

FOXBOROUGH WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS  
**2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
DEP PWS ID#: 4099000

This report is required under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The Foxborough Water and Sewer Department prepared this report.

**1. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION**

Address: 70 Elm Street, Foxborough, MA 02035  
Contact Person: Robert Worthley  
Telephone #: (508) 543-1209

Internet Address:  
<http://foxboroughma.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalid=15207864&pageid=15407259>

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Board meetings occur approximately once a month. The public is welcome. Please call the office or visit our website to obtain specific dates and times of meetings.

**Water System Improvements:** We are pleased to report that construction of the new booster station on Hill Street is complete. This pump station allows the pressure in the Dudley Hill area to remain constant, while being able to utilize approximately two million gallons of the water stored in the Hill Street tanks, at any one time.

The Chestnut Street Water Plant PFAS removing filters are in the design phase. The Foxborough Water Department received a \$15 Million Dollar loan from the State for this project.

The West Street water main has been completed, and the transmission main on South Street to Witch Pond Treatment Plant is under construction.

The last Sanitary Survey was completed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in November 2021.

**2. YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE**

**Where Does My Drinking Water Come from?**

The Town of Foxborough is supplied solely from groundwater sources which are located in the Boston Harbor, Ten Mile River and Taunton River Basins. Water is pumped from 10 active gravel-packed wells located in five well fields throughout the Town of Foxborough. There is a small section of town that is supplied by Mansfield, due to the location of water mains. In addition, there are also emergency connections with the Towns of Mansfield, Plainville, Sharon, Walpole and Wrentham.

Chestnut St: Boston Harbor River Basin (13rG, 16G, 17G, 18G)  
Sprague Rd: Taunton River Basin (04G, 05G, 06G)  
Oak St: Taunton River Basin (07rG, 9rG, 10rG)

The Town of Foxborough in 1989 adopted a Water Resource Protection By-Law for protection of the Town's drinking water wells.

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we treat it to remove several contaminants; a disinfectant is added to protect you against microbial contaminants, the water is treated to reduce lead and copper concentrations, and the water is filtered to reduce levels of iron and manganese.

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination from land uses.

**What is My System's Ranking?**

A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by MassDEP. This ranking was assigned due to the presence of at least one high threat land use within the water supply protection area that could be a source of potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals. The Water Department has an Emergency Response Plan to mitigate the impact of a potential contamination event. For further information, please contact the Water Department.

**Where Can I See The SWAP Report?**

The complete SWAP report is available at the Water Department's website at [http://foxboroughma.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_15207780/Image/Departments/Water%20&%20Sewer/SWAP.pdf](http://foxboroughma.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_15207780/Image/Departments/Water%20&%20Sewer/SWAP.pdf)  
For more information, call Bob Worthley at (508) 543-1209.

**Residents can help protect sources by:**

Practicing good septic system maintenance; taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days; and by limiting pesticide and fertilizer use.

**3. SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, streams, lakes, 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than 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 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/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).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and MassDEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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. Foxborough Water Department 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### 4. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

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

**90th Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance.

**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 our water system.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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 contamination.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
 ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)  
 ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter  
 ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)  
 pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)  
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

HA = Health Advisory  
 ND = Not Detected  
 N/A = Not Applicable  
 mrem/year = millirem per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)  
 <MDL is Less than Minimum Detection Limit

**Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG):** This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of four consecutive quarters of data.

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

### What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the tables is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All results shown were from samples collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables. Only the detected contaminants are shown. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one-year-old.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for inorganic contaminants for several wells, because these sources are not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for inorganic contaminants for these wells was taken in 2020 and was found to meet all applicable EPA and MassDEP standards.

	Date(s) Collected	90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2023	ND	15	0	61	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2023	0.25	1.3	1.3	61	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Detected Level	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	2.58	1.06 - 2.58	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	08/15/2023	0.22	0.14 - 0.22	2	N/A	NO	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents

Radioactive Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Average	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	04/27/2022	<MDL*	<MDL*	15	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/l)	04/27/2022	<MDL*	<MDL*	5	0	NO	Decay of natural and manmade deposits

\*<MDL is Less than Minimum Detection Limit

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Detect Result or Range	Highest Quarterly Average	MCL	Violation	Possible Sources	Health Effects
PFAS6 (ppt)	2023	6.46 - 14.4	11.95	20	NO	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources, associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.	Some people who drink water containing these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.

<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Regulated Contaminant	Date Collected	Highest Running Annual Average*	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2023	40.53	38.52 - 40.53	80	----	NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2023	7.31	7.08 - 7.31	60	----	NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm) (free)	Monthly in 2023	0.45	0.35 - 0.57	4	4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

\*Results represent the highest concentration upon which our system's compliance is based, not necessarily the highest concentration detected.

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants *1	Date(s) Collected	Result Detected	Average Detected	ORSG	Possible Sources	Health Effects
Sodium (ppm) **2	2023	31.3 - 48.4	39.85	20	Natural sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process	Some people who drink water containing sodium at high concentrations for many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.

Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2022	2.5	2.5	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	2022	1.6	1.6	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	2022	2.9	2.9	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Manganese (ppb) ***3	2023	ND – 246	ND	300	Erosion of natural deposits

**\*1 Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. UCMR 4 samples were collected in 2018. The complete table of results for UCMR 4 is available at [http://foxboroughma.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_15207780/Image/Departments/Water%20&%20Sewer/UCMR4%2005.20.2019%202.pdf](http://foxboroughma.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_15207780/Image/Departments/Water%20&%20Sewer/UCMR4%2005.20.2019%202.pdf)**

*If there are any questions, please contact Robert Worthley, at (508) 543-1209.*

**\*\*2. The ORSG for sodium is 20 ppm. Above this level, sodium sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the levels of sodium in their drinking water where exposures are carefully being controlled. Some people who drink water containing sodium at high concentrations for many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.**

**\*\*\*3. The EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory for manganese at 300 ppb and an acute Health Advisory at 1000 ppb.**

**US EPA and MassDEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure.**

## 6. COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

**Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards? Yes**

## 7. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

### Conservation

The Foxborough Water Department will continue the water saving rebate program that allows residents with older 5-to 8-gallon flush toilets to change to water-saving 1.28-gallon or lower per flush toilets. Residents who wish to participate in the program must show proof of installation and will then receive a \$100 refund from the Town of Foxborough Water Department. A \$75 rebate is offered for washing machines with an Energy Star water factor of 4.0 or less. Rain barrels can help conserve water for outside watering needs, and are available at a discounted rate. Please contact the Water Department for details.

**Since the beginning of June here are a few notes of what we've accomplished:**

- We met with the Water Resource Commission on July 13, 2023, to inform them of our Water Conservation Program for both residential and commercial customers. We received unanimous approval to move forward with the commercial outreach.
- We sent a residential newsletter in August to every Foxborough resident highlighting rebates and water conservation tips.
- We ran a social media ad campaign through the month of October with tips on conserving water in and around the home. The ad reached 42,428 accounts.
- We secured Conservation Solutions Corporations as a consultant to assist us with the Water Efficiency Assessments for those in the ICI sector.
- We promoted the Water Efficiency Assessment with a newsletter that went to every business in Foxborough.
- Top 25% of ICI water users received a personalized letter from the Superintendent explaining their water use in comparison to other ICI customers with a request to take part in the Water Efficiency Assessment.

### Upcoming Conservation activities:

- Two more social media campaigns that will take place during EPA Fix-A-Leak Week and another in April to promote water conservation.
- Tabling at the Farmers Market in June 2024 to promote the rebate program, offer toilet leak packets, and provide information on water conservation strategies.
- A press release is due to go out in April 2024 highlighting water conservation tips for lawns and gardens as well as promoting the rebate program.
- Water Department Newsletter to go out in late-March with updates, relevant to seasonal conservation information.
- A personalized mailing to the top 25% of water users (approximately 1800 accounts) which will compare their water use to more efficient households and provide recommendations to help them improve their efficiency such as promoting the Department's rebate program and seasonally relevant water conservation information.
- We will be promoting the rebate program as point-of-sale display materials to promote the rebate program and related products such as efficient showerheads and aerators.

- Perform Water Efficiency Assessments as requested and promoted in the ICI newsletter.
- Neponset River Watershed Association will be reviewing the Water Departments Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations to identify potential updates to reduce enhance conservation.

8.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Contamination from Cross Connection** – Cross connections that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allowed the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids or gases (hazardous to humans) in the event of a backflow.

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by an equipment or system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (backpressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand, causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (backsiphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of; a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

Without the proper protection, something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards. They are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals.
- NEVER attach a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bib vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home- improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with a backflow preventer.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

We continue to survey all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow prevention device. Each backflow prevention device is tested and inspected according to the frequency specified by MassDEP, which is based on the type of device, to make sure that it is providing maximum protection. For more information, visit our Web site at:

[http://foxboroughma.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_15207780/Image/Departments/Water%20&%20Sewer/Cross%20Connection%20Info%2006.13.2018.pdf](http://foxboroughma.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_15207780/Image/Departments/Water%20&%20Sewer/Cross%20Connection%20Info%2006.13.2018.pdf)

If you are an owner of a cross connection control device, you play a critical role in partnering with your local water system in keeping our water supply safe. By following the required annual or semiannual device testing mandated by the Cross Connection Control Regulations at 310 CMR 22.22, and keeping your device in good repair, you prevent contaminants from entering the water supply.

### **310 CMR 22.22 Sec. 13 (D) Owners' Responsibility - Cross Connection Control Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventers and Double Check Valve Assemblies Testing and Repair Policy**

In accordance with Drinking Water Regulations of MASS 310 CMR 22.22 Sec. 13 (D), all installations of reduced pressure backflow preventer assemblies shall be tested semi-annually by the supplier of water. In addition, double check valve assemblies shall be tested annually by the supplier of water. All tests must be conducted by a certified Backflow Prevention Device tester in accordance with the regulated test procedures. The result of these tests must be recorded on the Standard Inspection and Maintenance Report Form. This form must be completely filled out (including the cross connection ID# from the DEP permit), signed and dated by the owner and the certified tester. All copies of the Inspection and Maintenance Report Forms shall be maintained by the owner. The owner or owner's agent must maintain on the premises a spare parts kit and any special tools required for removal and reassembling of devices which are to be tested. The presence of these materials must be recorded on the Inspection and Maintenance Report Form. Devices failing a test or found defective shall be overhauled, repaired or replaced by a plumber or a mechanical fire sprinkler contractor. They must be licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and re-inspected within two weeks of the initial inspection date.

**Water Department Office hours:**

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday - 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Tuesday - 7:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Friday - 7:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

For water problems outside of normal hours, please call the Foxborough Police Department at (508) 543-1212.

**Help Us Protect Your Water System – Adopt a Hydrant**

- Keep 3 to 4 feet of clearance around your hydrants throughout the year.
- Do not plant shrubbery or vegetation around or near hydrants.
- Report Blocked, Open, or Broken Hydrants to the Water Department at (508) 543-1209

Our Water Management Act Permit requires the Town of Foxborough to limit the amount of water used by our residential customers to 65 gallons per person per day. To meet this requirement, The Town of Foxborough must, per the permit, limit nonessential outdoor water use.

[Please visit the Water Department webpage for the latest watering restrictions.](#)

Water Department  
Town of Foxborough  
70 Elm Street  
Foxborough, MA 02035

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Foxboro, MA  
Permit No. 9

Postal Customer  
Foxborough, MA 02035