THE CITY OF Fargo FAR MORE | WATER

Your WATER QUALITY REPORT 2024

THE CITY OF Fargo
FAR MORE

WATER

The City of Fargo Water Treatment Plant is issuing this report to inform customers about the quality of water produced and distributed in 2024.

If you are a large-volume user, please distribute a copy of this report to consumers who do not receive a bill.

If you have questions about Fargo drinking water, please contact the Water Treatment Plant at **701.241.1469**.

If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please contact the Communications & Governmental Affairs Department at **701.241.1310**.

If you would like opportunities for public participation in decisions that affect water quality, please attend Fargo City Commission meetings, which are held every two weeks. Please visit **FargoND.gov/City-Commission** for exact meeting dates and times.

Troy B. Hall
Water Utility Director

Daniel L. Portlock
Assistant Water Utility Director

Brian A. Ward
Superintendent

2024
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
RUNNER-UP
BEST TASTING WATER

THE CITY OF Fargo FAR MORE
AWWA COMPETITION BEST OF THE BEST TASTE TEST
American Water Works Association

BEST TASTING WATER

NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE RUNNER-UP

The American Water Works Association's Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE24) is renowned for its competition to determine the nation's best-tasting drinking water. The ACE24 draws over 10,000 water professionals from both the United States and around the globe. In 2024, The City of Fargo's Regional Water Treatment Plant, along with 31 other state's contest winners, participated in this prestigious event in Anaheim, California. In the national "People's Choice" competition, conference attendees sample and rank the water in a blind taste test. Fargo's water earned second place in the competition, marking The City's first national best-taste award.

This national recognition adds to a series of accolades for Fargo's Water Treatment Plant, including awards for the best tasting drinking water in North Dakota in 2022 and 2023. Also in 2024, the plant was also named "Membrane Facility of the Year" at the Membrane Technology Conference, an award that honors outstanding water/wastewater facilities using membrane technology with high efficiency and environmental friendliness. Membrane technology uses pressure or a vacuum to filter out particles or dissolved materials from drinking water.

This high-quality drinking water serves residents in Fargo, West Fargo and parts of the Cass Rural Water District. All customers receive water from the same sources, treated through the same processes.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational society dedicated to providing total water solutions assuring the effective management of water. Founded in 1881, the AWWA is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world.

WATER QUALITY
AESTHETIC AVERAGES FOR 2024

The water we provide is treated with fluoride addition as part of the water treatment process to enhance dental health. For information regarding the level of fluoride in the finished water provided to our consumers, please contact the Water Treatment Plant at **701.241.1469**. Reported levels of fluoride in finished water from participating States Public Water Systems can also be accessed online at **FargoND.gov/NDPublicWater**.

Total Hardness
120 (ppm) or 7 grains/gallon

Total Dissolved Solids
400 (ppm)

Iron
Less than 0.01 (ppm)

Manganese
Less than 0.01 (ppm)

pH
9.28

DRINKING WATER
REGULATIONS

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

In order to insure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Before The City of Fargo delivers water to your home it is thoroughly tested. All regulatory testing is performed in certified laboratories. In addition, the Fargo Water Treatment Plant is staffed with Certified Operators and Environmental Laboratory Technicians who monitor and test your water to insure that drinking water standards enforced by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) are maintained.

The Fargo Water Treatment Plant complies with the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act by routinely testing for contaminants. The contaminants detected and values are listed in the Monitoring Results Tables. Certain contaminants require testing less than once per year. The concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. This data, while still representative of the water quality, is more than a year old and is also listed in the Monitoring Tables. In 2024, there were no contaminants that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant level (MCL), which is the highest level of a substance allowed in drinking water as set forth by the EPA.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800.426.4791** or visiting **FargoND.gov/EPASafeWater**.

CONTAMINANTS
THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS
Such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

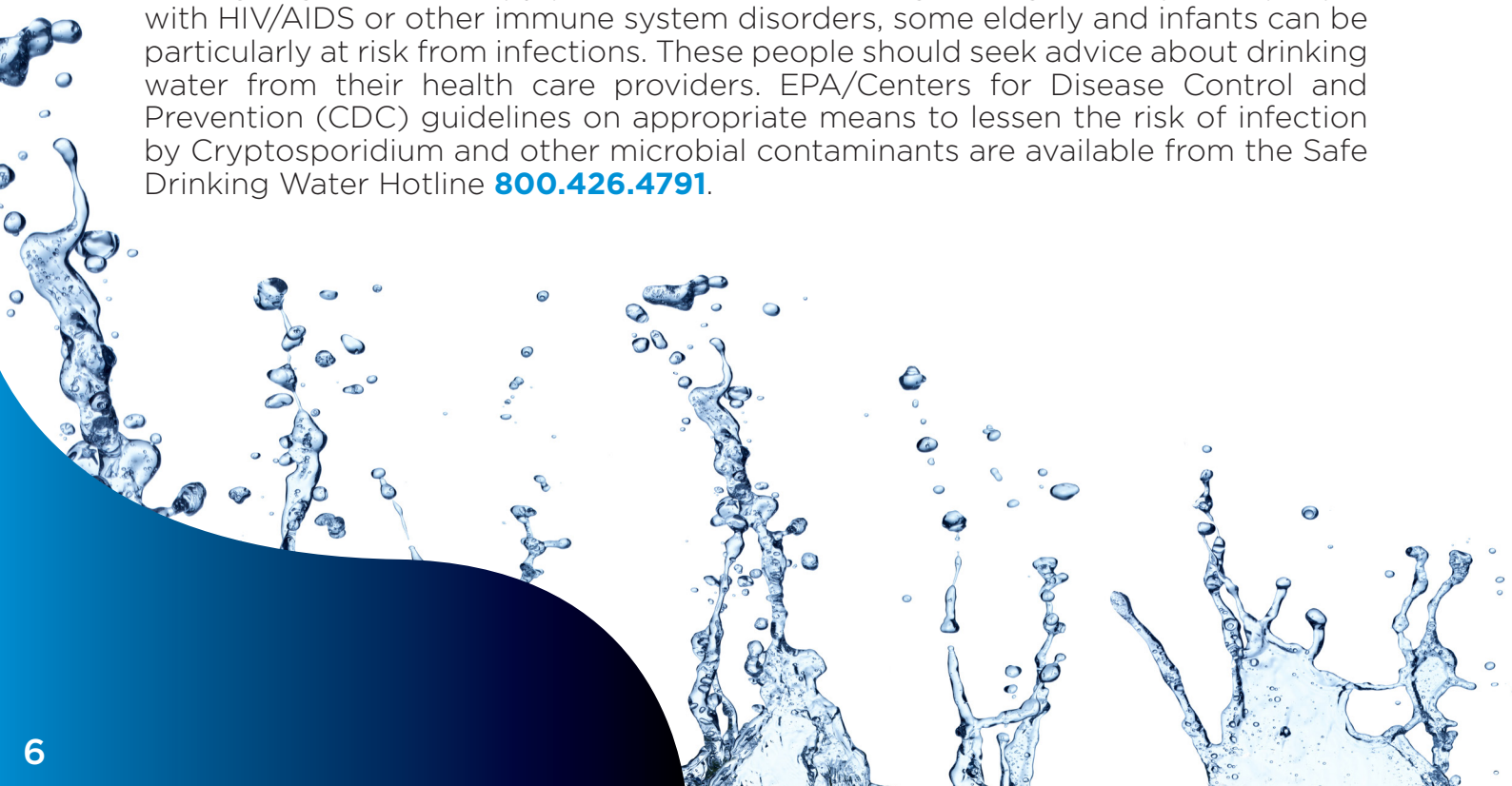
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS
Such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES
Which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses. (Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.)

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.

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/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 **800.426.4791**.



KEY

MCLG
(Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)

The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MCL
(Maximum Contaminant Level)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Highest Compliance Level

The highest level of contaminant used to determine compliance with a National Primacy Drinking Water Regulation.

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 Disinfection Level Goal)

The level of a drinking water disinfectant 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.

Range of Detections

The lowest to the highest result value recorded during the required monitoring timeframe for systems with multiple entry points.

ABBREVIATIONS

ppb - parts per billion

ppm - parts per million

pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

umho/cm - micromhos per centimeter (unit of measurement for conductivity)

AL – Action Level

EP – Entry Point

N/A – Not Applicable

ND - None Detected

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

TT – Treatment Technique

WTP – Water Treatment Plant

LSWTP – Lime Softening Water Treatment Plant

MWTP – Membrane Water Treatment Plant

MGD – Million Gallons Per day

Turbidity

A measure of water clarity monitored at The City of Fargo Water Treatment Plant. Soil runoff is the major source of turbidity in drinking water. Certain treatment techniques (TT) are employed at our facilities to reduce the level of turbidity in the drinking water. Regulations require turbidity to be < 0.15 NTU at the effluent of the Fargo Membrane Water Treatment Plant (MWTP) and < 0.30 NTU at the effluent of the Fargo Lime Softening Water Treatment Plant (LSWTP) 95% of the time and < 1.0 NTU 100% of the time. Turbidity has no health effects but can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS

Turbidity	(TT) Treatment Technique	< 1.0 (NTU) (100%)	(MWTP) < 0.15 (NTU) (95%) (LSWTP) < 0.3 (NTU) (95%)	Level Detected (NTU)	Range (NTU)
(MWTP) Effluent	Ultra Filtration; Reverse Osmosis; Disinfection	100% of samples	100% of samples	0.098 10.21.2024	0.017 to 0.098
(LSWTP) Effluent	Filtration; Disinfection	100% of samples	100% of samples	0.110 12.31.2024	0.012 to 0.110

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Substance [monitored at tap] (units) Test Date	MCL	MCLG	Highest Compliance Level	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Nitrate - Nitrite (ppm) 7.16.2024	10	10	0.625	0.517 – 0.625	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Substance [monitored at tap] (units) Test Date	MCL	MCLG	Highest Compliance Level	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Alkalinity, Carbonate (ppm) 12.17.2024	N/A	N/A	18	ND - 18	Naturally present when water passes through rock and soil which contains carbonate, bicarbonate and hydroxide compounds
Bicarbonate as HCO3 (ppm) 12.17.2024	N/A	N/A	489	51 - 489	Naturally present when water passes through rock and soil which contains carbonate, bicarbonate and hydroxide compounds
Bromide (ppm) 12.9.2024	N/A	N/A	360	34 - 360	Discharge from oil and gas production and coal-fired steam electric power plants; Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium (ppm) 12.17.2024	N/A	N/A	42.3	18.9 – 42.3	Naturally present when water passes through rock and soil. It may dissolve from rocks such as limestone, marble, calcite, dolomite, gypsum, fluorite and apatite
Conductivity @ 25 C (umho/cm) 12.17.2024	N/A	N/A	1060	398 - 1060	Conductive ions from dissolved salts and inorganic materials such as alkalis, chlorides, sulfides and carbonate compounds naturally present in water
Orthophosphate (ppm) 12.19.2024	N/A	N/A	0.224	0.008 – 0.224	Water additive used to inhibit corrosion
pH 12.17.2024	N/A	N/A	9.10	7.62 – 9.10	Measure of how acidic or basic water is.
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) 12.19.2024	N/A	N/A	657	247 - 657	Organic and inorganic materials either naturally occurring or man-made that are dissolved in water

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON REMOVAL

Substance [monitored at tap] (units) Test Date	MCL	MCLG	Highest Compliance Level	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Alkalinity - Source (ppm) 12.31.2024	N/A	N/A	407	205 - 407	Naturally present when water passes through rock and soil which contains carbonate, bicarbonate and hydroxide compounds
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) - Finished (ppm) 1.31.2024	N/A	N/A	5.15	1.24 - 5.15	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) - Source (ppm) 12.31.2024	N/A	N/A	13.1	7.72 - 13.10	Naturally present in the environment

BACTERIOLOGICAL MONITORING

REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE (RTCR)

As part of the EPA's Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) The City of Fargo samples and monitors 100 sites within The City of Fargo water distribution system each month for total coliforms. February had the highest percentage of total coliforms with 2% of samples testing positive for total coliforms. Many factors can contribute to a positive total coliform result and most often attributed to sample collection and other factors with sample site plumbing. Sites testing positive for total coliforms are resampled and retested from the site as well as up and downstream of the site within 24 hours. The results of the follow-up testing in these instances confirmed no presence of total coliforms at all resample locations. Coliforms are a group of bacteria that are common in the environment. They are generally not harmful, but their presence can indicate that other potentially more dangerous bacteria or viruses have the potential to be present.

DISINFECTANTS

Substance [monitored at tap] (units) Test Date	MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Compliance Level	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Chloramine (ppm) 4.30.2024	4.0	4.0	2.8	2.74 - 2.95	Water additive used to control microbes

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Substance [monitored at tap] (units) Test Date	MCL	MCLG	Highest Compliance Level	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Bromate - Finished (ppb) 8.31.2024	10	0	3	ND - 9.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) 3.31.2024	60	N/A	7	ND - 10.48	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb) 12.31.2024	80	N/A	9	ND - 18.05	By-product of drinking water disinfection

LEAD AND COPPER

The (MCL) for lead and copper is known as the Action Level (AL). This is the concentration which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow. Ninety percent of all samples tested must be below this concentration. During 2023, no sample site on The City of Fargo water distribution system tested above the (AL) for lead and copper. The next regulatory scheduled sampling and testing for lead and copper within The City of Fargo distribution system will be in 2026.

Substance [monitored at tap] (units) Test Date	AL	90th Percentile	Range	Sites Exceeding AL	Major Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) 7.25.2023	1.3	0.0687	ND - 0.122	0 of 50 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) 07.25.2023	15	2.34	ND - 4.46	0 of 50 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

LEAD AND COPPER

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed) and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your healthcare provider for more information about your risks.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed) and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Fargo Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home.

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM LEAD IN WATER

Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.

Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from the water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking or making baby formula, flush your home plumbing pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your home plumbing pipes for a longer period of time. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at **EPA.gov/SafeWater/Lead**. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact The City of Fargo water Treatment Plant at **701.241.1469**.

LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISION

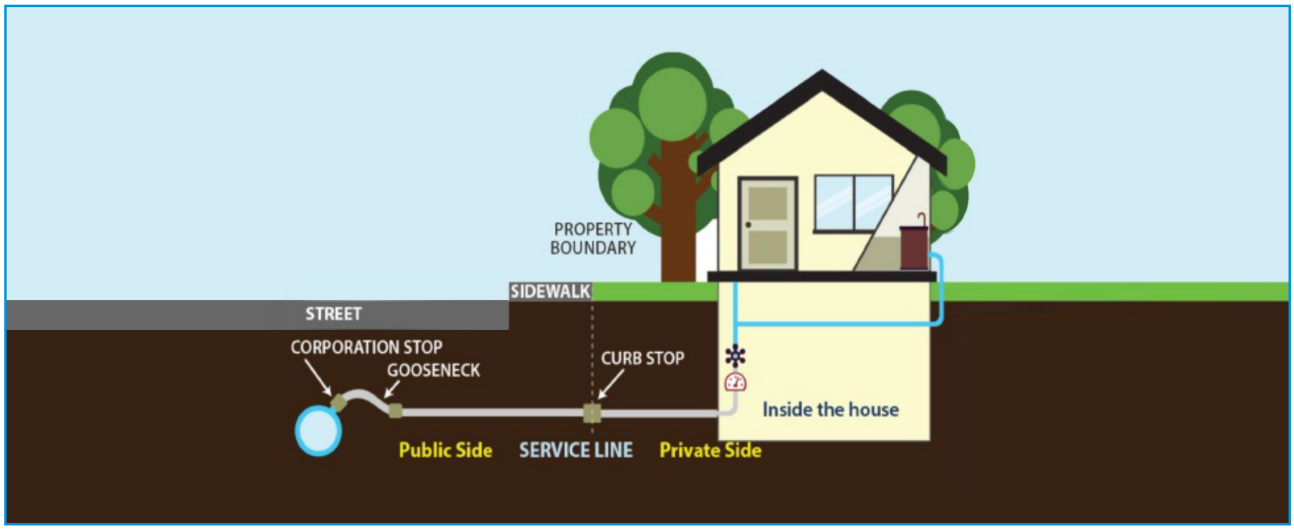
USEPA has recently published the Lead and Copper Rule Revision. The purpose of this revision is to strengthen public health protections by removing lead service lines within public water systems. One requirement of this rule revision was to inventory all drinking water service lines within our public water system and notify customers which type of line serves each property. You may have recently received a letter from the Fargo Water Treatment Plant with this information.

The inventory is a listing of all service lines and the material composition of each line. The types of lines being documented are Lead Lines, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) and lines made of Unknown Material. Classification of a service line as being comprised of Unknown Service Line Material indicates that our system cannot currently confirm the material of both the public and private portions of the line with written records. Non-lead lines were also documented; however, we were not required to notify consumers with documented non-lead lines. The classification of the type of service line serving a residence was based on historical data regarding the property and in some cases verification of the type of material on the privately owned side of the line by visual inspection or replacement records of the owner.

The current Service Line Inventory for our water system has been completed and is available online at **FargoND.gov/ServiceLineMap** or at the Fargo Water Treatment Plant.

SERVICE LINES

A service line is a small diameter pipe that connects to a water main and delivers potable water into a building. In Fargo, ownership is divided at the property boundary where the curb stop is located. The Public Side is maintained by The City of Fargo and the Private Side is under ownership of the property owner.



SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

To update the Fargo service line inventory, additional work may be needed. This may include inspecting the service line to confirm the materials used in both the public and private sections. Building owners may need to provide access to the private portion of the service line to help identify the material that carries water into the building. If you would like your service line inspected by The City of Fargo or disagree with the current classification of your service line, please contact The City of Fargo Water Treatment Plant at **701.241.1469**.

The City of Fargo is currently updating water meters within our city limits. During the water meter update, the service line material is documented to confirm our records for each property. When contacted by Vepo, our meter installation contractors, please set up an appointment to replace your water meter and confirm your service line material.

WATCH THE LSLR VIDEO

LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Fargo is developing a Lead Service Line Replacement Program, set to begin in the summer of 2025. This program is designed to be affordable by using state and federal funding, along with a City utility cost-share program. This means no added costs will be charged, provided property owners complete required water sampling three to six months after replacement. Failure to fulfill the sampling requirement after replacement will void the agreement to replace your lead service line and a $1,000 invoice will be billed to the property owner.

Additional information will be available when finalized and can be found online at **FargoND.gov/LSLR**. With funding secured, we are now working on a plan to address lead service line replacement in neighborhoods using planned phases.

More information regarding lead service line inventory, lead service line replacement and frequently asked questions regarding lead and copper in drinking water can be found online at **FargoND.gov/LeadAndCopper**. If you have any questions, please contact The City of Fargo Water Treatment Plant at **701.241.1469**.

OUR WATER SUPPLY

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

The primary water source for The City of Fargo is the Red River. A water intake and pump station are located just east of our facility in proximity to the Midtown Dam. The City has alternate sources of water which include the Sheyenne River and water storage at Lake Ashtabula. The Sheyenne intake and pumping station, located between West Fargo and Horace, has historically been used approximately 30% of the time to provide source water to our treatment facilities. When this station is not in use, the water in the nine mile pipeline becomes stale and requires periodic flushing. Recently, a small pump was installed to provide a continuous one million gallon per day of flow through this pipeline into our treatment facilities which allows for daily analysis and an immediate fresh supply of source water when needed in larger quantities. We focus on utilizing these sources wisely to minimize operating and treatment costs while optimizing water quality for our customers.

The City of Fargo owns 52% of the stored water rights to Lake Ashtabula. This allocation was a result of The City of Fargo helping to fund the construction of the Baldhill Dam north of Valley City, ND. During a drought, with the Corps of Engineers approval, water from Lake Ashtabula can be released into the Sheyenne River to help meet Fargo's water needs. This lake (used in 1976, '84 and '88), along with water restrictions and conservation, can help provide Fargo's emergency water needs for approximately two years.

The City of Fargo has a drought management plan that monitors water flow, river levels and the precipitation index. The City has adopted an ordinance that mandates citizen participation during drought to reduce the impact to all water users. For more information about the drought management plan visit **FargoND.gov/DroughtPlan**.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The City of Fargo public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, has completed the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has determined our source water is moderately susceptible to potential contaminants.

You can learn more about the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program online at **FargoND.gov/NDSourceWaterProtection**.

WATCH THE WATER TOWER VIDEO

MEGA WATER TOWER

The City of Fargo's new colorful water tower stands tall at 7th Avenue North and 11th Avenue North. With a capacity of 2.5 million gallons, it is the largest in North Dakota. The single high-capacity structure improves efficiency, decreases maintenance costs and increases the reliability of Fargo's water system.

The new water tower replaces three aging towers that needed major repairs. Those three towers are scheduled for removal in summer 2025. They are located at 508 5th St. N.; 1430 10th St. N.; and at 17th Avenue South & 20th Street South (Fargo South High School).

- ART DESIGNED BY LOCAL FARGO ARTIST
- LESS MAINTENANCE COSTS AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY ON WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
- REPLACES THREE NORTH SIDE TOWERS

THE CITY OF Fargo FAR MORE

WATER