

# 2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was provided last year. Included are details about where your water came from, what it contained, and how it compared to state and federal standards. Our system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water.

for  
**Woodland Walk Apartments**  
**PWS ID #2054040**



Prepared by

**McCLURE**  
ENGINEERING, INC

*The water system is owned by Woodland Walk Apartments. If you have any questions about this report, or for additional copies, please contact Way Finders at 413-237-0801 or visit the McClure Engineering website at <http://www.mcclureengineers.com/water.html> or office at 508.248.2005.*

**This report contains very important information about your drinking water.**  
**Please translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.**

*Community Drinking Water Source*

**W**oodland Walk Apartments is located in Charlton, MA and is supplied water by the following groundwater sources:

- PWS Source ID# 2054040-06G (Well #06G)
- 2054040-07G (Well #07G)
- 2054040-08G (Well #08G)
- 2054040-09G (Well #09G)

Data in this report reflects water quality from Well 06G, Well 07G, Well 08G, and Well 09G

Woodland Walk Apartments continuously strives to produce the highest quality water possible to meet or surpass every water quality standard. We monitor our water source and distribution system very closely. The standards we operate under were enacted by the U.S. Congress as the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and were amended in 1986 and 1996.

*Is My Water Treated?*

To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, the MassDEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Departments of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. Your water does not currently need to be treated at this time. The former Cady Brook Apartment had treatment in each of its nine wells. Wells #1 through #5 have been permanently disconnected, and those units have been connected to Southbridge Water. Wells #6 through #9 are manifold in a pump house, which was activated in December 2010. Water is pumped from underground wells that average 400 feet in depth, into an atmospheric storage tank where it is then pressurized prior to entering the distribution system. The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and the MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment to determine if any additional treatment is required.

*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 storm water runoff 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**, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

- **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.

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 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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.

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*~ CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION ~*

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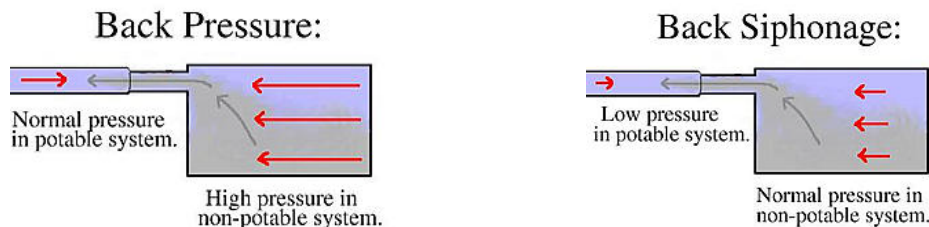
Woodland Walks makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers or withdrawal point from a surface water source, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

**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 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 equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), 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, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.



### **What can I 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, they are:

- 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 bibb 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 backflow preventers.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

Woodland Walks recommends the installation of low-cost hose bibb vacuum breakers for all outside faucets. This will protect all residents from the potential of backflow into their homes and the potable water systems from a hose connection. You can purchase them at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way to help protect the water system that serves your home and community!

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### *~ IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS ~*

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**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.

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

**90<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**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.

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

**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.

**Level 2 Assessment** - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

~ *IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS (continued)* ~

**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 (ng/L)  
**pCi/l** = picocuries per liter (measure of radioactivity)  
**ND** = Not Detected  
**N/A** = Not Applicable

## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

### What Does This Data Represent?

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.

Lead & Copper	Last Date Collected	* 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Exceeds Action Level	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	Quarter 3 2023	0.55	15	0	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	Quarter 3 2023	0.0298	1.3	1.3	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<p>*9 out of every 10 sites sampled were at or below this level. Lead and copper compliance is determined by comparing the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value to the Action Level (AL) for each contaminant. The AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.</p> <p>Lead and copper sampling is scheduled every three years. The last samples collected were in Quarter 3, 2023 and the next sample collection will be during Quarter 3 of 2026.</p>								

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. Woodland Walk Apartments 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 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>.

## *DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY (continued)*

Bacteria	MCL / TT	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	4.1	7/24/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	3.1	7/26/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	3	7/26/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	2	7/26/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	29.5	12/19/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	16.1	12/19/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	4.1	12/21/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	3.1	12/21/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	4.1	12/21/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	1	12/21/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	1	12/27/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Routine water samples and follow up samples taken in July 2023, tested positive for total coliforms. This triggered a Level 1 Assessment. due to having 2 or more total coliform-positive samples in the same month.						
Routine water samples and follow up samples taken in December 2023, tested positive for total coliforms. This triggered a Level 1 Assessment. due to having 2 or more total coliform-positive samples in the same month. Due to this being the second occurrence of a Level 1 Assessment within a 12-month period, a Level 2 Assessment was triggered.						

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one of these actions. On June 28, 2023, McClure disinfected the storage tank and pulled the chlorinated water through the distribution system.

During the past year, one Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take six corrective actions and we completed five of these actions.

On December 21, 2023, while McClure was onsite to disinfect the storage tank, it was noted that the pressure tank was not working. On December 21, 2023, McClure was onsite to drain, flush, and repressurize the pressure tank. On December 23, 2023, the MassDEP directed McClure to maintain a chlorine residual at the storage tank and in distribution until corrective

actions were taken, and to resample all total coliform positive locations to show the effectiveness of the chlorine on the finished water. McClure was onsite every other day to monitor chlorine residuals and to add chlorine to the storage tank.

On February 2, 2024, McClure was onsite for project oversight and documentation of the pressure tank replacement and retrofit of an existing fitting on the booster pump manifold to install a smooth nose sample tap that will serve as the post storage tank sample tap.

McClure discontinued the disinfection and chlorine monitoring of the storage tank after receiving confirmation from the contracted laboratory that the post construction samples taken on February 5, 2024, were negative for total coliform.

McClure is still investigating the potential of an additional entry point sample tap and reconfiguration of the pumphouse to eliminate the additional piping between the booster pumps and the pressure tank.

## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY (continued)

Regulated Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Result or Highest Avg	Range detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	6/28/2023	ND	ND	10	N/A	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	6/28/2023	1.1	0-1.1	100	100	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	6/28/2023	0.007	0-0.007	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) ■	6/28/2023	1.1	0.231- 1.1	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
■Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.							
Nitrate (ppm) (annual)	6/28/2023	0.192	0-0.192	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	4/4/2022	ND	ND	1	1	N	
Perchlorate (ppb)	8/21/2023	ND	ND	2	N/A	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
PFAS6 (ppt)	10/17/2023	6.96	4.39-6.96	20	N/A	N	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.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	6/15/2021	ND	ND	15	N/A		Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	6/15/2021	2.25	0.26-2.25	5	N/A		Erosion of natural deposits
- Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs) were sampled June 28, 2023. <u>IOCs were non-detected unless listed above.</u> - Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) were sampled in 2021. <u>SOCs were non-detected.</u> Next sampling event is due in 2024. - Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) were sampled June 28, 2023. <u>VOCs were non-detected.</u> Next sampling event is due in 2024. - PFAS next sampling event is due in 2024.							



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*DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY (continued)*

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Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Last Date Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL (ppb)	ORSG	Possible Sources
Iron (ppb)	6/28/2023	0.286	ND	300	N/A	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese* (ppb)	5/10/2021 6/15/2021	16-49	37.5	50	Health advisory of 300 ppb	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses
Nickel (ppb)	6/28/2023	3.6-27.6	9.775	N/A	100	Discharge from domestic wastewater, landfills, and mining and smelting operations
Sodium** (ppm)	6/28/2023	19.9-40.2	30.725	N/A	20	Discharge from the use & improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents.
<p>*US EPA and MassDEP have established public Health Advisory (HA) 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.</p> <p>**Sodium: Some people who drink water containing sodium at high concentrations for many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.</p>						

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~ EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ~

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***SWAP (Source Water Assessment and Protection) ~***

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the Woodland Walk Apartments. The report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination and makes recommendations.

A susceptibility ranking of moderate was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by MassDEP.

The complete SWAP Report is available at **Woodland Walk Apartments/Way Finders** Office and online at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/central-region-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program-reports-0/download>.

For more information, call the **SaraJanet Carrion, Way Finders, at 413-237-0801.**

***Opportunities to Participate ~***

Any matters that concern your drinking water supply or issues you would like to see addressed can be presented at the regularly scheduled meeting of the trustees, association or board. If your concerns need immediate attention contact the **SaraJanet Carrion, Way Finders at 413-237-0801.**

***Water System Improvements ~***

Our water system is routinely inspected by MassDEP for its technical, financial and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. On February 2, 2024, there was a pressure tank replacement and retrofit of an existing fitting on the booster pump manifold to install a smooth nose sample tap that will serve as the post storage tank sample tap. The PWS continues to monitor the water and make adjustments when necessary.

**Woodland Walk Apartments  
PWS ID# 2054040  
241 Southbridge Road  
Charlton, MA 01507  
#413.237.0801**

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

Date Distributed: 6/28/2024

For more information please contact:

**Woodland Walk Apartments  
PWS ID# 2054040  
241 Southbridge Road  
Charlton, MA 01507  
#413.237.0801**

This report was prepared by McClure Engineering, Inc.

Also available at <http://www.mcclureengineers.com/>

**This notice for PWS ID# 2054040 was distributed by the Woodland Walk Apartments**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**