

News and Updates from  
Des Moines Water Works

**JANUARY  
2023**

# H2O LINE

**THINK DOWNSTREAM**

## “Water” We Up To: Des Moines Water Works News In Brief



**Apply now for our Clean Water Support Program:** Des Moines Water Works wants to elevate other water quality voices in our community who help support our core value of Stewardship by supporting their project or event in 2023.

We're looking for groups and organizations that not only support clean water, but demonstrate our commitment to our team, customers and our community by empowering others and embracing diversity. We will select a handful of programs to receive financial support for their project, event or campaign. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28, 2023.

In 2022, we supported a clean-up along the Raccoon River by students at Drake University (pictured here); daypacks and water bottles for the Iowa Children's Water Festival; Gateway Dance Theatre's Summer Arts and Science Intensive camp focused on water; and the DMWW Think Downstream Award at the Iowa Environmental Council's Pro H2O event.

Learn more here: [https://www.dmww.com/about\\_us/cws\\_information.php](https://www.dmww.com/about_us/cws_information.php)

## Winterize Your Home

Dropping temperatures can bring the threat of frozen pipes. Following these tips will prevent your pipes from freezing.

- ❄ Know where the main water shut-off valve is in case of a frozen pipe emergency. For many, this is in the basement
- ❄ Determine whether any water pipes pass through unheated areas of your home such as a crawlspace or garage
- ❄ Protect exposed pipes by wrapping them in pre-molded foam rubber sheets, heat tape or fiber glass insulation
- ❄ If your meter is outside in a meter pit, ensure the lid is tightly sealed
- ❄ Keep your thermostat on at least 55 degrees to prevent freezing
- ❄ Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors on extremely cold nights to allow warmer air to circulate around the pipes
- ❄ Let cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes – even a trickle can help prevent pipes from freezing because water will be flowing through the pipe
- ❄ Collect the water in a bucket to reuse it

**B**aby, it's cold outside! Winter weather in Iowa brings its challenges, several of which are water-related. Follow these tips to help keep your home or business safe from the threat of frozen pipes.

If you have optional HomeServe water service line coverage, frozen water lines are covered. If you are interested in learning about HomeService, visit: [www.dmwaterplans.com](http://www.dmwaterplans.com) or call 1(855) 695-1493.

*Learn tips like these and other information more frequently by following us on social media:*

**Facebook and LinkedIn:** *Des Moines Water Works*

**Instagram and Twitter:** *@dsmh2o*

**Des Moines  
Water Works**  
Water You Can Trust for [Life](#)

# DMWW develops lead service line replacement plan

**L**ead in drinking water has been in the news lately. You may be wondering what that means for your tap water.

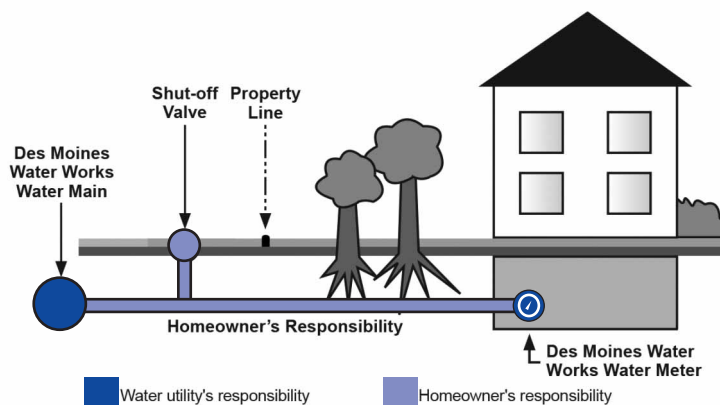
Des Moines Water Works wants to ensure our customers' water is safe to drink not only today but well into our future. For years, we have monitored our water as it leaves the treatment plants and from faucets at residences and businesses in the community. We are unaware of any elevated levels of lead in drinking water in our service area. In addition, for many years and have provided free water testing for lead to customers whose property meets certain date requirements.

While our water is safe, replacing lead service lines, which are owned by the property owner, is an important community-wide health concern. That's why DMWW has been meeting with officials from the City of Des Moines, Polk County,

Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Finance Authority to understand how, as a community, we can tackle the replacement of possibly 20,000 lines – starting with those who can least afford to do so.

We also want you to be informed with factual information and know your water is safe to drink. Let's start with this graphic. It identifies your service line responsibility.

Homes built before 1940 are ones in which lead service lines and plumbing could be present because lead was the most commonly used material prior to that date.



We recognize you might have questions. Learn more: [https://www.dmww.com/water\\_service/service\\_lines/lead\\_in\\_drinking\\_water\\_faq.php](https://www.dmww.com/water_service/service_lines/lead_in_drinking_water_faq.php)

You can also search your home's address: [https://www.dmww.com/water\\_service/service\\_lines/lead\\_lookup.php](https://www.dmww.com/water_service/service_lines/lead_lookup.php)

## Meet Board of Trustees member: Alec Davis

**A**lec Davis is our newly appointed member to the Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees. His term runs through March 31, 2027. Read more about him here:



**Where's home?** I grew up in Des Moines, graduated from Hoover High School, and then lived in Chicago, Milwaukee and Iowa City, before returning to Des Moines in 2018.

**Tell us about your work:** I'm part of a company that operates restaurants including Dough Co. in the Drake neighborhood and also the Des Moines Biergarten at Des Moines Water Works Park.

**Why the DMWW Board?** Water is a very important issue in our state for a lot of reasons. We have a number of challenges. I hope my role is to continue to push our community and organizations for best practices and to recognize water's importance in how we live our day-to-day lives, for our business, as a natural resource, and in our ability to promote the outdoors and tourism in our state.

## DMWW, UI research team partner in tap water study

**A** University of Iowa research team has received a grant to partner with Des Moines Water Works to assess perceptions of tap water in Des Moines.

The study will help DMWW better understand how to serve Des Moines residents more equitably. It will also provide insight into how to more effectively convey the safety of tap water and the financial and environmental benefits of consuming tap water over bottled or kiosk water.

UI researchers Dr. Samantha Zuhlke, assistant professor in the School of Planning and Public Affairs, and Dr. David Cwiertny, professor of civil and environmental engineering, will

lead the study.

The UI research team is one of 56 from across the country that received a \$50,000 Civic Innovation Challenge award from the National Science Foundation.

During the six-month study, the UI research team will interview Des Moines residents and analyze patterns in commercial water consumption to learn values, beliefs and behaviors about drinking tap water versus bottled water.

A gallon of water from DMWW costs less than half a penny per gallon. A gallon of water from a commercial water kiosk in Des Moines costs 25 cents per gallon.