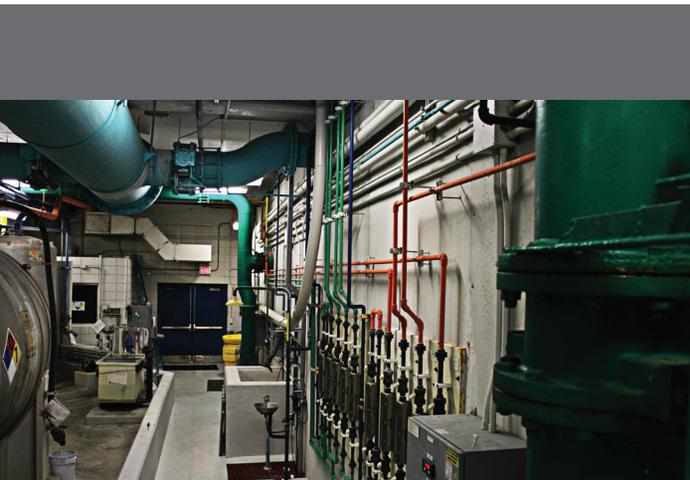


Plainfield Charter Township Water Department gets its excellent quality raw water from 16 wells located in three separate well fields. Varying in size, these pumps can pump 600 to 1450 gallons of water per minute, for a total raw water supply capacity of approximately 24 million gallons a day. This raw water supply is moved to and treated by our 16 million gallon per day capacity water plant, meeting every federal and state requirement for safe drinking water.

The water treatment plant is a full treatment, lime softening facility. In the water distribution system there are over 200 miles of water main, over 9,000 water meters and over 2,000 valves and 2,000 hydrants. There are 14 water tanks ranging in capacity from 200,000 gallons to over 4 million gallons of water. Five pump stations move water to our tanks and four pressure districts, providing water to over 40,000 residents in Plainfield Township, Alpine Township, and portions of Grand Rapids Township, Algoma township as well as a small part of the City of Walker.



Did you know that less than one percent of all the water on Earth is fresh water that we can actually use? In fact, it's the same water that was here when the earth was formed and when the dinosaurs lived. Together, we can protect our groundwater, which ultimately becomes our drinking water.

About the Demonstration

The importance of protecting the public water supply is highlighted with a “live” groundwater simulation. The groundwater that Plainfield Township Water Department taps lies below a layer of soil that is very permeable. This means that any contamination has the potential to percolate through the soil and reach the water table. The travel of potential pollution is illustrated using colored dyes and an operating water model allowing students to visualize in perfect detail the potential for contaminating our drinking water.

Potential hazards for contaminating drinking water include septic systems, unused wells, underground storage tanks and improper use and disposal of oil, fuel, cleaners, paints, fertilizers and pesticides.

Groundwater Myths

Myth: There are vast underground lakes and rivers

Reality: Although these do exist in caverns, principally in limestone bedrock, they are rare. Most groundwater seeps slowly through the ground.

Myth: Groundwater is separate from streams, lakes and wetlands.

Reality: Groundwater is part of the drainage system that maintains the supply of water in streams, lakes and wetlands.

Water Plant Tour Program



Water Department
of Plainfield Charter Township

Every day the Plainfield Charter Township Water Plant provides on average 3.45 million gallons of clean drinking water to over 40,000 residents in Plainfield Township, Alpine Township, Grand Rapids Township, Algoma township and a small part of the City of Walker.

Tour Information

- Tours are offered Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. year-round.
- The tour is free!
- Educational materials are provided to certain age groups (ask for more information).
- The tour takes place at the Plainfield Charter Township Water Plant, located at 5220 Woodfield Ct. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 and is barrier free/wheelchair accessible.
- The maximum number of participants allowed in one tour is 60. If your group exceeds this number, please contact us to see if special arrangements can be made.
- Chaperones are required for students through grade 12.
- A liability release form is required for all participants.
- There are limited bathrooms on the tour route.
- Please let us know if anyone will require special accommodations.

Safety is a Priority

- Everyone must wear sturdy walking shoes; no flip flops, crocs or sandals!
- Since the tour is near water and large equipment, good behavior is a must!
- Chaperones must be responsible for their group of students

Wellhead Protection Program

The Water Plant tour will provide an educational and comprehensive overview of the Wellhead Protection Program and why it is important to protect Plainfield Charter Township's water supply

What is the Wellhead Protection Program?

With its primary goal of safeguarding the water supply of Plainfield Charter Township, the Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) provides the community with a variety of strategies and outlets to ensure the public groundwater supply remains contamination-free; one such strategy is educating the public through tours of the water plant. Through these educational and engaging tours, you and your group will learn about where our water comes from, how we get it, the water filtration process, how to prevent contamination and a variety of other topics.

How does the WHPP affect me?

Protecting the township's wells is of vital importance. Less than 20 feet below ground, the groundwater in many areas has no protective layer of clay; if contaminants were to seep into the ground, they could spread very quickly into the community's wells, polluting the drinking water. By learning about and abiding by the Wellhead Protection Ordinance, you can help keep our water supply safe for many years to come.

What can I do to protect our water supply!

Scheduling a water plant tour is a great way to start. Through a tour, a variety of methods for protecting the groundwater supply will be covered including a live demonstration of how contamination occur; get informed and learn how to keep our water safe

Upon receipt of this form, we will contact you to finalize scheduling and any other arrangements. We're looking forward to your visit!

Contact: _____

Organization: _____

Organization Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of Attendees: _____ Number of Chaperones*: _____

Age Group: _____

Preferred Attendance Dates**:

1. date: _____ time: _____

2. date: _____ time: _____

3. date: _____ time: _____

Please list any special accommodations required: _____

* Chaperones required for students up through grade 12

** While we will make every effort to accommodate your schedule, dates and times vary and are subject to availability.

Please Return to:

Don Petrovich

Fax: (616) 364-6452

Phone: (616) 363-9660

Email: petrovichd@plainfieldchartertp.org

Plainfield Charter Township Water Department
5195 Plainfield Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

