protection of public water supplies requires a partnership between water suppliers, state and federal regulators, local landowners, and municipalities.

Categories of risk evaluation for public water sources include well type and site geology, existing and future risk of acute contamination, and existing and future risk of chronic contamination. The following is a summary of the assessment provided by the DWP. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the Brunswick and Topsham Water District.

The DWP has assessed the risk of all our water sources, based on type and geology, to be at the moderate level. The only practical means of reducing the risk is through replacement of the source. Acute contaminants, such as pathogens, nitrates, and nitrites are those that can make people sick immediately after being consumed. The DWP has assessed all of our sources to have "low" risk for existing and future acute contamination. Chronic contaminants are those that pose a health risk if consumed over many years. The DWP has assessed our sources to have, on average, "moderate" risk for existing and future chronic contamination

## How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

At all of our sources, we add sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) to protect against bacteriological contaminants, and fluoride to promote dental health. We also add a phosphate compound to inhibit corrosion of the distribution system piping and to reduce lead and copper corrosion of internal plumbing systems. The water from the Jackson and Taylor wells is filtered to remove iron and manganese caused by erosion of natural deposits in the sand and gravel aquifer. The pH of the water from the Jordan Avenue wellfield is adjusted using aeration to reduce the corrosivity of the water.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Important Health Information

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (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 Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

**QUESTIONS?** If you have any questions or comments about this report or any other aspect of our operations, please contact Craig W. Douglas, PE, General Manager, at (207) 729-9956 (phone), (207) 725-6470 (fax), or at [cwdouglas@btwater.org](mailto:cwdouglas@btwater.org) (email).



## Topsham Treatment Facility

Construction is underway to replace our Jackson Station in Topsham. Jackson Station is the District's largest water source and headquarters for administration and operations. The station was constructed in 1971, and most of the building systems are at the end of their lives. The District commissioned an engineering study in 2012 that recommended replacement of the facility by 2025.

In 2015 we found levels of disinfection by-products (DBPs) were increasing. (DBP levels can be seen in the Water Test Results table.) DBPs form when chlorine, used for disinfection, combines with naturally occurring organic matter (NOM). We made operational changes to keep levels below EPA and State water quality limits. We have met water quality standards but the basic characteristics of the water source are unchanged. The best approach is to remove the source of the problem rather than try to manage it. The need to replace the building plus deal with the DBP problem caused us to accelerate our plans.

Planning work began in 2016 with a study to identify treatment options to remove NOM, as well as iron and manganese as is currently done. In 2017 we performed pilot testing of viable options. In December 2017, the District retained CDM Smith, consulting engineers, to finalize selection of a treatment scheme and prepare a preliminary design for a new facility. Final design commenced in 2019, and we solicited bids for construction in early 2020.

After years of planning, construction of the new Topsham Treatment Facility has begun. The general contractor is MWH Constructors, a worldwide firm that specializes in water and wastewater construction. MWH is headquartered in Bloomfield, Colorado with a regional office in Andover, Massachusetts. Concurrently they are constructing a new treatment plant for Maine Water Co. in Biddeford. The construction cost is \$29.4 million. Completion is expected in the spring of 2022.

The new plant will remove iron and manganese as the Jackson station does now. It will also remove NOM to lower DBP levels and ensure that we meet all water quality standards. Follow the project progress on our website and Facebook page.



## Where Does My Water Come From?

Our sources of supply are all groundwater taken from various wells, as follows:

- Jackson Station, Topsham: one 24-inch-diameter well, one 18-inch-diameter well
- Jordan Avenue Station, Brunswick: 138 2.5-inch-diameter wells
- Taylor Station, Brunswick: one 24-inch-diameter well, one 18-inch-diameter well, and one 12-inch-diameter well
- Williams Station, Brunswick: one 12-inch-diameter well

Our water distribution system includes approximately 122 miles of water main, two storage tanks, 7,378 services, and 1,013 private and public hydrants. In 2020, we delivered an average of 2.25 million gallons of water per day to our customers. May 15th was our highest demand day in 2020, where we delivered 3.56 million gallons of water.

## PFOS/PFOA

PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) continue to make headlines across the region and country. These and related contaminants have been found in water supplies nationwide. EPA and state environmental agencies have rushed to learn more about their prevalence and impacts on health. EPA has not set water quality limits yet. Some states have set their own limits while others, including Maine, have set guidelines or advisories for limits in drinking water.

PFOS and PFOA were initially found in water in or near military installations. Because of the proximity of the former Naval Air Station Brunswick, the District, in cooperation with the US Navy, tested for these chemicals in 2016. Tests did not detect the presence of these or other related substances in our supplies. Since then, test methods have improved allowing detection at lower levels. The District is continuing annual testing to establish a baseline for these substances.

2019 DATA/ 2020 DATA	PFOS (PPT)	PFOA (PPT)	TOTAL PFOS/PFOA MAINE LIMIT 70PPT
<b>Jackson Station</b>	3.26/5.08	< 1.8/< 1.8	3.26/5.08
<b>Jordan Station</b>	5.74/4.08	5.99/3.07	11.7/7.15
<b>Taylor Station</b>	< 1.8/< 1.8	< 1.8/< 1.8	< 1.8/< 1.8

< 1.8 means the levels are less than the detection limit of 1.8 ppt

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. 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. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### MINERAL CONTENT AND SECONDARY STANDARDS

SUBSTANCE (MGL)	MAINE RECOMMENDED LIMIT	RESULT RANGE
Chloride	250	10-41
Hardness	150	24- 56
Iron	0.3	<0.01- 0.07
Manganese	0.05	0.001- 0.007
Sodium	100	11- 55
Magnesium	50	1.7- 2.1
Calcium	500	6.9- 19
Zinc	5	<0.002- 0.21

## How to Learn More About Your Water

This report highlights some of our activities during the past year. There are many ways to get the information you need:

- Visit our website: [www.btwater.org](http://www.btwater.org)
- Like us on Facebook: Brunswick & Topsham Water District
- Attend a Board Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
- Call the office: (207) 729-9956; M-Th 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

In case of emergency after normal business hours, please call (207) 729-9956 and the answering service will contact the appropriate personnel. A technician will return your call as soon as possible.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.



The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2020	10	0	2.3	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2020	2	2	0.0073	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2020	[4]	[4]	0.99	0.11–1.71	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2020	100	100	1.2	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2020	5	0	0.3	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium (ppb)	2020	30	0	1.1	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.75	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2020	60	NA	34.92	11–62.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.81	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radon (pCi/L)	2020	4,000	300	813	NA	No	Naturally occurs in some drinking water sources
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2020	80	NA	41.27	10.3–62.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2020	TT	NA	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

### Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	1.3	0.439	0/36	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0	1	0/36	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The 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 detections.

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

**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.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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