

Water Quality

Waukesha has been a leader in water treatment over the years, and the transition to Lake Michigan water is another step forward in protecting both the community and the watershed. Learn more about the past, present and future here:

HISTORY

In 1868, Colonel Richard Dunbar, a New York railroad contractor, bought land around a Waukesha spring and sold the water as having curative properties. The town was known as Spring City for four decades.

PROGRESS

As Waukesha grew, a sewage plant that used microscopic organisms to remove contaminants was built in 1928. Today, the Clean Water Plant uses complex systems to treat 10 to 12 million gallons per day.

AQUIFER

Waukesha's water comes from an 1,835 foot deep well into the St. Peter Sandstone Aquifer. But a thick layer of shale keeps rain and snowmelt from reaching the aquifer, resulting in decreasing water levels.

RADIUM

As water levels drop, concentrations of salt and minerals rise. This includes increases in radium, a naturally occurring solid from the earth that can be harmful to people if ingested in significant amounts.

LONG-TERM

The Waukesha Water Utility (WWU) removes harmful substances from the water, but a more sustainable solution will do a better job protecting the environment and lowering ratepayer costs over the long run.

CONSERVATION

The average residence can save over 27,000 gallons of water per year by replacing old appliances and fixtures. Visit waukesha-water.com to learn about rebates for high-efficiency toilets and shower heads.

ENVIRONMENT

The pipeline from Waukesha will improve water quality and flow in the Root River, and help the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources more effectively manage Lake Michigan's trout and salmon fishery.