CITY OF TUMWATER

2024 Water Quality Report

City of Tumwater

Water Resources & Sustainability Department

This report contains important information about your drinking water.

Water in the main distribution system is monitored for total coliform, disinfectant residuals and by-products. Total coliform testing, seen above, is conducted 70 times from 26 sampling sites by water quality technicians every month.

Drinking Water Quality Report

We know that safe drinking water is important to you and your family. We are pleased to report that the City of Tumwater tap water met all state and federal standards in 2024!

To ensure our drinking water is protected, staff collect samples daily, year round, across our water system. Samples are collected from pipes, wells, and, in homes throughout the city for lead and copper sampling (see back page to volunteer).

Tumwater continues to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our community, year after year. You can view the water quality results from 2024 online by visiting www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/WaterQualityReport or by scanning the QR code with your smart phone.

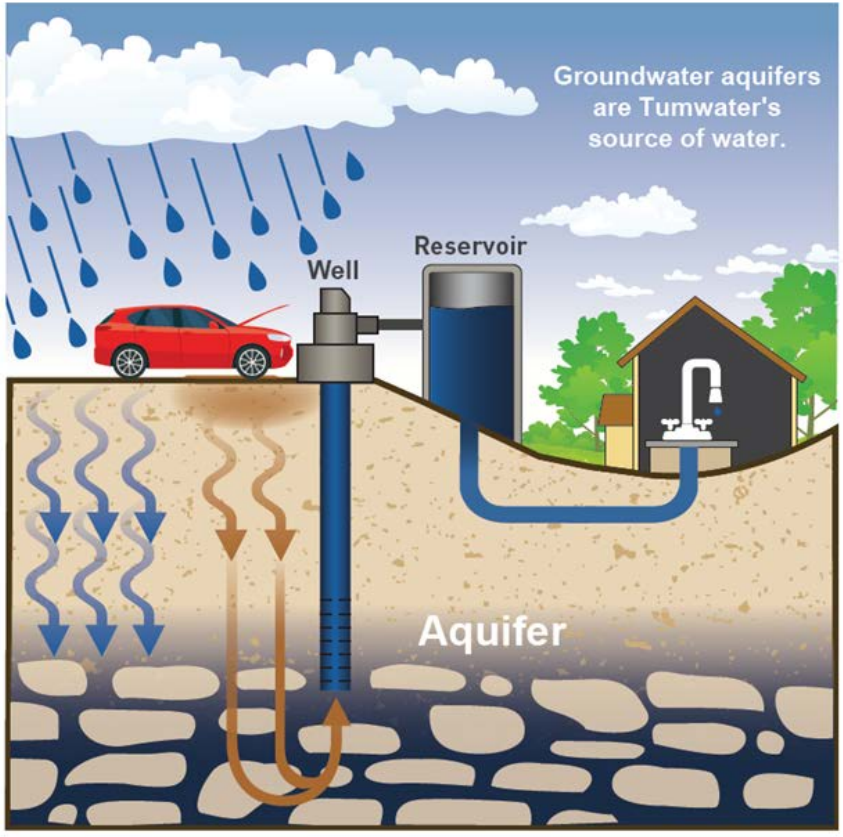
Want a printed copy? No problem! Contact the Water Resources & Sustainability Department: 360-754-4140.

Protecting Our Water

All of our drinking water comes from groundwater. This water can easily become polluted if harmful materials soak through the soil and end up in our aquifers. Businesses and residences that use, store, or dispose of hazardous materials, if not managed properly, have the potential to pollute our water.

The good news is, the City Wellhead Protection Program is designed to proactively protect our drinking water by monitoring land uses around our wells. A wellhead protection area is the area surrounding each well in the water system. Because of the potential to impact our drinking water, we work with businesses that handle hazardous materials to ensure they are managed appropriately. We also raise awareness through education for businesses and residents.

Computer-modeling is used to map our wellhead protection areas. This technology helps show us how long it may take for a spill to reach the wells that produce our drinking water. By mapping these areas and working with the community, we help to ensure our drinking water is protected for years to come!

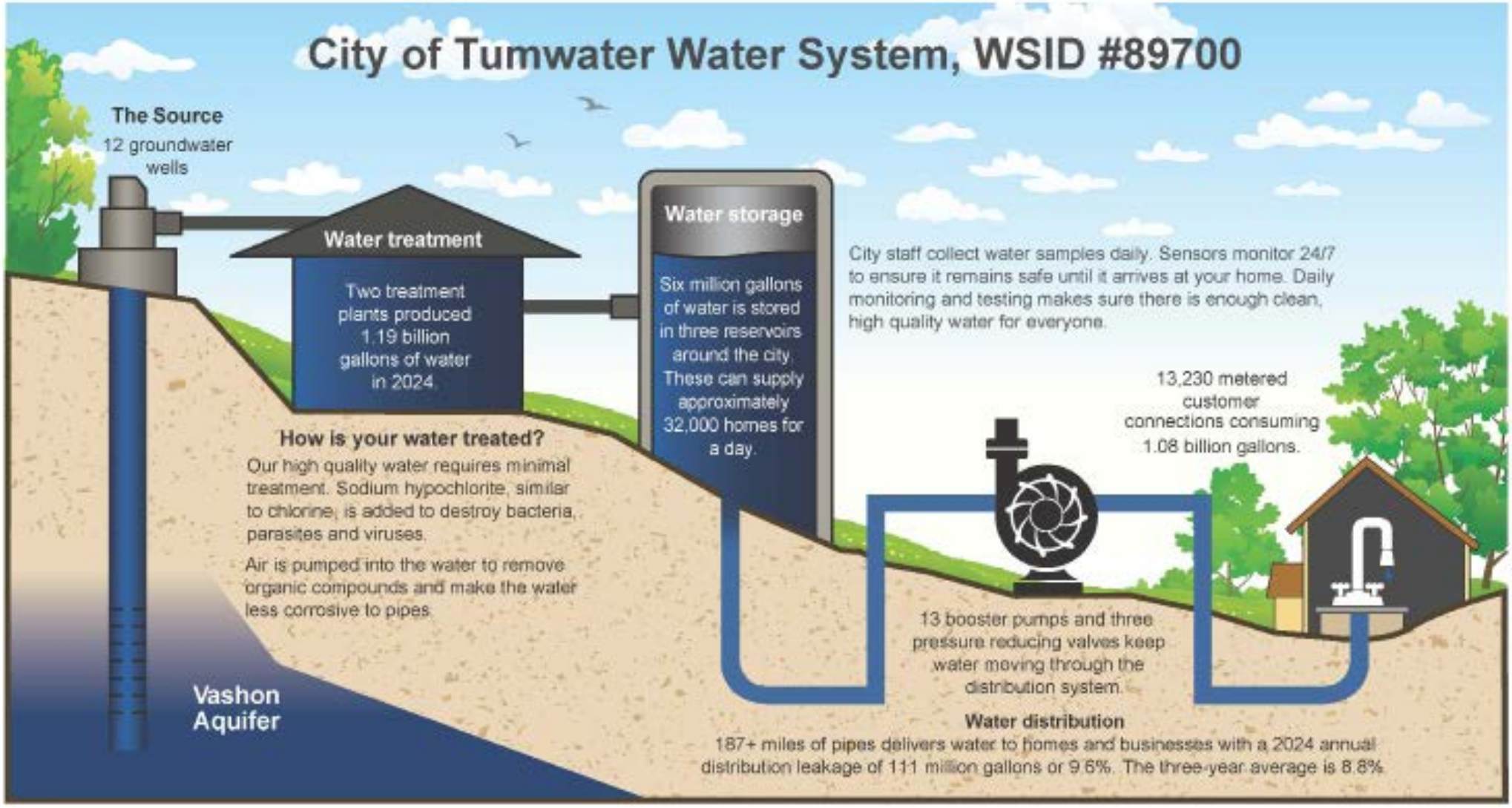


Tumwater Drinking Water

Our drinking water comes from 12 groundwater wells located in the Bush, Palermo, and Port wellfields. The water produced by these wells comes from underground aquifers, made of layers of porous rock and sediment composed of sand, gravel, and clay. These layers act as a sponge, holding water that soaks into the ground.

Our water is of high quality and requires minimal treatment. The city treats water with chlorination and aeration. Chlorination uses sodium hypochlorite, similar to chlorine, and is added to destroy bacteria, parasites, and viruses. Aeration is the process of pumping air into the water. This removes organic compounds and changes the pH making the water less corrosive to pipes.

How many aquifers are there? Thurston county has multiple aquifers. Most of our drinking water is pumped from two aquifers. Shallow and deep aquifers are usually separated by an aquitard - a layer of fine-grain materials like silt and clay that resists the movement of water downward. This separates aquifers and protects the lower aquifer from contamination that may be introduced at the surface. The deeper aquifer, called the Vashon Aquifer, is where most of our water is pumped from.



2018-2028 water conservation goals

Conserving water in homes and businesses means the city requires less water to be pumped and treated. It also reduces the need of costly expansions of our water system such as new wells, treatment plants and storage facilities. Tumwater has a 10-year water conservation plan with goals to maintain or reduce water use as demands continue to increase. They are as follows:

Maintain a 3% annual reduction in the single family ERU

An ERU is an Equivalent Residential Unit or the gallons per day (gpd) an average single family home uses. The goal is to reach 147 gpd by 2028.

2024 ERU = 167 gpd

Maintain a peaking factor of 2

Peaking factor is the ratio of the maximum daily demand (MDD) to the average daily demand (ADD) in a water system. MDD occurs usually in summer when demand for irrigation the highest. Outdoor water conservation can greatly decrease the MDD and in turn the peaking factor.

2024 peaking factor = 1.9

Reduce 3-year average distribution system leakage (DSL) to 5%

DSL occurs from leaks, main breaks, and errors in data collection or meter inaccuracies. These losses are tracked and reported to the Washington Department of Health, which requires a loss less than 10% over a 3-year average. Tumwater has a goal for DSL of 5% or less.

2024 3-year average DSL = 8.7%

Decrease commercial water use through participation in WaterSmart program

The WaterSmart program sponsored by LOTT has been used to finance major water efficiency projects in the Cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater. Unfortunately, participation in WaterSmart has declined within all the partner jurisdictions since 2011.

2024 WaterSmart projects = 0

Got leaks?

Leaks happen! Crews responded to multiple leak repairs in 2024, day and night. Quick response and repair reduces water loss. This is your water bill dollars at work!

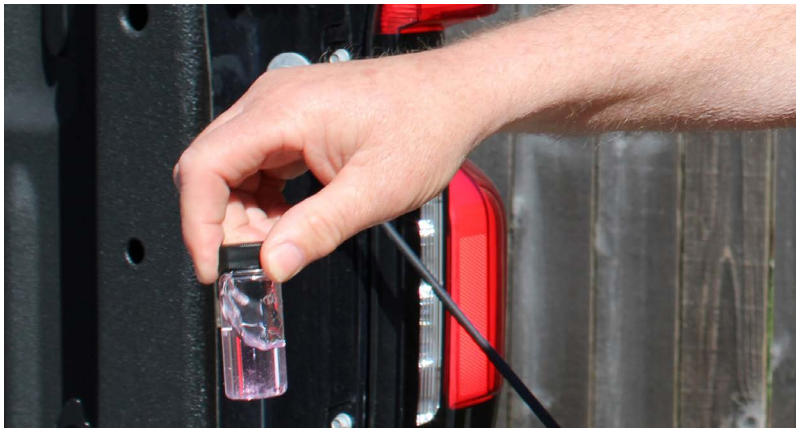
Nationwide, all water systems are fighting to keep up with old water pipes.

If you suspect a line break, call 360-754-4150.

What is this black stuff? Meet manganese

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in our groundwater. While it does not pose a health concern at the amount found in our water, it can cause black stains on fixtures or black and gray flakey specks in water.

The city tests its source water for manganese. The city's average value of manganese, in the most recent test, was approximately one-fifth the federal limit. Even with this very small amount, it can build up in the distribution pipes. On occasion, usually with a disturbance from a pipe break, it can be stirred up and released into homes causing momentary water quality issues. If you observe this, please call and report: 360-754-4140 or WaterResources@ci.tumwater.wa.us.



2025 lead and copper sampling volunteers needed

The city is seeking volunteers, preferably from homes built between 1983 and 1987, to sample drinking water from their kitchen or bathroom tap.

Every three years, the City of Tumwater is required to collect water samples from customers' water taps for lead and copper testing by the Washington Department of Health. Sampling occurs during the summer, mainly in July or August.

Participating is easy. To learn more, scan the QR code with your mobile device, email WaterResources@ci.tumwater.wa.us. or call 360-754-4140.

Save Water, Save Money!

The City offers rebates and incentives to help you save water, time, and money!

- Free indoor and outdoor water savings incentives, including low flow fixtures, leak detection tablets, hose nozzles, meters, repair kits, and moisture gauges
- Indoor and outdoor device and appliance rebates for homes & businesses up to $200!

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/RebatesandIncentives

Contact Us

Water Resources & Sustainability | 360-754-4140
WaterResources@ci.tumwater.wa.us
Utility Billing | 360-754-4133
WRS Operations | 360-754-4150
24-Hour Spill Hotline | 360-754-4150
One Water newsletter www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/OneWater

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us

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