

ANNUAL WATER Quality Report 2024

Data From 2023



**TOWN OF
WELLINGTON**

Public Water System ID: CO0135838

Esta es información
importante. Si no la
pueden leer,
necesitan que alguien
se la traduzca.



Mayor Calar Chaussee breaking ground for the Water Treatment Plant Expansion in July, 2022.



A Message From Public Works

Deputy Director Meagan Smith

We are pleased to present the 2023 Drinking Water Quality Report results. The priority of our team is producing safe water that meets the needs of our community today while preparing for changing regulations and future demand.

As a utility, 2023 brought many changes to the Water Treatment Facility, including substantial progress towards completion of the expanded drinking water facility and kick-off of a significant rehabilitation project for the potable water storage tanks at the facility. As a reminder, construction on the expansion project began in April 2022, with final completion scheduled for August 2024. The expansion project will increase the Town's treatment capacity from 2.0 million gallons per day (MGD) to 4.2 MGD, and it will introduce two new treatment technologies aimed at improving the aesthetic quality of our produced drinking water: granular activated carbon filters and ozone treatment.

Water quality is essential to the well-being and health of our community. Therefore, it is highly regulated by both state and federal agencies. More than 1,300 compliance samples were taken across the treatment and distribution system in 2023 along with another 8,600 water samples used for internal benchmarking. The Town received a treatment technique violation from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) for exceeding turbidity levels in November and December 2023. Customers were notified of the turbidity exceedance violations in the January and February 2024 utility bills.

Turbidity is a measurement of cloudiness in a water sample. This cloudiness is typically caused by suspended particles in the water. Turbidity is measured by shining a light through a water sample and measuring how much light is reflected by the suspended particles. In this case, Town Staff identified air bubbles in the monitoring device and the sample line and subsequently installed a fine air bubble trap, eliminating further turbidity exceedances. The Town is confident air bubbles in the water caused the increased light reflection, and there was no risk to public safety caused by these events.

Regulations require water providers to make the annual drinking water report available to all customers. Utility bill inserts are included in bills sent to all customers or attached to electronic bills to announce the report's availability. The Town encourages all customers to read about your water. Transparency is a critical pillar of our utility, so if you have questions or would like to know more, I encourage you to contact the Town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meagan Smith".

Meagan Smith - Public Works Deputy Director

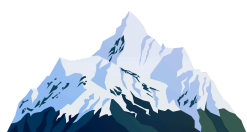


WHERE YOUR DRINKING WATER COMES FROM

The Town of Wellington has two primary water sources including surface water and groundwater.

Surface Water

Wellington's largest water supply begins its journey as snow in the Rocky Mountains and flows to the main and north fork of the Poudre River where it is diverted and delivered through more than 23 miles of pipes and canals to reach Reservoir #3.



It takes 10 to 12 inches of Colorado snow to produce 1 acre foot of water.

Source Water List

- WELL NO. 1 (Groundwater-Well)
- WELL NO. 2 (Groundwater-Well)
- WELL NO. 3 (Groundwater-Well)
- NORTH Poudre IRRIGATION COMPANY CANAL 2 (Surface Water-Intake)
- NORTH Poudre RESERVOIR 3 (Surface Water-Intake)

Source Water Assessment

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has not provided a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) for the Town of Wellington.

Groundwater

A portion of the well system currently used as the source of roughly a quarter of our drinking water is the original well system used to supply water to the Town of Wellington in its founding. These wells also provide non-potable irrigation water for Town parks and local schools.

Wellington is unique with roughly 50% of our community able to access non-potable water (water not treated for consumption) for irrigation. Even with our robust non-potable system, the demand for potable water typically doubles during summer months in Wellington because of irrigation needs.



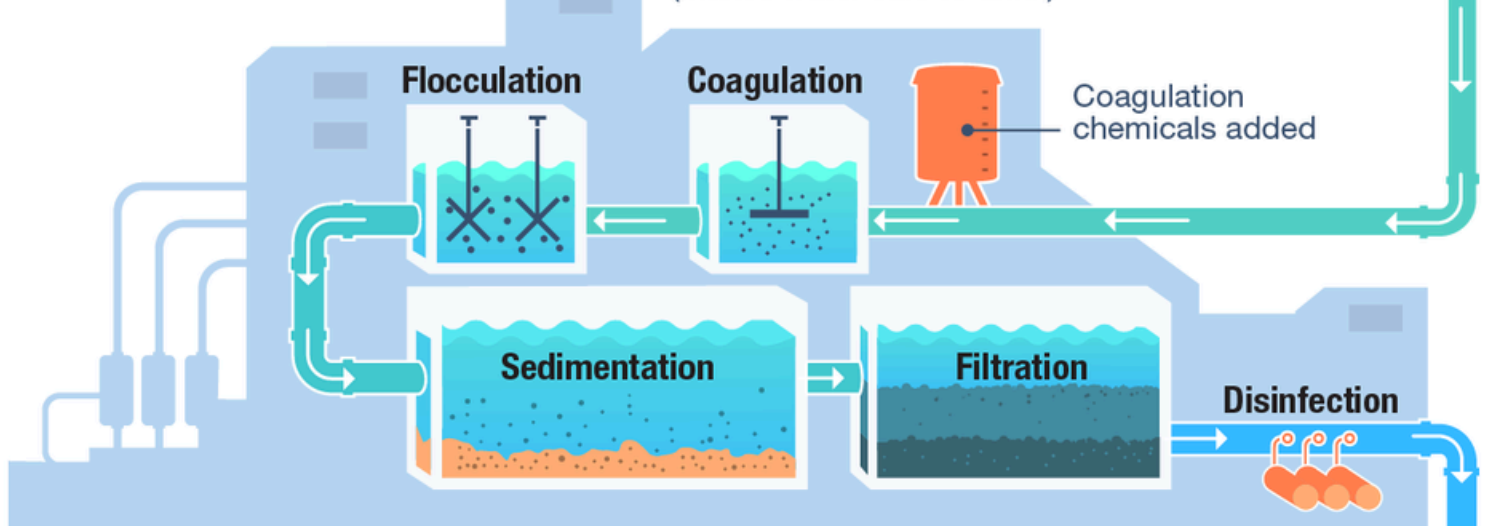
Water Treatment Steps

Water Source



Treatment Plant

(Makes water safe to drink)



Community

Utility delivers water to the community



cdc.gov/drinkingwater

TREATMENT FACILITIES



Photo of the Water Treatment Plant under construction.

The expansion projects have combined budgets of more than 80 million dollars; with expected completion in 2024. Both existing and future demand will be served by these expansions.



Photo of the Wastewater Treatment Plant under construction.

WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES	2023 Annual Production (Million Gallons)	FILTRATION TYPE	YEAR BUILT
Primary	231	Conventional	1983
Nanofiltration	73	Nanofiltratration	2005

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit Epa.gov/Safewater and cdc.gov/Parasites/Crypto.

How the EPA sets limits

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies pollutants and their impacts to the environment and people to determine the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Every water utility, including Wellington, is required by law to not exceed the MCL.

The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level at which there are no known effects on a person's health with an additional margin for safety. The MCL is set as close as possible to the goal. Sometimes the MCL is higher than the MCLG. This is because of one of three possible reasons:

- (1) The technology needed to measure such small quantities of the MCLG is not available;
- (2) The technology needed to remove the pollutant or reduce it to the MCLG is not available yet; or
- (3) The cost of treating the pollutant to the MCLG outweighs the potential benefit of a lowered standard.

Substances that could be in source water

In order to ensure that drinking water is safe, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same level of protection for public health.

The water source for tap and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals including potentially radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbiological contaminants: Viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants: Salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides: May come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants: Can be naturally occurring or a result of petroleum production and mining activities.

Organic chemical contaminants: Synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

DID YOU KNOW?

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791** or visit **EPA.Gov/Ground-Water-And-Drinking-Water**.

Understanding Dilution Measurements



Parts Per Million (ppm)

1 drop in a hot tub
is equal to 1 ppm



Parts Per Billion (ppb)

1 drop in an Olympic-size swimming pool
is equal to 1 ppb



Parts Per Trillion (ppt)

1 drop in a 6-acre lake
is equal to 1 ppt



Look out for our most vulnerable neighbors;

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

2023 WATER SAMPLE TEST RESULTS

Wellington's drinking water is monitored for over one hundred different substances on a strict sampling schedule, with more than 1,300 compliance related water samples taken annually across the treatment and distribution system and another 8,600 water samples for internal benchmarking.

The included tables show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination.

Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

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.

Treatment Technique (TT)

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Health-Based

A violation of either an MCL or TT.

Non-Health-Based

A violation that is not related to an MCL or TT.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

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.

Compliance Value

Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90th Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

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 contaminants.

Violation

Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)

Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Level 1 Assessment

A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment

A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)

One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.

Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)

One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Not Applicable (N/A)

Does not apply or not available.

Sample Size (n)

Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).

Gross Alpha

Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium

Formal Enforcement Action

Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.

Variance and Exemptions (V/E)

Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)

Measure of the radioactivity in water.

Average (x-bar)

Typical value

Range (R)

Lowest to the highest value.

Lead

1/1/23 - 6/30/23
PPB

90th
Percentile
1.5

90th Percentile AL | 15

Sample Sites Above AL | 0

Sample Size | 61

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Lead

7/1/23 - 12/31/23
PPB

90th
Percentile
1.5

90th Percentile AL | 15

Sample Sites Above AL | 0

Sample Size 60

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Copper

1/1/23 - 6/30/23
PPM

90th
Percentile
0.31

90th Percentile AL | 1.3

Sample Sites Above AL | 1

Sample Size | 61

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Copper

7/1/23 - 12/31/23
PPM

90th
Percentile
0.22

90th Percentile AL | 1.3

Sample Sites Above AL | 0

Sample Size 60

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)

PPB

Average
22.16

Range Low - High | 2.8 to 49.4

Sample Size | 16

MCL | 60

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

PPB

Average
34.34

Range Low - High | 7.3 to 71.8

Sample Size | 16

MCL | 80

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Chlorite

PPB

Average
0.22

Range Low - High | 0 to 0.56

Sample Size | 12

MCL | 1.0

MCLG | .8

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Chlorine

ppm

Samples
below
minimum
0

No more than 1 sample
can be below 0.2 ppm

Sample Size | 10

MRDL | 4.0 ppm

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Additive used to control microbes

Total Organic Carbon

Ratio

Average

1.41

Range Low - High | 1.09 - 1.87

Sample Size | 12

TT Minimum Ratio | 1.00

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Naturally present in environment

Turbidity

(Lowest monthly percent of sample meeting limit)

Amount
Found

98%

Year Collected | Dec. 2023

Lowest Level Allowed | 95% of
samples <0.3

Lowest Amount Detected | 98%

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Soil runoff

Turbidity

NTU

Amount
Found

9.62

Year Collected | Dec. 2023

Highest Single Measurement | 9.62

TT Maximum Ratio | 1.00

✗ Violation

Typical Sources: Soil runoff

Gross Alpha

pCi/L

Average

0.37

Range Low - High | 0-0.92

Sample Size | 3

MCL | 15

MCLG | 0

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Erosion of natural deposits

Sodium

PPM

Average

15

Range Low - High | 15-15

Sample Size | 1

Secondary contaminant with no
enforceable limits

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching
from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Combined Radium

pCi/L

Average

1.7

Range Low - High | 1.7 to 1.7

Sample Size | 1

MCL | 5

MCLG | 0

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Erosion of natural deposits

Combined Uranium

PPB

Average

1.33

Range Low - High | 0 to 4

Sample Size | 3

MCL | 30

MCLG | 0

✓ No Violation

Typical Sources: Erosion of natural deposits



Barium

PPM

Average

0.07

Range Low - High | 0.07 to 0.07

Sample Size | 1

MCL | 2

MCLG | 2



No Violation

Typical Sources: Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Chromium

PPB

Average

2

Range Low - High | 2 to 2

Sample Size | 1

MCL | 100

MCLG | 100



No Violation

Typical Sources: Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits

Fluoride

PPM

Average

0.27

Range Low - High | 0.19 to 0.35

Sample Size | 2

MCL | 4

MCLG | 4



No Violation

Typical Sources: Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer, aluminum factories

Nitrate

PPM

Average

2.1

Range Low - High | 0.3 to 3.9

Sample Size | 2

MCL | 10

MCLG | 10



No Violation

Typical Sources: Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Selenium

PPB

Average

1

Range Low - High | 1 to 1

Sample Size | 1

MCL | 50

MCLG | 50



No Violation

Typical Sources: Discharge from petroleum & metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; mine discharge

Dalapon

ppb

Average

0.17

Range Low - High | 0 - 1

Sample Size | 6

MCL | 200

MCLG | 200



No Violation

Typical Sources: Runoff from herbicide

Health-Based Violations

Documentation of completed backflow reports and surveys were inaccessible at the time of the 2022 Sanitary Survey. The lack of available data prevented the utility from proving and reporting backflow prevention testing had been completed. Residents were notified of the violation in Sept. 2022 and Mar. 2023 in utility bills, however a public notice violation was received for failing to send a second notification by Dec. 18, 2022. The public notice violation was subsequently closed by CDPHE on Mar. 5, 2023. All required documentation for cross-connection control and backflow protection was submitted to CDPHE and the associated violations were closed on Apr. 7, 2023.

Regulatory Notification Message

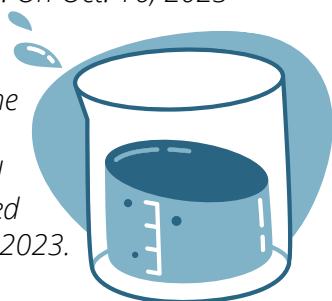
The Town has an inadequate backflow prevention and cross-connection control program and violated Cross Connection Rule M611, M614 and M615. Uncontrolled cross connections can lead to inadvertent contamination of the drinking water. This is due to one or more of the following: We have permitted an uncontrolled cross connection, AND/OR we have installed or permitted an uncontrolled cross connection, AND/OR we failed to comply with the requirements for surveying our system for cross connections, AND/OR we failed to complete the testing requirements for backflow prevention devices or methods, AND/OR we failed to notify the State Health Dept. of a backflow contamination event.

In Nov. 2023 and Dec. 2023 turbidity exceedances were measured at the Drinking Water Treatment facility in the combined filter effluent, one of six locations where the Town monitors this water quality parameter in winter months. Staff identified air bubbles in the monitoring device and the sample line and subsequently installed a fine air bubble trap, eliminating further turbidity exceedances. Staff did not notify CDPHE of the Nov. exceedance in a timely manner, resulting in a failure to monitor and/or report violation. Residents were notified of the turbidity exceedance violations in Jan. 2023 and Feb. 2023 utility bills. The failure to monitor and/or report violation was closed by CDPHE on Nov. 30, 2023 and the turbidity exceedance violations were closed by CDPHE on Nov. 30, 2023 and Dec. 31, 2023.

Non-Health-Based Violations

The Town of Wellington Water Treatment facility is required to collect and submit one daily chlorite sample from the Town's treated water. On Jun. 25, 2023 a chlorite sample was not taken. CDPHE was notified of the omitted sample measurement and the subsequent violation was closed on Jun. 30, 2023.

The Town of Wellington Water Treatment Facility is required to collect and submit six daily chlorine residual samples from four locations on-site prior to the entry-point to the distribution system. On Oct. 16, 2023 during on-going construction activities, the inline monitors measuring chlorine were inadvertently bypassed. The bypass was identified and corrected the morning of Oct. 17, 2023. This bypass resulted in seven of the required 12 samples being collected and analyzed over the two-day period. CDPHE was notified and the subsequent violation was closed on Oct. 31, 2023.



What should I do?

If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

Contact the Town Utilities Water Treatment staff at 8225 Third Street, Wellington CO or (970) 568-3381 for additional information regarding this public notice.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

You can do this by posting this notice in public places or by distributing copies.

Regulatory Notification Message

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.

Regulatory Notification Message

These violations do not usually mean there was a problem with the water quality. If there had been, we would have notified you immediately. We missed collecting a sample (water quality is unknown), we reported the sample result after the due date, or we did not complete a report/notice by the required date.

Save Water, Save Money, and Get a Yard Remodel!

The Town offers a number of programs to help residents reduce their outdoor water usage. The Town's partner, Resource Central, sells discounted water wise garden kits and provides FREE irrigation system consultations.



Garden In A Box

Garden In A Box kits are professionally designed for Colorado yards, and can help you save thousands of gallons of water each year compared to a traditional grass lawn. Garden In A Box kits are beautiful, affordable, and easy to plant.



Slow the Flow Irrigation Consultation

Take the guesswork out of watering your lawn with a sprinkle consultation from Resource Central. Participants save an average of \$175 off total summertime water bills. Register now to schedule your appointment. Available for residential and commercial customers.



Waterwise Webinars

Please join us for over 20 free webinars led by Colorado low-water landscape experts. Some of our favorite upcoming seminars are focused on helping beginners get started, such as "New to Colorado Landscaping," and "Planting for Pollinators."



Visit www.ResourceCentral.org to learn more about these programs to get your yard ready to reduce water usage.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LEAD

If present, lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing.

You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Wellington. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Please Help Us Keep Our Water Clean

The Town has separate wastewater and stormwater systems. Separate systems have two separate pipes. One pipe carries stormwater (rain) from storm drains to local streams, rivers and lakes, such as Coal Creek and Boxelder Creek with little or no treatment. A different pipe carries wastewater to the water reclamation facility. Therefore, it's critical to not dispose of anything into the storm sewer.



Pick up pet pet waste



Fix oil leaks
(don't pour used oil down drains!)



Use fertilizers sparingly



Compost leaves



Use commercial car washes

HUG Hardship Utility Grant

The Town of Wellington offers one time assistance to residents who have experienced a hardship. Learn more and complete the application online.

Other organizations offer utility payment assistance, with links to these organizations provided on our website.

WellingtonColorado.Gov/155/Water-Sewer

Please call (970) 568-3381 if you have any questions.



THIS IS YOUR WATER SYSTEM: GET INVOLVED!

Board of Trustee Meetings

Residents are invited to provide comments about drinking water quality, budgets, and plans during Board of Trustee meetings. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Leeper Center 3800 Wilson Ave. Or you can watch meetings live on Zoom or replays through the Town Youtube.

Please refer to the Town's website at WellingtonColorado.gov/129/Agendas-Minutes for additional information.

Social Media



www.Facebook.com/WellingtonCo1905



[TownOfWellington--Wellington--Co/](#)



<https://Twitter.com/WellingtonColo>



www.Instagram.com/WellingtonGov/



www.WellingtonColorado.Gov



**SCAN
ME!**



The Town of Wellington Utilities maintains the Town's water mains. If you suspect problems in the water system such as main breaks, service line leaks, frozen meters or pressure issues, notify us at **(970) 690-0634** 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



TOWN OF
WELLINGTON

www.WellingtonColorado.Gov