

# Important information from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control



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 can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Water Hotline. 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 pollution, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas, mining, or farming
- Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water pollution, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can come from gas stations, urban pollution, and septic systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people such as 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 and chemical contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



### What's in Your Water?

This table provides 2009 Water Quality information for the public water supplies of Lewiston and Auburn

Compound	Units of measure	Violation	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Auburn Water Highest Detected Level	Lewiston Water Highest Detected Level	Range of Detections	How it gets in the water
Total Coliform	per 100 milliliters	NO	1 (d)	3 (8/09)	2 (8/09)		Naturally found in environment
Chloramine	parts per million	NO	4	2.43 (average)	2.18 (average)	1.95-2.99 AWD 1.82-2.97 LWD	Water additive for disinfection
Turbidity	NTU	NO	5(c)	3.31 (11/09)	1.54 (12/09)		Soil pollution
Copper	parts per million	NO	1.3 (a)	0.16 (8/09)	0.11 (6/08)	0.06-0.09 AWD 0.05-0.14 LWD	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride	parts per million	NO	4	1.6 (8/09)	1.4 (8/09)		Water additive promoting strong teeth
Lead	parts per billion	NO	15 (a)	15 (8/09)	2 (6/09)	1-107 AWD 1-12 LWD	Corrosion of household plumbing
Gross Alpha Screen	pico curies per liter	NO	15	.146 (1/06)	.552 (2/06)		Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic acids	parts per billion	NO	60 (b)	RAA=50.63	RAA=40.69	31-72.75 AWD 28-50.75 LWD	By-product of chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	parts per billion	NO	80 (b)	RAA=49.71	RAA=42.01	37.43-60.68 AWD 34.25-45.18 LWD	By-product of chlorination
Arsenic	parts per million	NO	10	.73 (3/09)	.62 (4/09)		Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards
Barium	parts per million	NO	2	.0014 (3/09)	.0013 (4/09)		Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate Nitrogen	parts per million	NO	10	.02 (3/09)	<.01 (3/09)		Runoff from fertilizers Leaching from septic systems
Nitrite Nitrogen	parts per million	NO	1	.01 (3/09)	<.01 (3/09)		Runoff from fertilizers Leaching from septic systems

There were no violations in 2009  
There were no waivers from testing in 2009

### Definitions

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water

RAA: Running Annual Average - The average of all quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations  
Definitions

(a) Lead/Copper: Action levels (the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers requirements that a system must follow) are measured at customer's tap, 90% of the tests must be equal or below the action level.

(b) Haloacetic acids/Total trihalomethanes: These chemicals are tested quarterly. Compliance is based on a four quarter running average. The result reported is the average value of the four quarters of 2009.

(c) Turbidity: Is a measure of cloudiness or silt. Excessive turbidity levels can cause problems with disinfection.

(d) Total Coliform: Bacteria used as an indicator to determine disinfection effectiveness. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Positive results indicated that water main flushing was needed. E. coli, bacteria from feces, was not detected in the treated drinking water. For more than 40 samples collected, no more than 5% can be positive for Total coliform.

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below the level of detection for each test.



*The Auburn Water District (AWD) and the Lewiston Public Services Water Division (LWD) are pleased to send you this annual report on your drinking water quality. This report includes important information about the quality of the public drinking water supply and its source of supply, Lake Auburn.*

## **Facts**

The Lewiston Water Division is municipally owned and operated.

The Lewiston City Council meets every first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

LWD installed 2,425 feet of new 16 inch diameter ductile iron pipe replacing 700 ft of 6 inch and 1,725 ft of 10 inch old cast iron water pipe on Scribner Blvd, and Biron Avenue.

Horton Street waterline was changed approximately 1800 ft from old 6 inch cast iron to new 8 inch ductile iron and we changed about 400 ft of old 6inch cast iron to 12 inch ductile iron on Walnut Street.

A Board of Trustees appointed to 4-year terms by the Mayor and Auburn City Council governs the Auburn Water District.

In 2009, AWD made improvements to water mains on Harrison, Lake, Houghton, Minot, Turner, Old Farm Hill, Davis, Ashe, and Taylor streets.

The Ipswich water storage tank was permanently removed from service. Ten new metered services were installed.

## **Sources**

American Water Works Association @ [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

USEPA @ [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

National Center for Disease Control @ [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

State of Maine Drinking Water Program @ [www.medwp.com](http://www.medwp.com)

City of Lewiston @ [www.ci.lewiston.me.us](http://www.ci.lewiston.me.us)

Auburn Water & Sewerage District @ [www.awsd.org](http://www.awsd.org)

## **Contacts**

John Storer, PE, Superintendent AWD, 207-784-6469

David A. Jones, PE, Director LPS, 207-513-3003

Sid Hazelton, PE, District Engineer AWD, 207-784-6469

Richard Burnham, PE, Lewiston City Engineer, 207-513-3003

Kevin Gagne, Water & Sewer Superintendent LPSWD, 207-513-3003

Mary Jane Dillingham, Water Quality Manager, 207-784-6469

### Who receives water from Lake Auburn?

The residents, schools and businesses connected to the public water supplies in Lewiston and Auburn receive their water from Lake Auburn, located in Auburn. All the people who live, work, and visit the restaurants, hospitals, and businesses in the twin cities rely on Lake Auburn to be a safe source of public water. Water is used for drinking, bathing, preparing food, cleaning, fire suppression, manufacturing, and many other necessary and enjoyable activities.

### Who protects Lake Auburn from pollution?

Lake Auburn is a unique lake and one of the most difficult to protect. Besides the utility staff keeping a watchful eye on it, there are laws in effect that govern its use and how land in the watershed is used and developed. The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission By-Laws, Auburn City Ordinances, State of Maine Private and Special Laws, and Environmental Protection Agency Regulations all help to keep our lake clean. As we learn more about contaminants, such as prescription medications, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals in our environment, the need to protect the Lake and its watershed becomes greater than ever.

### What towns are in the watershed of Lake Auburn?

Besides Auburn, the towns of Turner, Hebron, Minot and Buckfield are also in the watershed. Pollutants that are released in our watershed can eventually reach the Lake.

### Is my water hard or soft?

Lake Auburn water is soft. It has 17 milligrams per liter(mg/L) of hardness which equals 1 grain per gallon. Water is considered very soft up to 70 mg/L.

### If Lake Auburn is not filtered, how is it treated so we can drink it?

Because the Lake has been well protected, its water is of high quality and is exempted from the federal requirement to filter it. Lake Auburn water is not filtered. Filtering Lake Auburn would cost millions of dollars for the water rate payers of the twin cities. It is much more expensive to treat dirty water than to treat clean water. The best level of protection for our drinking water is to keep pollutants out of the source water by protecting the land and water within the watershed. Current treatment includes adding measured doses of chlorine to kill bacteria, viruses, and other microbes. Fluoride is added to aid in tooth decay prevention. A blended phosphate is added to stop lead corrosion in customers plumbing. The water travels through transmission main where the chlorine has time to disinfect the water. Before reaching the first customers, the pH is adjusted to prevent copper corrosion in plumbing using sodium hydroxide. Chlorine in the water is converted to chloramine using ammonia to form chloramines which also acts as a disinfectant. The water continues through miles of piping to your service connection. State licensed operators run your water systems. The Maine Drinking Water Program is the enforcement agency for EPA and ensures that all the EPA regulations are met. The drinking water is tested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for most of our treatment systems. We have safety systems in place to ensure the treatment continues to operate correctly. Our goal is to deliver safe drinking water to your tap, always.

### Are there pharmaceuticals in my water?

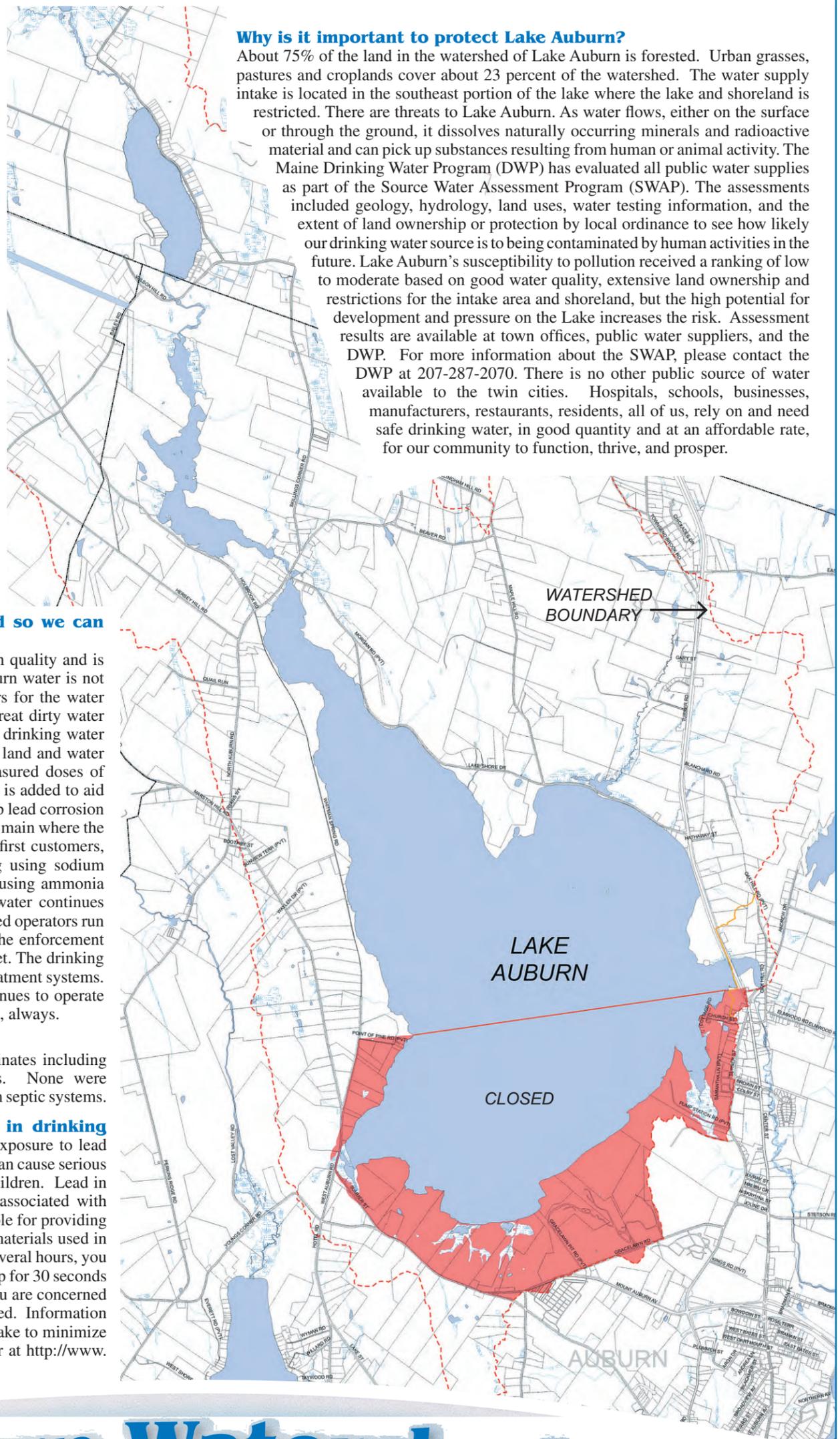
In March 2008, we tested the untreated water for 87 contaminants including hormones, endocrine disruptors, and other pharmaceuticals. None were detected. Sources of these chemicals would typically come from septic systems.

### What can I do to reduce my exposure to lead in drinking water?

Both water systems treat the water to reduce your exposure to lead from the pipes in your home. 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. LWD and AWD 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>.

### Why is it important to protect Lake Auburn?

About 75% of the land in the watershed of Lake Auburn is forested. Urban grasses, pastures and croplands cover about 23 percent of the watershed. The water supply intake is located in the southeast portion of the lake where the lake and shoreland is restricted. There are threats to Lake Auburn. As water flows, either on the surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The assessments included geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information, and the extent of land ownership or protection by local ordinance to see how likely our drinking water source is to being contaminated by human activities in the future. Lake Auburn's susceptibility to pollution received a ranking of low to moderate based on good water quality, extensive land ownership and restrictions for the intake area and shoreland, but the high potential for development and pressure on the Lake increases the risk. Assessment results are available at town offices, public water suppliers, and the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at 207-287-2070. There is no other public source of water available to the twin cities. Hospitals, schools, businesses, manufacturers, restaurants, residents, all of us, rely on and need safe drinking water, in good quantity and at an affordable rate, for our community to function, thrive, and prosper.



# Lake Auburn Watershed FAQ's

