

**Garden City Department  
of Public Services**



**2016 Consumers  
Annual Report on  
Water Quality**

## Introduction:

Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The City of Garden City and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are committed to meeting state and federal water quality standards including the Lead and Copper Rule. With the Great Lakes as our water source and proven treatment technologies, the GLWA consistently delivers safe drinking water to our community. Garden City operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. This year's Water Quality Report highlights the performance of GLWA and Garden City water professionals in delivering some of the nation's best drinking water. Together, we remain committed to protecting public health and maintaining open communication with the public about our drinking water.

**W**e're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are pleased to report that our drinking water *has surpassed* water quality standards as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

We have also included simple measures that all our residents can take to help in our continuing effort to clean up the Rouge River. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water is purchased from the City of Detroit, which is treated surface water drawn from the Detroit River. Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, and several watersheds within the U.S. and Canada. The water is directed to the Springwells and Southwest treatment plants for processing.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and several other governmental agencies performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very 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.

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. This treated water enters Garden City at an average rate of 1.89 million gallons per day, at any one of four connections to the Great Lakes Water Authority. From there it may travel through some of the 110 miles of water main, to one of the approximately 12,000 service connections that make up our water system.

GLWA voluntarily developed and received approval in 2016 for a source water protection program (SWIPP) for the Detroit River intakes. The program includes the following seven elements: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection area, identification of potential source water protection area, management approaches for protection contingency plans, siting of new sources and public participation.

The Garden City Water Department has your drinking water routinely monitored for contaminants, including lead, according to Federal and State laws. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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 environmental protection Agency's safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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.

Garden City and the Great Lakes Water Authority are committed to safeguarding our water supply and delivering the highest quality drinking water to protect public health. Please contact us with any questions or concerns about your water. If you have any questions about this report, the Source Water Assessment report or concerns with your water utility, please contact Kevin Roney at the Department of Public Service, 734-791-1800. It is a goal of the Garden City Department of Public Service to keep our customers informed. We work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap.

## 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 organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791)**.

## Unregulated Contaminants

**No Unregulated Contaminants** were detected during calendar year 2016 testing program. Test results are available upon request. Unregulated contaminants are those for which USEPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps USEPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

## Important Information about Lead

Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in service pipes throughout the system, including in your home or business. The City of Garden City performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses, and can take steps to limit their exposure to lead.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Garden City 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

The tables/charts on pages 4 and 5 show the results of our monitoring for the 2016 year. Lead is tested on a 3 year cycle. The next Lead Testing Program will be in 2017.



**DPW Office Hours:**  
**Monday – Friday,**  
**7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

## SPRINGWELLS WATER TREATMENT PLANT 2016 REGULATED DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLES

The Great Lakes Water Authority monitored for Cryptosporidium in our source water (Detroit River) from our Southwest Water Treatment Plant during 2016. Cryptosporidium was detected twice in our source water samples. A follow-up water sample was collected from the treated water and Cryptosporidium was not found to be present. 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 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. 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, immunocompromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised 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.

### Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap

| Regulated Contaminant | Test Date | Unit | Health Goal MCLG | Allowed Level MCL | Highest Level Detected | Range of Detection | Violation Yes/No | Major Sources in Drinking Water  |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| Fluoride              | 5/10/2016 | ppm  | 4                | 4                 | 0.50                   | n/a                | No               | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate               | 5/10/2016 | ppm  | 10               | 10                | 0.34                   | n/a                | No               | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |

### Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products

| Regulated Contaminant        | Test Date | Unit | Health Goal MCLG | Allowed Level MCL | Highest LRAA | Range of Detection | Violation Yes/No | Major Sources in Drinking Water           |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| (TTHM) Total Trihalomethanes | 2016      | ppb  | n/a              | 80                | 39.5         | 14-58              | No               | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)      | 2016      | ppb  | n/a              | 60                | 17.25        | 7.7-25             | No               | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

### Disinfectant Residuals – Monitoring in Distribution System by Treatment Plant

| Regulated Contaminant   | Test Date      | Unit | Health Goal MRDGL | Allowed Level MRDL | Highest RAA | Quarterly Range of Detection | Violation Yes/No | Major Sources in Drinking Water         |
|-------------------------|----------------|------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Total Chlorine Residual | Jan.-Dec. 2016 | ppm  | 4                 | 4                  | 0.74        | 0.67-0.81                    | No               | Water additive used to control microbes |

### 2016 TURBIDITY—Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water

| 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 |
|--|--|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0.33 NTU                                       | 99.7%  | 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.

### JAN. - MAR. 2016 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  | 0                       | No               | Naturally present in the environment. |
| E. Coli Bacteria        | 0    | A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E. Coli positive. | 0                       | No               | Human waste and animal fecal waste.   |

### 2014 LEAD AND COPPER —Monitoring at Customers' Tap

Lead Testing is on a 3 Year Cycle. Next scheduled Lead Testing Program will be in 2017.

| Regulated Contaminant | Test Date | Unit | Health Goal MCLG | Action Level AL | 90th Percentile Value* | Number of Samples Over AL | Violation Yes/No | Major Source in Drinking Water  |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---|
| Lead                  | 2014      | ppb  | 0                | 15              | 0                      | 0                         | No               | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |
| Copper                | 2014      | ppm  | 1.3              | 1.3             | 0.157                  | 0                         | No               | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; 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      | Treatment Technique  | Typical Source of Contaminants |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 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    |

### SPECIAL MONITORING

| Contaminant  | MCLG | MCL | Level Detected | Source of Contamination     |
|--------------|------|-----|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sodium (ppm) | n/a  | n/a | 4.66           | Erosion of natural deposits |

Collection and sampling result information in the table provided by Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Water Quality Division, ML Semegen.

## SOUTHWEST WATER TREATMENT PLANT 2016 REGULATED DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLES

### Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap

| Regulated Contaminant | Test Date | Unit | Health Goal MCLG | Allowed Level MCL | Highest Level Detected | Range of Detection | Violation Yes/No | Major Sources in Drinking Water  |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| Fluoride              | 5/10/2016 | ppm  | 4                | 4                 | 0.55                   | n/a                | No               | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate               | 5/10/2016 | ppm  | 10               | 10                | 0.53                   | n/a                | No               | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |

### Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products

| Regulated Contaminant        | Test Date | Unit | Health Goal MCLG | Allowed Level MCL | Highest LRAA | Range of Detection | Violation Yes/No | Major Sources in Drinking Water           |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| (TTHM) Total Trihalomethanes | 2016      | ppb  | n/a              | 80                | 39.5         | 14.58              | No               | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)      | 2016      | ppb  | n/a              | 60                | 17.25        | 7.7-25             | No               | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

### Disinfectant Residuals – Monitoring in distribution System by Treatment Plant

| Regulated Contaminant   | Test Date      | Unit | Health Goal MRDGL | Allowed Level MRDL | Highest RAA | Quarterly Range of Detection | Violation Yes/No | Major Sources in Drinking Water         |
|-------------------------|----------------|------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Total Chlorine Residual | Jan.-Dec. 2016 | ppm  | 4                 | 4                  | 0.65        | 0.53-0.76                    | No               | Water additive used to control microbes |

### 2016 TURBIDITY—Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap

| 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 |
|--|--|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0.29 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.

### JAN.-MAR. 2016 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  | 0                       | No               | Naturally present in the environment. |
| E. Coli Bacteria        | 0    | A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E. Coli positive. | 0                       | No               | Human waste and animal fecal waste.   |

### 2014 LEAD AND COPPER —Monitoring at Customers' Tap Lead Testing is on a 3 Year Cycle. Next scheduled Lead Testing Program will be in 2017.

| Regulated Contaminant | Test Date | Unit | Health Goal MCLG | Action Level AL | 90th Percentile Value* | Number of Samples Over AL | Violation Yes/No | Major Source in Drinking Water  |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---|
| Lead                  | 2014      | ppb  | 0                | 15              | 0                      | 0                         | No               | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |
| Copper                | 2014      | ppm  | 1.3              | 1.3             | 0.157                  | 0                         | No               | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; 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      | Treatment Technique  | Typical Source of Contaminants |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 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    |

### RADIONUCLIDES 2014

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

### SPECIAL MONITORING

| Contaminant  | MCLG | Level Detected | Source of Contamination     |
|--------------|------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sodium (ppm) | n/a  | 5.41           | Erosion of natural deposits |

Collection and sampling result information in the table provided by Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Water Quality Division, ML. Semegen

### U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) Monitoring Results—Garden City Test Results

| Unregulated Contaminant | MCLG | MCL | Highest Level Detected | Source of Contamination  |
|-------------------------|------|-----|------------------------|--|
| Chromium (Hexavalent)   | N/A  | N/A | .17 ppb                | Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys; Chromium-6 is used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preservation |
| Chromium, Total         | N/A  | N/A | .25 ppb                | Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys   |
| Molybdenum              | N/A  | N/A | 10.3 ppb               | Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide used as a chemical reagent             |
| Strontium               | N/A  | N/A | 110 ppb                | Naturally-occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions      |
| Vanadium                | N/A  | N/A | .58 ppb                | Naturally-occurring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and a catalyst  |

## KEY TO DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE

| SYMBOL | ABBREVIATION                              | DEFINITION/EXPLANATION  |
|--------|---|---|
| >      | Greater Than                              |   |
| °C     | Celcius                                   | A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.  |
| AL     | Action Level                              | The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  |
| HAA5   | Haloacetic Acids                          | HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.  |
| LRAA   | Locational Running Annual Average         | The average of analytical results for samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four quarters.  |
| 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.                                   |
| MCLG   | Maximum Contaminant Level Goal            | The level of contaminate in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.  |
| 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 Disinfectant 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. |
| n/a    | Not Applicable                            |   |
| ND     | Not Detected                              |   |
| NTU    | Nephelometric Turbidity Units             | Measures the cloudiness of water.   |
| pCi/L  | Picocuries Per Liter                      | A measure of radioactivity.   |
| ppb    | Parts Per Billion<br>(one in one billion) | The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.  |
| ppm    | Parts Per Million<br>(one in one million) | The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram  |
| RAA    | Running Annual Average                    | The average of analytical results for all samples during the previous four quarters.  |
| TT     | Treatment Technique                       | A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.   |
| TTHM   | Total Trihalomethanes                     | Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on total.   |
| µmhos  | Micromhos                                 | Measure of electrical conductance of water  |

### Additional Information

The EPA (Environmental Protection Administration) prescribes regulations to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. These regulations limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water that a public system supplies. The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) regulates bottled water.

### Vulnerability of Some Populations

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 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 Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Educational Information

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

**Our storm drains (catch basins) lead to the Rouge River.**

**REPORT POLLUTERS TO:**

**The Wayne County Department of Environment 24 HOUR HOTLINE**

**– 1-888-223-2363 Or Garden City Department of Public Service**

**Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**(734) 793-1800**

## Definitions and Frequently Asked Questions

### Drinking Water:

#### Why is my water milky/cloudy?

Most often this is due to air that is suspended in the water. This can happen when there is a change in the normal pressure in the water main commonly due to breaks, opening of fire hydrants or a change in the supplied pressure.



#### Why is my water reddish or brown?

Possibilities of this are pipes in the street or your home, or your hot water tank may be rusting. Also, iron, a harmless chemical, may be dissolved in the water. Iron when it comes into contact with air turns reddish brown.

#### Where do I report a broken water main?

Between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. broken water mains may be reported to the Department of Public Service at 793-1800. After hours, broken mains must be called into the Police Department at 793-1730; they can contact a DPS representative to check the problem.

**Sanitary Sewer Main** – That portion of the collection system that transports the sewerage to the County Interceptor. This is Operated and Maintained by the City of Garden City, with pipe sizes ranging from 8" to 60".

**Sanitary Sewer Service** – That portion of piping that runs from a building or structure until it empties into the sewer main. This is owned and maintained by the property owner.

#### My basement is flooding/backing up. Who do I call?

When a homeowner experiences flooding in the basement or sewer backup, the City will send a man out to check the main sewer to make sure that the City lines are not plugged. If the City lines are open, the homeowner will be advised to contact a plumber. In the event the sewer problem occurs after working hours, the Garden City Police Department can be contacted at 793-1730 and they will contact a DPS representative.

#### When the City was cleaning sewers in my neighborhood my toilet gurgled and now there is an odor, why?

The most common reasons for this are:

- Large amounts of material in the main sewer that is being cleaned
- Obstruction or partial blockage in sanitary service, usually roots
- Vent stack obstructed on top of house, possibly a bird nest

If an odor is present after the cleaning, the traps in your home have become dry and will need to be refilled with water. The traps are located at your sinks, shower/bath and floor drains in your basement.

### Trash Day/Brush Considerations

- Cardboard boxes must be broken down, tied and put next to trash toter if it will not fit in toter (preferred)
- There is no need to call in advance for pick-up of large items.
- Department of Public Services provides free cost estimates for brush pick-up for grinding through our chipper. \$40 minimum charge for this service. As an alternative, brush can be cut up and bundled in bundles not exceeding 4 feet in length, with a 40 pound maximum per bundle. No stumps over 40 pounds or root balls accepted.
- Garden City now offers curbside recycling. Call 734-793-1800 for details.

### Storm Drains . . . It's a Direct Connection

Storm drains are found along streets in your neighborhood. Large pipes under the city connect the storm drains to the closest stream or lake. Never dump oil or other waste down the storm drain. Take it to a recycling center instead.

### Household Hazardous Wastes

Common household products often contain chemical ingredients that are potentially harmful to you and are a threat to the Rouge River. These products are called Household Hazardous Wastes. You can help the environment by reducing your usage of these products and disposing of these products during a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Call the DPS at 1-734-793-1800 for the next event date and location.

### Our Lawns Pollute the Rouge

Fertilizers and weed sprays may help our lawns look beautiful, but they can cause problems for the river. When it rains, fertilizers and weed killers are washed off our lawns and into storm drains or streams. Both storm drains and small streams lead to the Rouge River. When fertilizer gets into the river, it causes the plants and algae to grow too much. When these extra plants die and rot, they use the oxygen that fish and other animals need to live. This rotting causes the river to become a smelly place with little fish and wildlife.



**Garden City  
Department of Public Works**

31800 Beechwood  
Garden City, MI 48135

Presort Standard  
Permit #95  
Garden City, MI  
48135-2499

**POSTAL PATRON  
ECR WSS**

**PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT ENCLOSED INFORMATION REGARDING GARDEN CITY  
WATER QUALITY. BUSINESSES, PLEASE POST IN YOUR WORKPLACE.**

*How Can I Get Involved?*

There are many organizations and activities you can become involved with to help the Rouge River.



**Friends of the Rouge** is a grassroots organization with over 800 members who are dedicated to restoring the Rouge River. They participate in a variety of special community projects and an annual Rouge Rescue cleanup, which has removed tons of natural and man-made debris from the river. They also sponsor an education program to teach elementary through high school students about water quality sampling and the importance of the Rouge River.

For information on Friends of the Rouge, call:

Aimee LaLonde-Norman, Executive Director (313) 792-9900



**Rouge RAP Advisory Council (RRAC)** represents all parties interested in the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), which is the long-term clean up plan for the Rouge River. This group is responsible for advising the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on the update and implementation of the Rouge RAP. Six subcommittees address issues of concern: nonpoint source pollution (such as stormwater runoff), onsite sewage disposal, public education, contaminated sites and headwaters issues. Citizens and students are included in RRAC's membership, and anyone may participate in the subcommittees.

For information on the Rouge RAP Advisory Council, call:

Dan Ballnik, Rouge RAP Coordinator (313) 682-2860

A WORLD CLASS EFFORT



BRINGING OUR RIVER BACK TO LIFE

For additional information about the Rouge River, call the **Rouge River**

**Information Line at (313) 792-9900**, or visit our website at

<http://www.therouge.org>

*Thanks for caring enough to repair and protect the Rouge River!*

**City Council**

Randy Walker, Mayor  
Robert Muery, City Manager

Pat Squires, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Jaylee Lynch  
Patricia McKarge

Pam King  
Mark Jacobs

Kevin Roney, DPS Director  
Pat Worosz, DPS Supervisor

**DPW Office Hours:** Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
734-793-1800 After Hours Emergency: 734-793-1730