

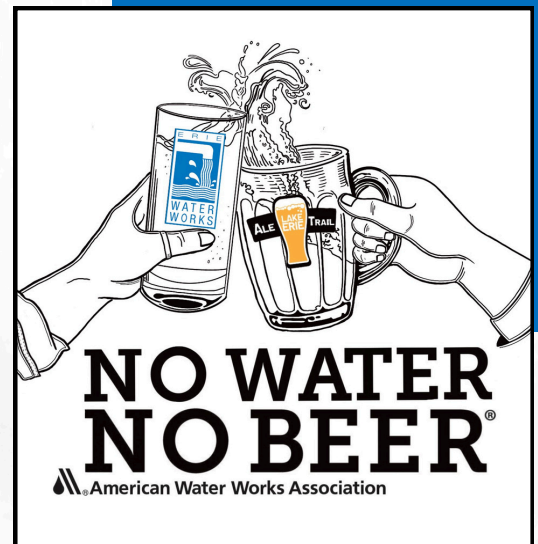


Erie Water Works Newsplash

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Dear Erie Water Works Customers,

Summer has finally arrived, inviting us to enjoy the fresh air, take leisurely walks, and bask in the sunny days and breathtaking sunsets. For many, summer is the best time to be in the Erie region, and one of the key reasons residents and visitors can savor the season is our incredible water source, Lake Erie. Presque Isle State Park, the most visited park in Pennsylvania, offers countless opportunities to enjoy Lake Erie's waters. Whether you're watching the waves crash, swimming, jet-skiing, boating, kayaking, or simply soaking your feet, none of it would be possible without water. In fact, nothing happens without water. Water is the lifeblood of our community—essential for our survival. Remarkably, the human body is composed of approximately 60% water. Water is a fundamental part of us!



At Erie Water Works, our dedicated employees work tirelessly to ensure that water flows continuously, no matter what challenges we face. As consumers, we sometimes take water for granted, using it effortlessly to cook, clean ourselves, wash dishes, and do laundry. Imagine trying to complete these tasks without it. We certainly aren't doing them with bottled water, which cannot compare in value as it costs between 150 to 2,500 times more than Erie Water Works tap water. I challenge you to name another product where consumers willingly pay such a premium for an inferior option. Moreover, the single-use plastic bottles, seldom recycled, contribute significantly to the prevalence of microplastics in water sources across the United States. It's important to remember that anything that goes down the storm drain ends up in Lake Erie—our precious water source. We must protect our source and be mindful of what we put into it!

Our local businesses and industries rely on high quality water for consumption, manufacturing processes, and public fire protection. Take for example, the fantastic local craft breweries that are part of the Lake Erie Ale Trail lakeeriealetrail.com. They rely on pristine water to create their delicious artisan beverages. No Water, No Beer. This concept applies universally and I welcome everyone to fill in the blank: No Water, No ____ (Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, etc.) Please think about that next time you use our most precious resource.

Erie Water Works is proud to be your regional water supplier, providing World-Class Water and First-Class Service. Cheers to Water!

Chief Executive Officer

Help Protect Our Water System!

Please help Erie Water Works and your community keep the water system safe by looking out for unauthorized fire hydrant use. Fire hydrants should only be used by firefighters and other emergency personnel, water works employees, and those who have applied for and obtained a permit in advance. Please call 814-870-8000 between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in order to obtain a fire hydrant use application and permit. Proper use of a hydrant for non-emergency purposes includes the installation of a meter and backflow preventer, which ensures that the water system is protected and that the cost of the water is accounted for. Unprotected use of the hydrant may lead to a potential cross-connection that could result in drinking water becoming contaminated and unsafe. Pictured below is a fire hydrant with the necessary meter and backflow preventer. Improper, unauthorized, or unpermitted use of a fire hydrant will result in fines and legal action.

Please report any suspicious activity or damage to a fire hydrant by calling 814-870-8087, 24 hours a day.



LEAD TALK

The Erie Water Works has maintained full compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule, passed in 1991. Prior to 2011 when Congress passed the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, plumbing products like pipe, fittings and fixtures such as faucets were permitted to contain up to 8% lead. Because lead is likely present in some form within the plumbing systems of our customers, we successfully manage lead by providing optimized corrosion control treatment to prevent it from leaching from plumbing components into the water.

Since 2004, Erie Water Works crews have replaced over 5,800 lead gooseneck service connections, averaging 290 per year. This critical work represents an investment of \$18 million (M) in the past 20 years. Between 2022 and 2027, an additional \$49M will be invested to remove all 7,500 remaining lead goosenecks from the public water system. The majority of the funding was provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes \$40M in grants and \$9M in low interest loans. The Erie Water Works has received more funding to eradicate lead pipe than every City in Pennsylvania other than Pittsburgh. Our resolve to "Get the Lead Out" has never been so strong.

The Erie Water Works 2023 Water Quality Report is now available and can be accessed at www.eriewater.org/resources/wqr2023.erie

To have a paper copy mailed to you please call 814-870-8000 ext. 299

Community Corner

Many EWW team members donate \$2.00 each Friday to wear jeans. Contributions stay local and go to a variety of worthy non-profit organizations in our community. During the second quarter of 2024 a \$500 donation was made to Groundwork Erie.

Groundwork Erie develops programming focused on placemaking, urban agriculture, and climate resilience. Learn more at groundworkerie.com.

The Erie Water Works is proud to support Groundwork Erie as they work to help protect our water source, Lake Erie. At left, Craig Palmer presents the check to Dr. Aaron Kerr at the Erie Ale Works Benevolent Beers event on April 4, 2024.

