



2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For
North Brookfield Water Department
North Brookfield, Massachusetts
MassDEP PWS ID # 2212000

Once again we are pleased to provide you with our Annual water quality report for the past year. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies!

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Address:	14 Bell Road, North Brookfield, MA 01535	
Telephone #:	(508) 867-0207	Fax #: (508) 867-0224
E-mail:	rknbwd@verizon.net	
Web Page:	https://www.northbrookfield.net/water-dept	
Facebook:	North Brookfield Water	
Contact Person:	Richard Kennan, Superintendent	
Board of Water Commissioners:	Tim Nason, Chairman Shiela LeBlanc Scott Bombard	Plant Operators: Jamie Flamand Robert Peterson Admin. Assistant: Kelly Valeri

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the routine operations of our system. Sanitary Surveys are performed every 3 years by a MassDEP employee. The next sanitary survey for the North Brookfield Water Department will be performed in 2021.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Board of Water Commissioners Meetings: Held on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Bell Hill Water Treatment Facility, 14 Bell Road, North Brookfield, MA. as posted with the Town Clerk.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday – 8:00am -2:00pm

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type		Location of Source
Horse (North) Pond	2212000-02S	Surface		Oakham Road, North Brookfield

The water from the Horse Pond Reservoir flows by gravity to the Raw Water Pump Station on Oakham Road. A coagulant is added to ensure particles in the water will stick together to form larger particles that can be filtered out. It is then pumped up to the Bell Hill Water Treatment Plant. At the treatment plant the water goes through an up flow adsorption clarifier and then a mixed media filter that removes particles that are in the water. The water is then disinfected using chlorine while traveling through the clear well. The water is then pumped to the 1.5 million gallon storage tank that is located beside the treatment plant. From the storage tank the water flows by gravity to all parts of the town. The amount of water pressure that you have depends on the elevation of your residence.

The North Brookfield water distribution system is interconnected with the East Brookfield water distribution system. East Brookfield's water comes from the West Street Well. They can be reached by calling 508-867-6575.



****Photo taken by Jamie Flamand, Operator at the North Brookfield Water Dept.***

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

This year we have fulfilled our loan obligation for the North Brookfield Water Department Treatment Facility. This will now allow us to address many projects that need updating without any added expenses to our water users.

Some of the projects that were on hold for many years that were installed or completed were:

- An upgrade to our SCADA system which helps monitor the operation of our Water Treatment Plant.
- The Raw Water Pump Station pump was rebuilt. These pumps bring water to our Water Treatment Facility to be treated and then gravity fed out into our distribution system.
- The office computers at the Water Treatment Plant have been upgraded.
- Replacement of an old pipe on Stoddard Place was done. The pipe on this street had needed to be replaced for quite some time and we were finally able to do so. Our distribution system is considered to be an old system and we will be addressing other areas in the future Fiscal Year budgets.

We had 8 (eight) service repairs and three water main breaks. We added 4 new services to customers. We flushed our water mains in June and October as part of our flushing program.

There are 1299 services that supply water to approximately 3900 residents of North Brookfield, around 85% of the town's population.

Our current staff consists of Richard Kennan, Superintendent; Jamie Flamand, Operator; Robert Peterson, Operator and Kelly Valeri, Administrative Assistant. Robert Peterson, who was hired in 2018, became our third operator. Having a 3rd operator in place solves our coverage and succession issues that were always a concern in the past. Rob's work ethic is a welcome addition and great benefit to the town. These three men attend classes each year to increase their knowledge of drinking water issues and to satisfy the requirements of the DEP needed to keep their licenses current.

Kelly Valeri handles all the office duties and billing. Kelly also processes the billing for the Sewer Department in an agreement with the two departments and the BOS office to help streamline costs. She is also responsible for recording and reporting to Mass DEP and other various boards.

The Board of Water Commissioners would like to commend and thank our Water Department staff on a job well done. The Water Department would like to thank all the other town departments for their help throughout the year as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Nason, Chairman
Sheila LeBlanc
Scott Bombard

Board of Water Commissioners

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

What is my system's ranking?

A susceptibility ranking of **High** was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by D.E.P.

Where Can I See The Swap Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Water Department or online at www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program. For more information please contact the Water Department at (508) 867-0207.

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the system is **High**, based on possible microbial contaminants from aquatic wildlife. Also noted is a Medium Threat from the septic tanks and the heating fuel storage at the residences in the watershed, The report commends the water system for taking an active role in promoting source protection measures in the Water Supply Protection Area.

2020 WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table.

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest number positive in monthly routine samples	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Total coliform	1	1	0	Y	Naturally present in the environment

Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

	Date(s) Collected	90TH percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Exceeds AL? (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	08/14/19	0	.015	0	20	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	08/14/19	.081	1.3	1.3	20	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Lead & Copper compliance is based on the 90th percentile value, which is the highest level found in 18 out of every 20 homes sampled. This number is compared to the action level for each contaminant.

It should be noted that although North Brookfield has made great strides in reducing the corrosion of lead into drinking water there is still the possibility that some homes may have elevated lead in water taken from the tap after it has gone unused for many hours.

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. The North Brookfield 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>.

Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Running Annual Average	Range	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly	60	33 – 70	80	-	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly	23	4.6-23	60	-	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly	.24	.04-1.59	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Chloroform (ppb)	05/13/20	8.8	12.0	Unregulated		N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

	TT	Lowest Monthly % of Samples	Highest Detected Daily Value	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Daily Compliance (NTU)	1	-----	.06	N	Soil runoff
Monthly Compliance*	At least 95%	100	-----	N	
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality.					
*Monthly turbidity compliance is related to a specific treatment technique (TT). Our system filters the water so at least 95% of our samples each month must be below the turbidity limits specified in the regulations.					

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Range Detected	Average	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	05/13/20	9	8.5	-	20	Natural sources; by-product of treatment process; runoff from use as salt on roadways

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 being carefully controlled.

Unregulated means that US EPA has not set an MCL for this contaminant

COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGS

On July 28, 2020 the North Brookfield Water Department was notified by MassDEP that they were in receipt of a positive Total Coliform Sample result from the June 10, 2020 samples that were collected from Horse Pond and sent to Net Lab. As repeat samples were not collected within 24 hours and submitted to Mass DEP, a Level 1 Assignment was triggered for the North Brookfield Water Department.

The Level 1 Assessment was completed and sent to DEP on August 13, 2020. As stated in the assessment, it was the Water Superintendent's opinion that the samples tested had been tested incorrectly at the lab. Our raw water source always has coliform present. The lab should also be able to visually notice the difference between raw and finished product once a question came into place. After the first test was done, the Superintendent felt the lab should have scrutinized the samples more to have realized the mistake as history of sampling would show the difference in the water quality.

Corrective action was taken and the following measures are now in place should this happen again:

- 1) Notification by lab to the North Brookfield Water Department by email of coliform results the next day.
- 2) Report of results will be sent to us within 24 hours.
- 3) Phone call of results will be directed to the Superintendent first. If contact cannot be made to the Superintendent, following calls will be made to the office for notification.

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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, 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, and 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 can also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants – which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, MassDEP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 at 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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

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 (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) 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 disinfectant in drinking water (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

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

90th Percentile – Represents the highest value found out of 90% of the samples taken in representative groups. If the 90th percentile is greater than action level, it will trigger a treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) **NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) **pCi/l** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

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

Massachusetts 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.

MassDEP – Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

ND or Non Detect – A level at which there is an inability to detect an analyte because it is indistinguishable from background signal.

N/A or Not Applicable – Does not apply to this subject or in this scenario.

CROSS CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW

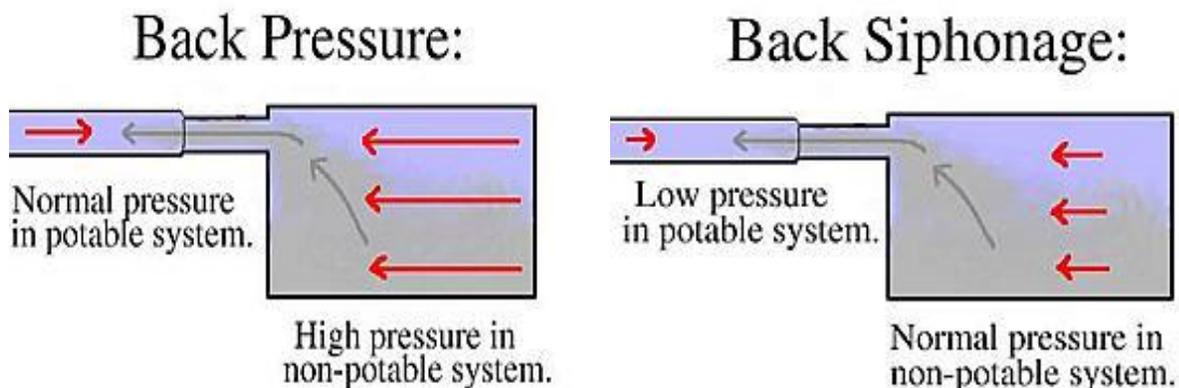
The North Brookfield Water Department makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe, and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is withdrawn from our surface water source, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? There is still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection.

What is a cross-connection?

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 allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

What is 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 equipment or a 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 (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of. And every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent them.



What you can do to help prevent a cross-connection

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:

- **Never** submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- **Never** attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bib vacuum breaker on every 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.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, contact the North Brookfield Water Department to schedule a cross-connection survey.

The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00, requires all public water systems to have an approved and fully implemented Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP). The North Brookfield Water Department is working diligently to protect the public health of its drinking water customers from the hazards caused by unprotected cross-connections. We are doing this through the implementation of our cross-connection survey program, elimination or proper protection of all identified cross-connections, the registration of all cross-connections protected by reduced pressure backflow preventers (RPBPs) or double check valve assemblies (DCVAs), and the implementation of a testing program for all RPBPs and DCVAs.

There were Ninety four (94) routine tests conducted on the backflow devices in North Brookfield during 2019. Three (3) devices failed the testing. All three were repaired by the owners and successfully retested. Ten (10) devices were not tested due to non-occupancy and/or seasonal with water being off.

For more information or questions regarding this notice, please contact Richard Kennan, Water Superintendent at 508-867-0207.

Landlords: Please make this report available to your tenants.

Businesses: Please post this report where your employees and customers may read it.

Public Buildings: Please post this report where it may be read by people who may drink this water.

Additional copies of this year's report are available from the Water Department at 14 Bell Road or on the Town's website. Very limited supplies of previous years' reports are also available.

Our goal is to provide you with a continuous supply of quality drinking water. We welcome comments and suggestions you may have to help us reach and maintain that goal.

Respectfully,

Richard Kennan
North Brookfield Water Superintendent
14 Bell Road
North Brookfield, MA 01535