

Delivering Quality Water

The University of Connecticut (UConn) is pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. This report is consistent with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, to report annually the details of where your water comes from, what it contains, and the risks that our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent.

We know how important it is to provide clean, safe drinking water each and every day so our consumers can trust the water being provided to them. The University and its contract operator, New England Water Utility Services (NEWUS), want to assure you that a number of steps are taken in our water treatment and testing so you can have confidence in your water quality.

UConn's 2019 Water Quality Report includes the results of more than 3,500 samples tested at state certified laboratories for more than 90 potential contaminants and water quality parameters. We are pleased to report the water quality results meet state and federal drinking water standards.

The UConn water system's primary sources of water to meet on-campus demands are the gravel-packed wells located near the streambanks of the Fenton and Willimantic rivers. Additionally, the University's well water can now be supplemented, as needed, with water from the Connecticut Water Company's (CWC) Northern-Western water system through an interconnection which feeds into the University's tank at the entrance to campus on Route 195.

Our wellfields provide groundwater that is of very high quality, and we treat the water with low doses of sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH to protect against corrosion. We fully comply with the EPA requirements regarding sampling for lead in drinking water and have provided documentation to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to demonstrate our results.

Like UConn, CWC has comprehensive programs that provide treatment based on the source water quality. Extensive water quality testing is conducted at CWC's sources and within their distribution system and the water quality meets state and federal water quality standards.

We are pleased that the years of planning have enabled the University to ensure an adequate quantity of pure drinking water while making efficient use of available resources.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. If you have questions concerning the drinking water quality results, please call, week days between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., the University's Facilities Operations Center at 860-486-3113, or the project manager at NEWUS, the contract operator subsidiary of CWC, at 860-486-1081.

Regulatory Oversight

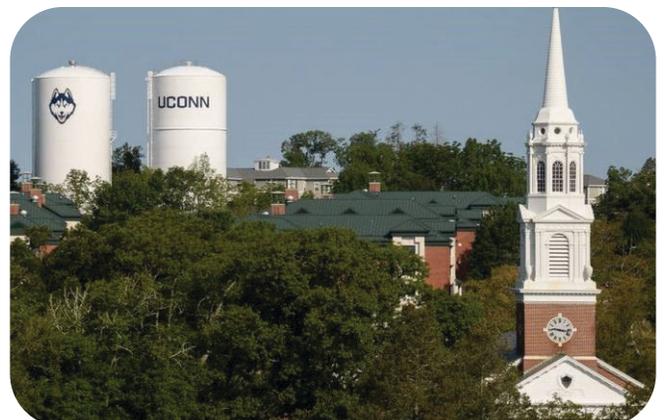
To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and the DPH establish and enforce regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in the water provided by public water systems.

Water quality testing is an ongoing process, and the frequency of testing for each parameter is prescribed by drinking water regulations. Samples from the University and CWC water systems are tested regularly at state-certified laboratories to ensure compliance with state and federal water quality standards. Water samples are collected for water quality analysis from our wells, from entry points into our systems, and from sample locations within our distribution system. Due to testing schedules, not all of these tests were required during 2019, but the most recent test data is shown in the table located on page 3.

Meeting the Water Supply Needs of the Area

The University continues to have an ample supply of high quality drinking water to meet the needs of its current users. In addition, it has over 7.6 million gallons of water storage capacity to meet all domestic, process, and fire protection needs. Large booster pumps help maintain adequate system pressures, and emergency generator power ensures continued operation during electric power outages.

A Water System Advisory Group with representatives from the Town of Mansfield, UConn, nearby communities, and other stakeholders, meets regularly to review local projects and ensure communication and collaboration relating to CWC's system and requests for water service in the area. The group also makes recommendations about best management practices, including water conservation programs, and the company works with the Advisory Group to implement such programs.



University Water Towers

System Description

The University owns and operates the Main Campus water system in Storrs and the Depot Campus section in Mansfield. Although the Main and Depot systems are interconnected, the source of water within each system can vary.

The Main Campus receives water from gravel-packed wells located in the Fenton River and Willimantic River Wellfields. In addition, supplemental supplies are now available from CWC's Northern-Western system. The Depot Campus receives water only from the Willimantic River Wellfield. UConn's wells do not pump directly from the Fenton and Willimantic Rivers; rather, the wells are located near the rivers and pump groundwater from underground aquifers.

As groundwater moves very slowly through the fine sands that make up these aquifers, the water is naturally filtered. The result is water of excellent chemical, physical, and bacteriological quality pumped from each wellfield. The only water treatment added is sodium hydroxide for pH adjustment and corrosion control, and chlorine for disinfection.

Water Quality

Sources of tap water and bottled water include reservoirs, ponds, wells, and springs. As water travels over the land surface and/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 human activity, including:

- viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, livestock and wildlife;
- salts and metals, which can be natural or may result from storm water runoff and farming;
- pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff or lawn care;
- organic chemicals, which originate from industrial processes, gas stations, storm water runoff and septic systems; and
- radioactive substances that can be naturally occurring.



To ensure safe tap water, EPA prescribes limits on these substances in water provided by public water systems. The presence of these contaminants does not mean that there is a health risk. The University complies with EPA and DPH water quality requirements to ensure the quality of the water delivered to consumers.

The distribution system is flushed periodically throughout the year to remove both air and naturally occurring minerals from the mains, helping to maintain and improve water quality. This scheduled system maintenance is a part of the efforts to deliver the best possible water quality.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rule (Stage 2 DBP rule)

The EPA's Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) requires all water systems to evaluate for the potential for producing elevated levels of certain "disinfection byproducts" that have potential adverse health effects. These chemical compounds can be produced by the reaction of disinfecting chemicals with naturally occurring chemical compounds found in the water.

Water quality test results over eight consecutive quarterly sampling periods showed that none of the samples contained levels of disinfection byproducts in excess of allowable levels. Because of these favorable sample results both the Depot and Main Campus water systems have been designated in compliance with the DBPR.

Health Information

Annual Water Quality Reports are required to contain public health information for certain contaminants and compounds, even if the levels detected in the system were less than the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) established for those parameters. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and the Federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on reducing the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

COPPER & LEAD. The University currently meets regulatory requirements for both lead and copper. Lead and copper samples were collected in 2017. The 90th percentiles for both lead and copper were below the EPA Action Level. Nonetheless, the University believes it is important to provide its customers with the information regarding lead and copper. (see page four)

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a large group of man-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used around the world since the 1940s for many industrial and consumer purposes including the coating of fabrics, nonstick cookware, food packaging, and firefighting foam.

These chemicals can accumulate over time and have been found in both the environment and the human body. They do not break down easily in the environment or the human body and are sometimes called "forever chemicals".

Of these chemicals, the most extensively produced and studied have been PFOA and PFOS.

At this time, the EPA and regulators in Connecticut and states across the country are working to develop appropriate standards for these chemicals in drinking water.

Water Quality Testing

The results of tests conducted on water samples for regulated compounds for our Main and Depot systems as well as information on the water from CWC's Northern-Western system are summarized in the following tables. While most of the monitoring was conducted in 2019, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the concentrations are expected to be relatively constant. If levels were tested prior to 2019, the year is identified in parentheses.

As required by the EPA and the DPH, the University also periodically tests for "unregulated contaminants." Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. The last required samples for those unregulated compounds were collected in October 2014 with all sample results below detection levels.

In addition, since UConn's water comes from groundwater wells and given our water system's treatment capabilities, UConn's water supply is newly subject to the DPH's "Ground Water Rule" requiring routine tests for *e. coli* bacteria. UConn tests each active well on a monthly basis for the presence of *e. coli*. There have been no detections.

University of Connecticut Water System

The 2019 water test results include the results of the University's system and CWC's Northern-Western system interconnection. The interconnection began actively flowing in December 2016, at which time CWC became a supplemental source of supply for the University.

DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL								
Analyte	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Range of Detection		Sample Year	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0	1.6	2019	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

INORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Analyte	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detection		Sample Year	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	ND	2.5	2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.006	0.407	2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	ppm	250	NA	7.2	86.8	2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	ND	0.73	2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.02	4.419	2019	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer
Nitrite	ppm	1	1	ND	ND	2019	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer
Selenium	ppb	50	50	ND	1	2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	ppm	NL=>28	NA	8.8	25.8	2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	ppm	NA	250	5.7	83.8	2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate:

The University of Connecticut is in compliance with the EPA's standard of less than 10 ppm for nitrate in drinking water. However, you should know that a nitrate level in drinking water above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you may want to ask for advice from your health care provider.

RADIONUCLIDES								
Analyte	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detection		Sample Year	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Net Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	0	ND	4	2017 - 2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	pCi/L	5	0	ND	1.29	2017 - 2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	ppb	30	0	ND	ND	2017 - 2019	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Radon	pCi/L	NA	NA	ND	235	2017 - 2018	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits

What is Radon:

There is currently no federal drinking water standard for radon and it is not clear whether radon that is ingested (i.e. taken through the mouth) contributes to cancer or other adverse health conditions. EPA is considering a standard of no more than 4,000 pCi/L in water, though the final EPA standard may be different. As more information becomes available, the University of Connecticut will take appropriate measures as may be necessary. Radon is a colorless, tasteless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that may be present in rock, soil, groundwater and air. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can enter homes from tap water during showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a very small portion of the total radon in indoor air. Approximately only 1 part in 10,000 of radon in water will move into the air through these normal household activities. If you are concerned about radon in your home, you may wish to test the air. Testing is inexpensive and easy. For additional information, call DPH at 860-509-7367 or EPA's Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

MICROBIOLOGICAL							
Analyte	MCL	MCLG	Detected in Water System		Sample Year	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source
Total Coliforms	Not to exceed 5% of monthly samples **		Absent		2019	Yes	Naturally present in environment
<i>E. coli</i>	See below †	0	Absent		2019	Yes	
Turbidity	TT >5 NTU	0	0.06	2.93	2019	Yes	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon	TT (compliance ratio ≥1)	0	Compliance Ratio = 1.6		2019	Yes	Naturally present in environment

** Total Coliform

This report reflects compliance with the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) issued April 1, 2016. The RTCR requires water systems to continue to monitor for coliform contamination, and replaced the monthly MCL for total coliform with a TT for total coliform. The TT dictates that when coliform contamination exceeds a specified frequency, water systems must conduct an assessment of the system to identify and correct any potential routes of contamination in order to remain in compliance with Drinking Water Standards.

† *E. coli*

Any routine sample that shows the presence of total coliform triggers repeat samples that must be analyzed for total coliform and *E. coli*. If *E. coli* is found in any repeat sample, the system is considered to be in violation of the MCL.

Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS									
Analyte	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detection		LRAA	Sample Year	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	NA	9.5	32.9	29.05	2019	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	ND	12.2	4.7	2019	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection

LEAD AND COPPER									
Analyte	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detection		90 th %ile value	Sample Year	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Lead	ppb	AL = 15	0	ND	3.8	1.0	2017	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
All 30 lead samples were BELOW Action Level.									
Copper	ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.004	0.184	0.122	2017	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Educational Information about Lead and Copper:

The University of Connecticut believes it is important to provide you with information about the sources of lead and copper in drinking water and the health effects associated with them. The primary source of lead and copper in tap water is household plumbing, and plumbing can vary from house to house within the same neighborhood. For information on the levels of lead and copper detected in your drinking water system, please refer to the table above.

What is lead:

Major sources of lead in drinking water are corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits. Health Effects: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. 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, please contact Facilities Operations Center at 860-486-3113 or the project manager at NEWUS, at 860-486-1081. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline> or www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What is copper:

Major sources of copper in drinking water are corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, and leaching from wood preservatives. Health Effects: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. Anyone with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. If you are concerned about elevated lead or copper levels, you may wish to have your water tested. Running your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before use will significantly reduce the levels of lead and copper in the water. Additional information is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, please contact Facilities Operations Center at 860-486-3113 or the project manager at NEWUS, at 860-486-1081. Running your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before use will significantly reduce the levels of lead and copper in the water. Additional information is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE 3 (UCMR 3)

EPA continually evaluates its drinking water standards to protect public health. As required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, once every five years EPA issues a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. This monitoring provides a basis for potential future regulatory actions to protect public health.

The University conducted the required sampling and analysis between 2013 -2014 under the UCMR 3. The table below shows which of the unregulated contaminants were detected:

UCMR 3 parameters have no standards and are being evaluated for potential future regulation		
Contaminant	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorate (ppb)	ND - 110	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chromium (ppb)	ND - 0.37	Erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	ND - 0.32	Erosion of natural deposits
Molybdenum (ppb)	ND - 2.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Strontium (ppb)	ND - 240	Erosion of natural deposits
Vanadium (ppb)	ND - 2.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Radon (pCi/L)	ND - 1856	Erosion of natural deposits

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AL = Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average: The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous 4 calendar quarters. The LRAA is used for direct comparison to the MCL.

MCL = 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.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

NA = Not Applicable

ND = Not Detected

NL = Notification Level: There is no MCL for sodium. However, the Connecticut Department of Public Health requires that customers be notified if sodium levels exceed 28 ppm.

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: A measure of water clarity.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) This is equivalent to one second in 11.5 days.

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) This is equivalent to one second in 32 years.

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L) This is equivalent to one second in 32,000 years.

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

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

90th %ile = 90th percentile value: The calculated value that is equal to or greater than 90 percent of the individual sample concentrations for the water system. The 90th percentile value is used for direct comparison to the AL.

Special Considerations:

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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



Managing Demand

Over the past 10+ years, UConn has made major investments in leak detection and repair in order to reduce water losses from our transmission and distribution systems. Also, extensive outreach continues to be done to inform our students, staff, and off-campus customers of the importance of water conservation. During much of that time the result of these investments and efforts had been a year-to-year reduction in water use, or at least sustained levels of water use, despite the fact that the service population was growing little-by-little.

The most notable reduction in potable water demand was the result of the University's Reclaimed Water Facility (RWF). Since the summer of 2013, the RWF has provided treated non-potable water to UConn's utility plant for make-up water for steam production, process cooling for the heat-and-power producing turbines, and chilled water used for air conditioning in many campus buildings.

Additionally, reclaimed water was used in lieu of potable water in a process at the wastewater treatment plant. The reclaimed water facility produced 121,760,177 gallons or 333,591 gallons per day (gpd) on average in 2019.

The Tech Park's Innovation Partnership Building and Engineering Science Building use reclaimed water for toilet flushing and meeting their cooling needs. By substituting processed wastewater for drinking water for these uses, the University expects to save at least 44,000 gpd of potable water during the cooling season.

UConn has ambitions to further reduce our potable water usage through other reclaimed water applications, namely irrigation.

UConn has been collaboratively working with DEEP and DPH on a permitting strategy. A permit package is being drafted and we are hopeful it will be in place for future irrigation seasons. An ongoing effort to repair/replace steam and condensate return pipe has also shown a water savings at the University's Central Utility Plant.



*Innovative Partnership Building
on Discovery Drive*

Emergency Notification

UConn and its contract operator, NEWUS, have established a notification system to alert its customers of water supply interruptions. These notifications will be sent when water is planned to be temporarily unavailable due to construction or other improvements or during emergencies such as a broken water main. UConn on-campus consumers are notified through the Building & Emergency Contact (B&EC) system. This enables an email to be sent to the listed contacts of the buildings expected to be affected by the outage. Off-campus customers are notified through CWC's emergency notification system. Notifications will include as much information as possible, including the expected duration of the outage, if known, and any special instructions.

In order for us to promptly notify our customers, it is important that our contact information for you is complete and up to date. Employees can check their B&EC contact information by accessing www.beclist.uconn.edu using their NET ID. Off-campus customers who wish to update their contact information, please call 1-800-286-5700, send an email to customerservice@ctwater.com, or visit www.ctwater.com/notification.

Infrastructure Investment and Reliability

As part of our commitment to maintaining water quality and service, we committed over approximately \$280,000 to water system improvements in 2019. These expenditures have funded upgrades to the wells, storage and distribution with the following improvements made in 2019:

- The remaining two Willimantic wells were inspected, pumps were rehabilitated and/or replaced.
- Repairs to Willimantic treatment tanks, Fenton treatment tanks and associated piping to improve operational effectiveness and maximize the serviceable life of the tank.
- On-Campus metering program which includes inspection, repair and/or replacement of meters to account for demand and reduce unaccounted water.
- Well building pump vibration inspection and maintenance for Fenton, Willimantic, High Head and Towers Booster Station.
- The control valves which modulate pressure and flow were rebuilt in conjunction with replacement of a production meter.



*A typical University of Connecticut
Well Facility*

Additionally, the water system (tanks, pumps, equipment, etc.) will be included in UConn's new asset management system to assist with reliability and preventative maintenance.

A comprehensive leak detection and fire hydrant survey was done and concluded that there were no damaged hydrants or system leaks found during the inspection.

Source Protection

The University actively protects its wells, wellfields, and the Fenton and Willimantic Rivers, which are valuable water resources. Pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), the University undertakes Environmental Impact Evaluations for construction projects based on their size, location, cost or other factors. This process, administered through the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM), provides state agencies, the town of Mansfield, environmental



Willimantic River

organizations, and interested citizens an opportunity to participate in the review process on a project regarding its potential environmental impact. The University also cooperates with Windham Water Works regarding watershed inspections on the Main Campus. These inspections are designed to protect the Fenton River Wellfield and the Fenton River, as well as the downstream reservoir that serves the Windham Water system. The University utilizes its aquifer mapping information to delineate the areas of groundwater recharge for its wellfields. This technical evaluation, required by DEEP, shows the critical areas of direct recharge that must be protected from certain development. DPH, in conjunction with DEEP, maintains Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) reports on the Fenton River and Willimantic River wells. These reports evaluate potential threats of contamination to our wells. The University's wellfields have an Overall Susceptibility Rating of "LOW," the best possible rating. To ensure continued source protection, however, the University will remain vigilant in protecting all of its water supply sources in the years to come. For more information regarding the SWAP report, visit the DPH's Web site at www.ct.gov/dph.

Water Usage

Overall, the total potable water usage in 2019 decreased compared to 2018 likely due to a slight decrease in growth in service population. From 2005 to 2019, the average daily demand on the UConn water system has decreased from 1.49 million gallon per day (mgd) to .75 mgd. While the on-campus service population increased by nearly 17 percent over that time, the average daily water demand decreased by nearly 50 percent.

To accomplish that reduction, the University made many water system changes to the infrastructure and operations, which has helped to increase overall water use efficiency. We continue to build on the progress made in previous years by renewing our program to replace water fixtures in campus buildings with water-saving devices, and the University remains diligent about reducing wasted water through routine leak detection and repair.

Over the years, several of the older buildings on campus have been renovated with water-conserving fixtures. However, a robust program to retrofit fixtures in all buildings began in earnest in 2014 and continued throughout 2015. All residence halls faucet aerators and shower heads have been replaced with low flow fixtures, and have had a reduction of as much as 50,000 gallons per day has been seen as a result.

In addition to reclaimed water and other improvements made to the water system, the cooperation from our consumers about conserving water certainly helped contribute to our overall drop in water usage. We appreciate your efforts to conserve water when we issue our conservation requests and throughout the year.

Water Conservation

While our water system does not pump water directly from the local rivers, it does extract groundwater from local aquifers that help sustain them. Extended dry weather naturally reduces streamflow which, in turn, may stress fish and other biotic stream habitat. That's why we respond with conservation measures of our own and request our customers to conserve water during these periods. UConn and NEWUS appreciate your cooperation and encourage the wise and efficient use of water at all times by applying the following tips:

- Install water-efficient fixtures and equipment, such as water-saving shower heads and toilets.
- Take shorter showers.
- Turn off faucets and showers when not in use.
- Wash full loads in washing machines/dishwashers.
- Limit running water in food preparation.
- Limit outdoor watering to early mornings or evenings, and do not water on windy days.
- Mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
- Limit running water time when washing a car, or use a car wash.

Repair leaks:

- In UConn dorms, promptly report leaks to your Resident Advisor.
- In other campus buildings, to report leaks to Facilities Operations, use mobility through AIM or the myuconn app or call 860-486-3113.

