

# ECOCHATS

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# ECOCHATS

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## Water

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# Did You Know?



Ames has approximately 250 miles of water mains.

In session, ISU's contribution to overall demand is about 600,000 gallons/day.

The next Ames water tower will be constructed at East Lincoln Way & 580<sup>th</sup> Avenue in approximately five years.

# Water Towers



BRET

- Bloomington Road Elevated Tank
- Constructed in 1988
- Began operation in 1989
  - Repainted in 2010
- 175' tall, Holds 2 million gallons
- Fluted Column Steel Tank



MAC

- Mortensen Road and County Line Road
- Constructed in 2002
- Began operation in 2003
- 140' tall, Holds 1 million gallons
- Fluted Column Steel Tank



SAM

- State Avenue and Mortensen Road
- Constructed in 2008
- Began operation in 2009
- 165' tall, Holds 1 million gallons
- Composite Tank

# Water Quality

**CITY OF Ames**

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Government • Departments/Divisions... • Water Pollution Control • Water Treatment Plant

## DRINKING WATER QUALITY DATA

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At the end of each month, the Water Treatment Plant staff run reports on the Water Quality Data averages for the previous month. The data is then posted here:

### Current Water Quality Data for the Month of April 2021

Raw Water Quality	
Non-Carbonate Hardness, ppm	113
Total Hardness, ppm	423
Total Hardness, grains per gallon	24.74
pH	7.35

Treated Water Quality	
Non-Carbonate Hardness, ppm	120
Total Hardness, ppm	170
Total Hardness, grains per gallon	9.94
pH	9.52
Chlorine residual, ppm	2.78
Iron content, ppm	0.02
Fluoride content, ppm	0.73

Bacterial Samples	
Samples Taken	61
Confirmed Positive Samples	0

Water Plant and Laboratory Services staff members analyze many water supply parameters at various times. Some parameters are tested daily, some annually, and some only once every nine years.

[Click here to examine all the drinking water supply characteristics.](#)

The following is further explanatory information regarding water supply analysis and reporting.

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs) or secondary standards) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating

[www.CityofAmes.org/Water](http://www.CityofAmes.org/Water)

## 2021 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

**CITY OF Ames** WATER PLANT 1800 E. 13th Street Ames, IA 50010

Esta página contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. La información que encuentre ayudará a poder evaluar la calidad de su información.

For more information, please visit [www.CityOfAmes.org/Water](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Water) or 515.239.5150

### AT YOUR SERVICE - EVEN IN A DISASTER

The year 2020 brought to light just how critical water and wastewater utilities are in safeguarding our way of life. It also demonstrates the importance of the quiet, unheralded payroll of forward-looking planning.

- Additional groundwater supplies to increase flexibility and prepare for growth in the community.
- Additional standby power sources to increase the reliability of the utility amid a devastating natural disaster.

As the coronavirus pandemic unfolded last year, what was the very first bit of advice you were given to help slow the spread? "Wash your hands frequently."

When the disease struck central Iowa in the middle of August, the Ames water and sewer utilities continued operating unimpacted.

As an ongoing focus on physical and other security measures to protect against intentional malicious acts.

Even actions like cross training our staff to their multiple projects can operate and maintain our treatment facilities provides an enhanced capability to react when something unexpected happens.

When such a time was in the grasp of a severe drought in the fall of 2020, the Ames Water Plant was easily able to meet the community's needs.

It can be difficult to know what the future might bring, or what emergency might arise next. But as Benjamin Franklin once said, "Failing to plan is planning to fail." If there is one lesson we need to hang on to from 2020, it's that we need to continue proactively growing the resiliency of our water systems, and not take them for granted. Failure to do so would have a debilitating impact on our way of life.

The Water Plant's Capital Improvements Plan includes a number of projects intended to continue to make Ames' drinking water system even more resilient to disasters of all types. Planned projects include:

[www.CityofAmes.org/WaterReport](http://www.CityofAmes.org/WaterReport)



# Water Concerns



Water Treatment Plant &  
Administrative Division  
515-239-5150

- Taste
- Smell
- Appearance  
(other than rusty)



Water Meter &  
Laboratory Services  
515-239-5151

- Water Meters
- Low Pressure
- No Water
- Lead



Water Pollution  
Control Facility  
515-232-7423

- Wastewater

# Water Concerns

## Public Works

- Rusty Water
- Hydrant Flushing
- Main Breaks
- Flooding in Streets
- No Water  
(Notice is typically provided)

515-239-5550



# Water Conservation



@AmesWater

## WHEN IN DROUGHT: Best Practices



- Water when the sun is low to minimize evaporation - best in the early mornings or evenings.
- Be precise when watering. Avoid concrete and sidewalks.
- Turn off automatic sprinklers during rainy days.
- Maintain a grass height of 2.5 - 3.5 inches.
- Keep mulch depth below 3 inches to help retain moisture and prevent weeds.



### Break the Habit:

Although drinking water sources in the U.S. are among the safest in the world, our nation is still the largest user of bottled water. Making the switch from bottled water to tap water is better in more ways than one, from cost savings to positive impacts on the environment.

On average, tap water costs \$.004 per gallon while bottled water cost approximately \$11.60 per gallon, making it about 2,900 x more expensive than tap water.



1,500 plastic bottles are used every single second in the U.S.

It is estimated that a single-use plastic water bottle will take between 450 - 1000 years to decompose.

Only 1 in 5 water bottles make it to a recycling plant.



### AVOID Frozen Pipes this Winter with these helpful tips

**Before you go:**

- **Insulate your pipes:** Where pipes are exposed to cold, wrap them with insulation or heat tape. Even fabric or newspaper can help.
- **Open faucets:** Open cabinets or vanity doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- **Keep the heat on:** While you're away, don't shut off your heat! Set thermostats to 65 degrees.
- **Let it go:** Allow a small trickle of water to run. The cost of allowing the water to slip is cheaper than the cost of repairing a





# Rebates

Native Trees

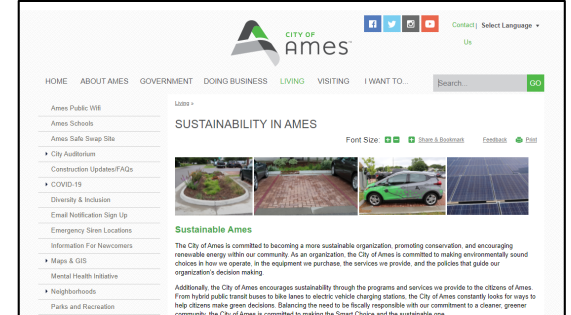
Native Landscaping

Rain Barrels

Rain Gardens

Soil Quality

Composting



## Rebates

To promote conservation of resources, rebates are available for Prime Time Power, residential and commercial lighting, residential new construction, high efficiency air conditioners, high efficiency appliances, residential and commercial photovoltaic (solar) systems, native landscape, rain barrel, rain garden, soil quality, and composting.

[Click here for Smart Energy Residential Rebate Programs](#) (Prime Time Power, lighting, new construction, high efficiency air conditioners, high efficiency appliances, photovoltaic systems)

[Click here for Smart Energy Commercial Rebate Programs](#) (lighting, High efficiency air conditioners, high efficiency appliances, photovoltaic systems)

[Click here for Smart Watersheds Rebate Programs](#) (native landscape, rain barrel, rain garden, soil quality, composting)

[www.CityofAmes.org/SmartWatersheds](http://www.CityofAmes.org/SmartWatersheds)



# Upcoming Events



## EcoChats

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month

July 6 – Watersheds  
August 3 – Electric  
7 p.m.



## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

Sunday, July 4  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



## Rummage Rampage

Friday, July 30 – Saturday, August 7  
Item drop-off only on July 30  
Check website for schedule

# Contact Us!

Water Treatment Plant &  
Administration Division

- 515-239-5150

Water Pollution Control Facility

- 515-232-7423

Water Meter & Laboratory  
Services Divisions

- 515-239-5151

Public Works Utility Maintenance

- 515-239-5550

Utility Customer Service

- 515-239-5120

Questions after 5 PM?

- Contact the Water Treatment Plant at 515-239-5150





