

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN

## Department of Public Works

### 2014 Drinking Water Quality Report

July 2015 – WQR No. 17

**ATTENTION: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REPORT ON WATER QUALITY AND SAFETY**

**The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the Brownstown Township Department of Public Works want you to know your tap water is safe to drink and that it meets or surpasses all federal and state standards for quality and safety.**

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) and Brownstown DPW are proud of the fine drinking water they supply and are honored to provide this report to you. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our water system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. The 2014 Water Quality Report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains important information about water and health. We are pleased to show you how we have surpassed water quality standards as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE).

#### **About Our System**

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department provides drinking water to approximately 4.2 million people in 126 southeastern Michigan communities, including Brownstown Township. The system uses water drawn from two intakes in the Detroit River: one to the north near the mouth of Lake St. Clair, and one to the south near Lake Erie. The water is directed to four (4) large water treatment plants for processing. (A fifth water treatment plant, located in St. Clair County, uses surface water from Lake Huron.) Brownstown receives its water from the Southwest Water Treatment Plant, which receives its raw water from the Detroit River.

#### **How Do We Know The Water Is Safe To Drink?**

DWSD treatment facilities operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The treatment process begins with disinfecting the source water with chlorine to kill harmful microorganisms that can cause illness. Next, a chemical called Alum is mixed with the water to remove fine particles that make the water cloudy or turbid. Alum causes the particles to clump together and settle to the bottom. Fluoride is also added to protect our teeth from cavities and decay.

The water then flows through fine sand filters called beds. These filters remove even more particles and certain microorganisms that are resistant to chlorine. Finally, small amounts of phosphoric acid and chlorine are added to the treated water just before it leaves the treatment plant. The phosphoric acid helps control the lead that may dissolve in water from household plumbing systems. The chlorine keeps the water disinfected as it travels through water mains to reach your home.

In addition to a carefully controlled and monitored treatment process, the water is tested for a variety of substances before treatment, during various stages of treatment, and throughout the distribution system. Highly qualified trained staff test hundreds of samples each week in DWSD-certified laboratories. Detroit water not only meets safety and health standards, but also ranks among the top 10 in the country for quality and value.

#### **Detroit River Intakes**

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, and Ecorse River in the U.S., and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek, and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and

Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination.

The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from moderately "low" to "very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit Water Treatment plants that use source water from Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards. DWSD has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. DWSD participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. If you would like to more information about this report or a complete copy of this report please, visit the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's website at [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org) or contact Mary Lynn Semegen at (313) 935-7106 or [semegen@dwsd.org](mailto:semegen@dwsd.org).

## WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA and/or the State require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

### Important Drinking Water Definitions

<b>MCLG:</b> Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
<b>MCL:</b> Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
<b>MRDLG:</b> Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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 contaminants.
<b>MRDL:</b> 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.
<b>PPB:</b> Parts per billion (one in one billion): The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram=1/1000 milligram.
<b>PPM:</b> Parts per million (one in one million): The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram=1/1000 gram.
<b>NTU:</b> Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Measures the cloudiness of the water.
<b>ND:</b> Not Detected
<b>TT:</b> Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>AL:</b> Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
<b>HAA5:</b> Haloacetic Acids: HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
<b>TTHM:</b> Total Trihalomethanes: Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
<b>pCi/l:</b> picocuries per liter.-a measure of radioactivity
<b>N/A:</b> Not applicable.
> Greater than                      < Less than

### City of Detroit Southwest Water Treatment Plant 2014 Regulated Detected Contaminants Table

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Fluoride	5/13/2014	PPM	4	4	0.56	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	5/13/2014	PPM	10	10	0.29	N/A	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	6/9/2008	PPM	2	2	0.01	N/A	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System – STAGE 2</b>								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2014	PPB	N/A	80	41.5	13.0 - 99.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2014	PPB	N/A	60	10.7	8.9 - 12.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System – STAGE 2</b>								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2012	PPB	N/A	80	34.1	20.7	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2012	PPB	N/A	60	17.0	13.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Disinfection – Monitoring in Distribution System</b>								
Disinfectant (Total Chlorine Residual)	2014	PPM	MRDGL 4	MRDL 4	0.64	0.52-0.73	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>2013 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU			Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)			Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
0.14 NTU			100%			No	Soil Runoff	
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.								

### 2012 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System

Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	In one month 0	No	Naturally present in the environment.
E.coli or Fecal Coliform Bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E.coli positive.	Entire year 0	No	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

### 2011 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2014	PPB	0	15	0 ppb	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2014	PPB	1300	1300	55.6 ppb	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

\*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Combined Radium Radium 226 and 228	5/13/2014	pCi/L	0	5	0.65 + or - 0.54	no	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Running annual average	Monthly Ratio Range	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (PPM)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.				Erosion of natural deposits

### 2014 Special Monitoring

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (PPM)	N/A	N/A	5.41	Erosion of natural deposits

(Collection and sampling result information in the table provided by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Water Quality Division, ML Semegen.)

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

#### TOC Removal

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by the State of Michigan.

**Monitoring and Reporting Requirements:** The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2014.

#### Important Health Information for People with Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 HOT LINE \(800-426-4791\)](tel:800-426-4791).

**CRYPTOSPORIDIUM** is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Cryptosporidium was detected once, during a twelve month period at our Detroit River intake plants. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

### Additional Information



- In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water hot line (800-426-4791)

The 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, 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.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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."

### Lead

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. As a wholesale customer of DWSD, Brownstown Township 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 second 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>.

### Opportunities for Public Participation



The DWSD Board of Water Commissioners meets the last Wednesday of each month. There are also public hearings and meetings open to the public. To confirm dates and times or for information on other DWSD activities please contact the DWSD Public Affairs Division at [public.affairs@dwsd.org](mailto:public.affairs@dwsd.org) or (313) 964-9460.

We welcome your comments and opinions about this report and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please direct your comments to Brownstown DPW at (734) 675-4000 or the DWSD Water Quality Division at (313) 926-8128. You can visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website at: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

## Other Monitoring

In addition to testing we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of the highest quality. For a more detailed report, contact the DWSD Water Quality Division at (313) 926-8128.

## **HELPFUL HINTS ON PREVENTION OF WATER WASTE**

- **Toilet Leaks:** This is the most common water waster but tends to be less noticeable than faucet leaks. To determine if your toilet is leaking, look at the toilet bowl after the tank has stopped filling. If water is still running, your toilet is leaking. Most leaks occur at the overflow pipe or at the plunger ball inside the tank. To locate a leak, take the tank lid off and flush. The water level should come up to about a half inch or so below the overflow pipe. Adjust the float level control screw, if necessary, so the valve shuts off the water at that level. If the valve itself is leaking you may need a plumber to fix it. Although you may not hear or see water running, your toilet could have a silent leak. To test for a silent leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank. DO NOT FLUSH. Wait for about 10 – 30 minutes. If food coloring appears in the bowl, you have a silent leak.
- **Lawn Watering:** If you have an automatic sprinkler system, check the heads periodically. Be sure they haven't shifted direction, causing water to be sprayed everywhere except on the lawn. Do your lawn sprinkling early in the morning, between 12:00 am and 5:00 am. when water demand is low. After about 10:00 a.m., both heat and evaporation go up, robbing the lawn of moisture. Don't water your lawn too much.
- **Running Water:** When brushing your teeth, washing your hair, shaving, rinsing vegetables, washing dishes etc., don't let the water run. You are probably using at least one (1) gallon a minute, most of it wasted.
- **Kitchen:** Use the automatic dishwasher for full loads only. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Leaks waste water 24 hours a day, seven days a week and often can be repaired with only an inexpensive washer.
- **Laundry:** Use the automatic washing machine for full loads only.
- **Outside:** Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth, too. Plant drought-resistant trees and plants. Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other species. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Use the hose just to rinse it off. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings. Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible, but they can be just as wasteful as leaks inside. Check frequently and keep them drip-free.
- **Bathrooms:** Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue, or other small bits of trash, you waste five to seven gallons of water. Take shorter showers. Long, hot showers can waste five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off. Install water-saving showerheads and/or flow restrictors. Your local hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive water-saving showerheads or restrictors that are easy to install. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons a day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds. Put plastic bottles in your toilet tank. To cut down on water waste, put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill them with water and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save ten or more gallons of water a day.

Think about water. It's yours for the taking, 24 hours a day. All you have to do is turn on a faucet. But where does it come from? The water you use doesn't appear magically. It's a carefully manufactured product-clean, safe and piped directly into your home-a valuable resource that shouldn't be wasted. Water will recycle itself eventually. But the high-quality water that we need and expect in our homes is not an infinite resource. Besides, you're paying for every drop whether it's used or wasted. So conservation can benefit your pocketbook, too.

## Remember – You Are Not Just Washing Your Car

Did you know there are over four million vehicles in southeast Michigan? With that many cars and trucks, we all need to practice good car care to protect our lakes and streams.

How does caring for your car affect our waterways? Storm drains found in our streets and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and streams. If dirty water from washing our cars gets into the storm drain, it pollutes our local waterways. This “dirty” water contains pollutants such as grease and dirt, and the soap itself contains phosphorus, which can lead to excessive algae growth in our lakes. What can you do? Simple.

**Make a date.** Car-wash facilities treat their dirty water before discharging it to our lakes and streams. So make a date to take your car to a car wash.

**Wash it** — on the grass. If you wash your car at home, consider washing it on the lawn. The lawn will gladly soak up the soapy, dirty water preventing it from entering storm drains or roadside ditches. If you can't use the lawn, try to direct the dirty water towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.

**Minimize it.** Reduce the amount of soap you use, or wash your car with plain water.

## Remember – You Are Not Just Maintaining Your Car

Did you know that just four quarts of oil could form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? With over four million vehicles in southeast Michigan, it is vital to the protection of our lakes and streams that we all need to practice good car care.

How does caring for your car affect our waterways? Storm drains found in our streets and yards and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, if motor oil and other fluids are dumped or washed into the storm drain, they pollute our local waterways.

What can you do? Simple

**Maintain it.** Keep your vehicle properly tuned and use the owner's manual to guide decisions about how often it is necessary to change fluids such as oil and antifreeze.

**Take advantage of business expertise.** Consider taking your vehicle to the shop to have the oil and other fluids changed. These businesses have the ability to recycle the used materials and clean up accidental spills.

**Recycle.** If you choose to change your oil and other fluids yourself, label the waste containers then take them to your community's household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts used oil. Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.

**Soak it up.** Use kitty litter promptly to absorb small amounts of spilled vehicle fluids. Then sweep it into a bag and throw it in the trash. Don't leave these spills or wash them off pavement. They'll be flushed into the storm drains.

**Do it under cover.** Whenever possible, perform vehicle maintenance in a well-ventilated but covered location (e.g., garage). This minimizes the potential for rainfall to wash those inevitable spills and drips into our lakes and streams.

## Help Save Water – Avoid 6 to 10

The Charter Township of Brownstown is seeking resident's cooperation to keep the increase in our Water Rates to a minimum. The major factor that contributes to the rate increase for our supplier, the Detroit Water and Sewer Department is our "Peak Demand" requirements. Demand for beautiful, lush green lawns has increased. For some unknown reason, sprinkler installers and residents have selected their lawn irrigation systems to automatically 'water' during the periods of highest water usage!



How can you assist? The greatest demand for water is between the hours of 6 and 10 in the morning, and then again from 6 to 10 in the evening! Drive down the street and you'll be amazed to see that this is also the most popular time to 'water' the lawn! It is suggested that you voluntarily water either on the 'odd' or 'even' days that correspond with your street address! Even more important-Totally **avoid** lawn irrigation between the heavy demand periods of 6 to 10 in the morning and again at 6 to 10 in the evening!

If residents fail to heed these voluntary measures, it may become mandatory that either the Township or Wayne County adopt ordinances to make it illegal to water from 6 to 10 twice a day and also to mandate watering on odd or even days according to your street address

### **SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS TO CLEAN WATER**

1. **Help keep pollution out of storm drains.** Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams. Any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. With almost 5 million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains. **REMEMBER, ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN!**
2. **Fertilize sparingly and caringly.** Storm drains in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. When we fertilize our lawn, we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams causes algae to grow. Algae can form large blooms and use oxygen that fish need to survive. With 1.5 million homes in southeast Michigan, all of us need to be aware of the cumulative effects of our lawn care practices. What can you do? Simple. **USE FERTILIZER LOW IN PHOSPHORUS**, select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is "water insoluble" (check the ingredients on the label), keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drains, and **SWEEP EXCESS FERTILIZER** back into your lawn.
3. **Carefully store and dispose of household cleaner, chemicals, and oil.** Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. You can help keep these out of our lakes and streams. Instead of putting these items in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, **TAKE THEM TO A LOCAL HAZARDOUS WASTE CENTER OR COLLECTION DAY.**
4. **Clean up after your pet.** Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason. Pet waste contains bacteria that are harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. So what can you do to help? Simple. Whether on a walk or in your yard, **DISPOSE OF YOUR PET'S WASTE PROMPTLY IN THE TOILET OR TRASH.**
5. **Practice good car care.** Did you know that just four quarts of oil from your car's engine, can form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? There are over 4 million cars in southeast Michigan, so even small leaks matter. **KEEP YOUR CAR TUNED, AND FIX LEAKS PROMPTLY.** Not only will this make your car run better and last longer, it will be good for our lakes, streams, and air. When washing your car, keep the polluted water from going into the street and storm drain. **CONSIDER TAKING YOUR CAR TO THE CAR WASH OR WASHING YOUR CAR ON THE GRASS.** Your lawn will gladly soak up the excess water.
6. **Choose earth-friendly landscaping.** When landscaping your yard you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from harm. **USE PESTICIDES SPARINGLY.** Put mulch around trees and plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it (one to two times a week is usually sufficient) and **CHOOSE PLANTS NATIVE TO MICHIGAN.** Once established, these plants tolerate dry weather and resist disease.
7. **Save water.** Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? When we over-water our lawns, it can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. **CONSIDER USING A BROOM INSTEAD OF A HOSE** to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway. Water when necessary instead of on a fixed schedule. Remember - saving water also saves you money.

## Our Water – Our Future – Ours to Protect

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit [www.semcoq.org](http://www.semcoq.org)  
Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water Pamphlet available in front lobby of Township Municipal Building and at the DPW Counter. We will update this report annually and keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies of CCR are available at:

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
21313 TELEGRAPH ROAD  
BROWNSTOWN, MI., 48183-1399.

Phone: 734-675-4000  
Fax: 734-675-2921



## 2014 Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

### **NEWS FLASH - Water Department Updates**

**FINAL READS:** Final water read is required if selling, buying and/or renting a home. Final water bills are processed from physical inside reads. Reads are done by appointment only. Final read billings are mailed to the Title Company/Realtors etc. holding escrow accounts. Access using **LOCK BOXES** is not permitted.

**RADIO READ DEVICES:** The Township has installed radio read devices on the exterior of homes replacing existing touch pads. Per Water Ordinance home owners are responsible for the safe keeping of these devices as well as the water meter. If damaged, removed, etc. a replacement fee will be charged. A two (2) foot diameter area around the device must be kept free of debris, vegetation to assure accurate reads.

**IRRIGATION SYSTEMS:** All residents with an irrigation system installed prior to January will be required to have the back flow device tested in 2008 and every three (3) years thereafter. Testing must be performed by a Michigan State certified plumber with a cross connection certification. Test report must be filed and Company/Person needs to be registered with the DPW.

**SENIOR CITIZEN AFFIDAVITS:** Property owners occupying residence aged 62 or older should contact the DPW regarding information on water usage saving.

**SHUT OFF PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:** Payments must be made by **CASH, MONEY ORDER, CERTIFIED CHECK, or Credit/Debit Card** for any account which is 60 days in arrears and/or receives a Shut off notification. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS once in shut off status.**

**AUTOMATIC DEDUCTIONS:** Automatic deduction from your checking and/or saving account is available **at no charge**. Form available on line at [www.brownstown-mi.org](http://www.brownstown-mi.org) or contact DPW. Account must be setup at least 60 days prior to due date. Call 734-675-4000 for more information.

**NEW FOR 2012! - Credit/Debit Cards:** The Township now accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express debit or credit cards for a fee. Payments can be made online at [www.brownstown-mi.org](http://www.brownstown-mi.org) or at the treasury department. The fee schedule for water bills only are as follows: If the bill is between:

\$1-\$50 = \$1.50 fee

\$51-\$100 = \$3.00 fee

\$100 or more = \$3.00 per \$100