

# Housatonic Water Works Company

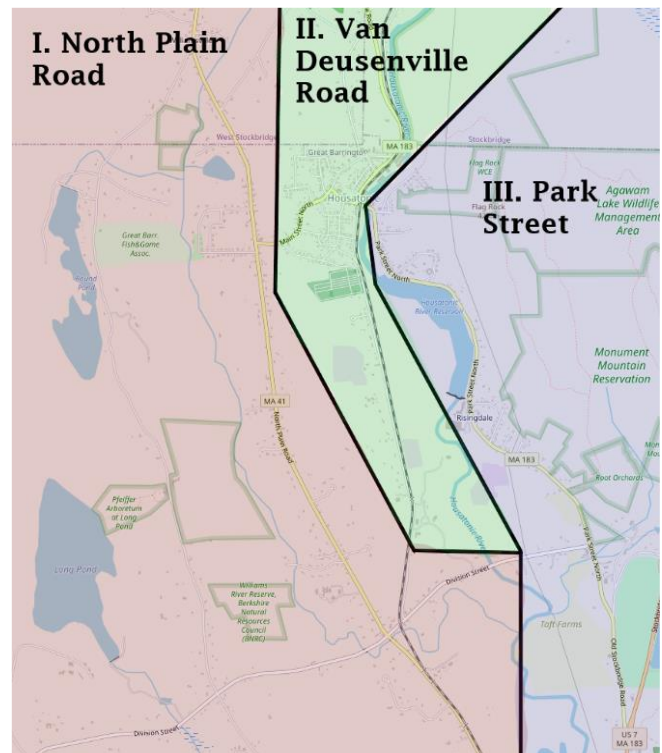
## Flushing Advisory May 12,-23, 2025

Hydrant Flushing: From May 12-23, 2025, we will flush our distribution system on weekdays according to the accompanying schedule. Every effort will be made to isolate disturbances to the flushed sections; however, we would like to remind customers that other areas may be affected as an unintended consequence.

The Company follows a flushing sequence for hydrants and blow-offs throughout its system, a protocol that has been in place for many years. The flushing process is divided into three sections to effectively clear those parts of the system while minimizing disruption to others. The main trunk line from the source intersects North Plain Road, Van Deusenville Road, and Park Street in the southern portion of the distribution system, delivering water from the source that is then drawn sequentially through areas categorized into sections described below. Flushing in each of the three sections is conducted to minimize disturbances; however, it is important to note that flushing, in general, may occasionally cause disruptions 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. In contrast, 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 flushed, the transmission line to Section II at North Plain Road and Main Street intersection 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. During this phase, customers in our service area may experience lower water pressure and/or discolored water. We apologize for this inconvenience.,

Our hydrant flushing schedule is at the end of this notice.



## Discolored Water

### 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 yellow-reddish brown?

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.

Residual manganese (manganese sediment) continues to be present in our system, and water disturbances stir up that sediment, causing discoloration. Significant disturbances create more discoloration associated with manganese concentrations in the water. The already elevated levels of manganese may increase temporarily due to the flushing.

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

### Why flush lines now?

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.

Please follow our Facebook page for future updates or visit our website, [housatonicwater.com](http://housatonicwater.com).

Thank you for being a valued customer.

# Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Our hydrant flushing program will take place on weekdays from May 12 to 23, 2025, between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

To help you plan, the following represents our **anticipated** flushing schedule:

## **DAY 1-2**

Christian Hill Road

North Plain Road

Crimson Lane

Brookside

Linda Lane

Wyantenuck Street

Water Street

Great Barrington Road

Division Street

Park Street (South)

Maple Street

Walnut Street blow off

## **Day 3-4**

Park Street (Noth)

Spruce Street

Grove Street

Ramsdell Road

Mountain Street

Great Barrington Housing

Cone Avenue

**DAY 5-6**

Van Deusenville Road

Front Street

Oak Street

South Street

Main Street

Forrest Street

Highland Street

Pleasant Street

Meadow Street

Fire Station

Depot & Main Street

High Street

Hart Street

Kirk & North Street

Kirk Street

Fairview Road

Prospect Street

**DAY 7-8**

Route 183 at Town Line

Blow off in woods

Furnace District

Apple Street

Housatonic Court

Furnace District at Route 183