

News and Updates from
Des Moines Water Works

JULY
2022

H₂O LINE

THINK DOWNSTREAM

Do you own land in our watersheds?

If you own farm land in the Raccoon or Des Moines River Watersheds, you could hold the key to cleaner water in our rivers, lakes and streams.

Conservation practices such as saturated buffers at tile outlets, cover crops to hold soil in place, and wetlands or buffers along streams can keep soil, chemicals and manure out of our raw source waters.

Des Moines Water Works is partnering with groups such as Iowa State University Extension, Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI), Peoples Company and Landus to offer opportunities for landowners to learn about watershed protection:

Landowners Coaching Program: A free, virtual meeting with PFI and Peoples to learn how to improve productivity, soil health and water quality, and for advice and resources about achievable next steps. Participants will meet with a farm manager for a one-on-one consultation on their farm's productivity, soil health and tenant farming practices.

Learn more: <https://practicalfarmers.org/programs/landowners/>. Email: martha@practicalfarmers.org.

Ag Day in the Park: An in-person networking and educational opportunity to learn how to protect our watersheds and hear first-hand from a landowner and farmer about practices they have implemented and landowner-tenant relationships. The event starts with a noon luncheon, followed by speakers and networking with experts who can help you make water-friendly decisions about your farm ground that will also increase your return on investment. End the day with a tour of Des Moines

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DMWW considers new PFAS advisory levels

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 15 set new interim Health Advisory Levels for four per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are types of manufactured chemicals used in products that resist heat, oil, stains and water.

Des Moines Water Works recognizes you might have questions about what this means. Here's what we know and are doing:

What are DMWW and the EPA recommending to consumers?

Neither the EPA, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources nor Des Moines Water Works recommends consumers stop using tap water.

What are the new health advisories?

- The EPA's new interim health advisory levels are 0.004 parts per trillion for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and 0.02 parts per trillion for perfluorooctanoic sulfonate (PFOS). For perspective, 1.0 parts per trillion is equal to 1 drop in 500,000 barrels of water.

- In 2016, the EPA first established a Drinking Water Health Advisory for PFAS at 70 parts per trillion. Currently, scientific equipment can only detect PFAS compounds at 2 parts per trillion, so the new advisories are below the abilities of available testing.

What are DMWW's PFAS levels?

DMWW's finished water continues to meet all regulatory requirements. DMWW discovered the first detectable levels of PFOS in its finished drinking water from samples taken Feb. 25, 2021. Samples since then have read "No Detection" up to 3 parts per trillion – less than the previous advisory but higher than the new interim advisory levels.

Learn more on the next page



Des Moines Water Works Lab Supervisor Jeff Mitchell takes a water sample from Frink Creek last fall. Sampling has detected levels of PFAS in this creek.



“Water” We Up To: DMWW News In Brief

Stowe Water Academy graduates 19:

The 2022 William G. Stowe Citizen Water Academy graduated 19 current and emerging leaders in our community. Participants learned about



the source water quality challenges Des Moines Water Works faces in order to provide safe, clean drinking water to 600,000 central Iowans. They heard first-hand stories from those whose lives are affected by the importance of clean water and the efforts some in our watersheds and state are taking to help improve water quality. They also created their own clean water policy, because in the end, it will take policy changes at the state and federal level to restore and protect the rivers, lakes and streams we use for source water.

DMWW begins diversity and inclusion study:

Des Moines Water Works seeks to become a more diverse, inclusive and equitable organization. The drinking water utility has hired Keen Independent Research to help it enhance its current efforts and seek input from the community.

Opportunities for community members and customers to be involved include becoming a member of the Community Advisory Group or sharing their ideas through these venues:

- Study hotline: 515-329-0550
- Website: <https://keenindependent.com/desmoineswaterworksdei>

Information-gathering will take place through the end of 2022. It is important to hear the stories and experiences of our customers and the public, so please consider sharing your ideas.

Diversity and Inclusion is a core value DMWW has established for the utility. To learn more about DMWW’s core values, go to www.dmww.com and click on “about us.” Select “strategic plan.”

What is DMWW doing about PFAS?

Our scientists have been proactively testing for PFAS since the utility learned that PFAS compounds were found in the stormwater outfall leaving the Iowa Air National Guard base at the Des Moines International Airport. This runoff enters Frink Creek, which flows through Des Moines Water Works Park on its way to the Raccoon River.

We recognize the level of PFAS in our monitoring is higher than the EPA’s new health advisory levels. That’s why research is a priority, and we’re trying to learn more.

DMWW continues to work closely with regulators at the EPA and the Iowa DNR, as well as keeping in close touch with our Congressional

What are PFAS compounds: PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) is a category of manmade chemicals designed to resist heat, oil, stains and water in items such as Teflon, Gore-Tex and even pizza boxes and fast-food wrappers. It is also found in certain firefighting foam used at airports and on military installations. During production and use, it can migrate into soil, water and air. Most PFAS do not break down and remain in the environment.

delegations in hopes of bringing focus and solutions to addressing PFAS in drinking water supplies.

Follow a lawn watering schedule this summer

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
EVEN		ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD

Des Moines Water Works reminds all customers to use water wisely and practice responsible outdoor water use that includes following a lawn watering schedule.

To reduce the peak load on water utilities during summer months, customers are asked to voluntarily set their lawn watering systems to avoid Mondays and water the other days

based on their home address. The suggested lawn watering schedule applies to all spray irrigation systems for businesses and homes:

- Do not water on Mondays
- Do not water between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses water Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Odd-numbered addresses water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

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Water Works Park and its facilities. Registration is available on the PFI website.

Cover Crops Field Day: Iowa Learning Farms will co-host a prairie strips and cover crops field day from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Lauridsen Amphitheater in Des Moines Water Works Park. Contact

Tim Youngquist at 712-269-0592 or timyoung@iastate.edu to attend or for more information.

If you are a DMWW customer who owns farm ground, we want to hear from you.

Contact External Affairs Manager Jennifer Terry: terry@dmww.com.

