



HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY
SINCE 1897

Housatonic Water Works Company

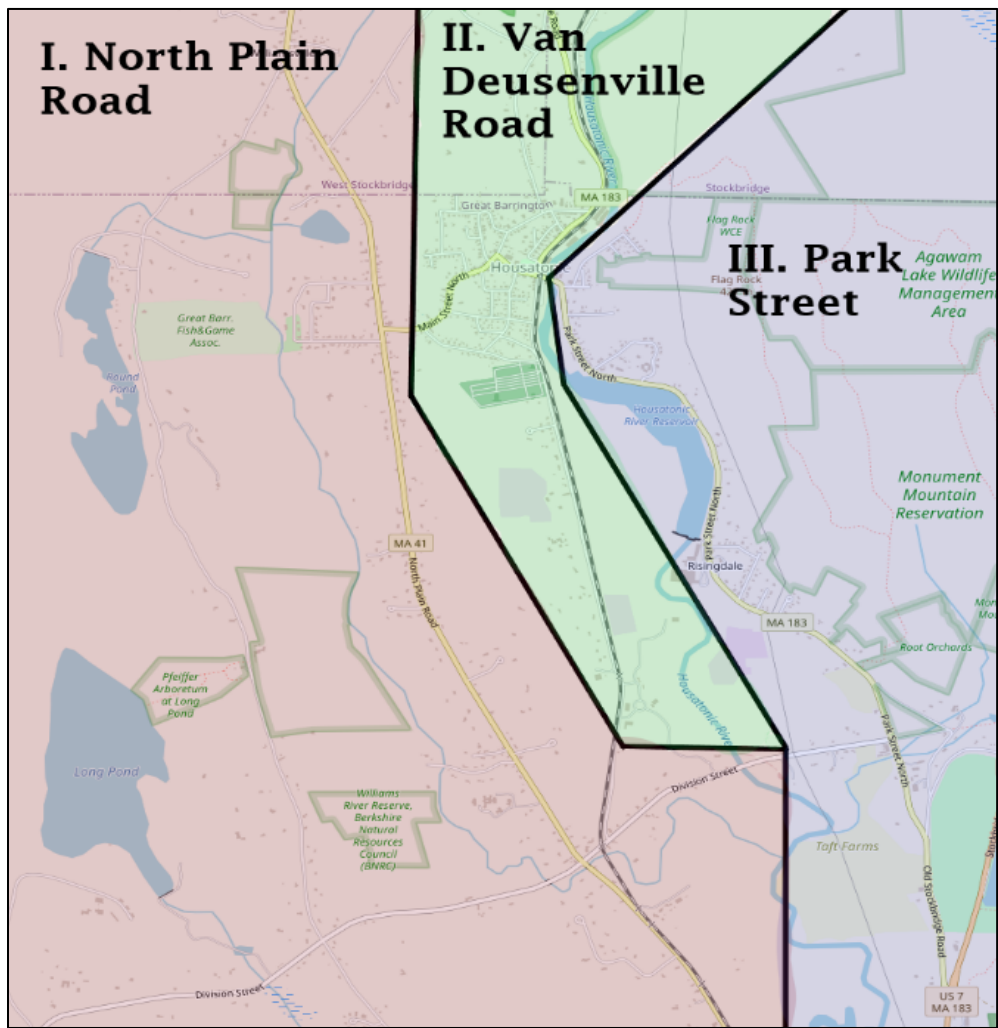
Hydrant Flushing October 23-31, 2023

Hydrant Flushing: Weekdays during October 23-31, 2023, we will be flushing our distribution system according to the schedule accompanying this notice. Every effort will be made to isolate disturbances to the sections being flushed; however, we want to remind customers that other areas may be affected as an unintended consequence.

The Company follows a hydrant flushing sequence for hydrants and blow-offs throughout its system. This protocol has been followed for many years. The flushing is broken into three sections to effectively flush those sections of the system and minimize disruption to other parts of the system. The main trunk line from the source intersecting North Plain Road, Van Deusenville Road to Park Street on the southern part of the distribution system bring water from the source which is then drawn sequentially through areas that are divided into sections as described below. Flushing in each of the three sections is conducted to minimize disturbances; however, flushing in general can cause occasional disturbances in other sections of the distribution system.

Section I consists of the transmission main running from the reservoir to the Division Street/ North Plain Road, extending to the West Stockbridge Williamsville area. Section II consists of the Van Deusenville Road/downtown core, and extends to the Stockbridge Furnace area, whereas Section III consists primarily of Park Street from Ramsdell Road on the south to the Park Street bridge in the north. When Section I is being flushed, the transmission line to Section II at the intersection of North Plain Road and Main Street is shut off to provide unidirectional flushing. Likewise, when Section II is flushed, the North Plain Road and Main Street valve is closed, and the valve line at the Park Street Bridge is closed. Similarly, Section III is isolated from Sections I and II. Blow offs on secondary streets in each section are conducted upon completion of the primary lines in each section. Our hydrant flushing schedule is at the end of this notice.

HWWCO Flushing Plan



Hydrant Flushing:

Our hydrant flushing program involves the systematic flushing of hydrants and blow-offs throughout our distribution system. This protocol has been consistently followed for many years to ensure the efficient operation of our water system while minimizing disruptions to our customers. The flushing process is divided into three main sections to effectively clean and maintain different parts of the system. Although we aim to minimize disturbances, it's important to note that occasional disruptions may occur during the flushing process.

Section I: October 23-24, 2023

- Section I encompasses the transmission main that runs from the reservoir to the Division Street/North Plain Road area, extending to the West Stockbridge Williamsville area.
- When flushing Section I, we shut off the transmission line to Section II at the intersection of North Plain Road and Main Street. This allows for unidirectional flushing in Section I, optimizing the cleaning process while attempting to minimize customer inconvenience.
- Blow-offs on secondary streets within Section I are conducted after the primary lines have been flushed.

Section II: October 25-27, 2023

- Section II covers the Van Deusenville Road/downtown core area and extends to the Stockbridge Furnace region.
- During the flushing of Section II, we close the North Plain Road and Main Street valve to isolate this section from Section I.
- Similarly, the valve line at the Park Street Bridge is closed to ensure proper flushing in Section II.
- Blow-offs on secondary streets within Section II are carried out after the primary lines have been flushed.

Section III: October 27-31, 2023

- Section III primarily includes Park Street, spanning from Ramsdell Road in the south to the Park Street bridge in the north.
- When flushing Section III, it is isolated from Sections I and II to optimize the cleaning process.
- Blow-offs on secondary streets within Section III are conducted after the primary lines have been flushed.

What is it?

Cloudy water and water that is not clear (has a color tint).

Is it safe to drink?

Yes. Water is processed through a slow sand filter and disinfected with Chlorine before entering the distribution system. Water is tested for bacteria and Chlorine levels are continuously monitored.

What causes it?

An unusual or sudden acceleration of the flow of water through the pipes such as when a hydrant is opened is the usual culprit. Water main breaks and excessive demand during hot spells can also occasion discolored water.

Why is it discolored?

Most mains in our system are 100 year old iron. As they age, fine rust sediment accumulates. Normally it stays on the bottom of the main. However, when water disturbances occur and stir up the sediment discoloration occurs. Significant disturbances create more discoloration. Corrosion of galvanized service lines and household plumbing systems can also discolor water.

We are providing our customers this information so that they may make decisions on their use of water during this necessary flushing period. To assist residents in considering the effects of manganese, there is information available on MassDEP's website at https://www.mass.gov/doc/manganese-in-drinking-water-typical-questions-and-answers-for-consumers-0/download?_ga=2.9057909.1799507389.1666028524-578050206.1621544371.

Our annual hydrant flushing program which occurs in the spring when water temperatures are colder purges much of the sediment out of our 17 miles of mains.

Warmer water accelerates corrosion and keeps the sediment suspended in the water longer so flushing the system during the summer may exacerbate the situation.

How long will it last?

It is difficult to estimate how long bouts of discolored water will last or determine what parts of town will be affected. Variables such as location, duration and volume of water disturbed affect how long it will last.

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Thank you for being a valued customer.*