



Dear Business Owner,

Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) would like to welcome you to the community. We're excited that you have chosen to establish your business in the Elk River area and we're looking forward to the opportunity to serve you! The mission of ERMU is to provide our customers with safe, reliable, cost-effective electric and water utility services. We're proud to share the following with you:

- We are a publicly owned, not-for-profit electric and water utility company. We are owned by the communities (customers) we serve.
- We are ranked in the top 10% of all public power utilities in the United States based on proficiency in four key areas; electric reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvements.
- Electric reliability is critical for business customers. We were one of 187 municipal utilities in the nation that received the "2020 Certificate of Excellence in Reliability" from the American Public Power Association.
- ERMU is a major part of the "Energy City" initiative, working with local businesses to implement environmentally sustainable practices, and provide rebates for energy efficient equipment that improve your bottom line.

ERMU strives to educate our customers on the effective use of electricity and water resources, and is one of 67 Public Power utilities recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) for our commitment programs regarding energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, environmental and sustainability programs, and customer communication and education. We have created many opportunities for you to learn about energy and water conservation, that can benefit the environment and your bottom line. Here are just a few of the key resources:

- We offer rebates for high efficiency electric and water equipment such as: LED lights, variable frequency drives, and WaterSense® toilets and faucets. *Rebate funds are limited.*
- Our free online monthly newsletter focuses on how to control costs.
- For your convenience we have included information on commercial rates, Clean Energy Choice, Automatic Bill Pay, and our most recent Annual Report and Water Quality Report.

To learn more about our rebate programs, or register for the free online newsletter, please visit our website at www.ERMUMN.com to access information designed specifically for your use. Please contact us at 763.441.2020 if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you!

Best regards,

Customer Service Department

ELECTRIC RATES

Non-Demand Customers (Demands of less than 50kW)

Basic Monthly Electric Charge	\$32.00/Month
Summer Energy Charge (Jun-Oct)	\$0.1330/kWh
Winter Energy Charge (Nov-May)	\$0.1114/kWh

Demand Customers (Demands of 50kW or greater)

Basic Monthly Electric Charge	\$77.00/Month
Energy Charge	\$0.0704/kWh
Summer Demand Charge (Jun-Oct)	\$16.75/kW
Winter Demand Charge (Nov-May)	\$11.75/kW

Large Industrial Demand Customers (Primary voltage and demands of 1MW or greater)

Basic Monthly Electric Charge	\$115.00/Month
Energy Charge	\$0.0696/kWh
Summer Demand Charge (Jun-Oct)	\$16.25/kW
Winter Demand Charge (Nov-May)	\$11.25/kW

WATER RATES

1 Unit = 1000 Gallons; Winter Measurement Period = December – April Billing Cycles

1st Tier Unit Cost (0 - 110% of average winter usage)	\$1.98/Unit
2nd Tier Unit Cost (between 1st Tier and an additional 40,000 gallons)	\$3.50/Unit
3rd Tier Unit Cost (over 2nd Tier usage)	\$4.00/Unit
0.75" Meter Charge	\$11.79/Month
1.00" Meter Charge	\$13.12/Month
1.25" Meter Charge	\$14.44/Month
1.50" Meter Charge	\$15.75/Month
2.00" Meter Charge	\$20.98/Month
3.00" Meter Charge	\$45.89/Month
4.00" Meter Charge	\$62.94/Month
6.00" Meter Charge	\$91.78/Month
8.00" Meter Charge	\$124.57/Month
Seasonally or Permanently Installed Irrigation Meter Charge	\$20.98/Month

COMMERCIAL RATES

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

- No sprinkling allowed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Those with even numbered addresses may sprinkle before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. on even numbered days.
- Those with odd numbered addresses may sprinkle before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. on odd numbered days.

SEWER RATES

1 Unit = 1000 Gallons; Winter Measurement Period = December – April Billing Cycles

Average Monthly Winter Usage	\$5.55/Unit
Minimum Sewer Charge	\$12.85/Month
If No History, a Flat Rate is Applied*	\$28.95/Month

**(Or may be billed on actual usage)*

Industrial and Commercial users with higher than average strength waste will be charged using a formula which is based on waste strength and determined by the City of Elk River Waste Water Department.

WHERE AND HOW TO MAKE PAYMENTS

- **Mail or Hand Deliver:** Elk River Municipal Utilities, 13069 Orono Parkway, PO Box 430, Elk River, MN 55330.
- **Drop Box Locations:**
 - Elk River Municipal Utilities - drive up drop box located outside utility entrance.
 - Post Office / Ashley Furniture Parking Lot - drive up drop box located in parking lot off Freeport Street.
- **Pay by Phone:** Pay your bill through our automated payment line at **1.855.730.8706**.
- **Pay Online:** One-time payments can be made through our website at **ERMUMN.com**
Recurring payments via your checking account or credit/debit card can also be made through our website.

There is NO ADDITIONAL FEE to pay by phone, or online through our website.

There is up to a \$20 charge for returned checks in addition to any fees your bank may charge and the state allowed electronic processing fee.

BILLING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Elk River Municipal Utilities will send a delinquency notice to the customer after the due date has expired and when payment in full has not been received. The notice will state that the bill is past due and services may be disconnected. If the bill is not paid or our office is not contacted to have satisfactory arrangements made, no further notice may be given. We may also hang a tag at the residence or place of business notifying you of possible disconnect due to non-payment. There is a \$20 handling charge if we have to hang this tag and it will be billed directly to your account.

Reconnections will only be done within the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If disconnected due to non-payment, payment to reconnect must be received by 3 p.m. to be reconnected that day; no reconnections are done after 3:30 p.m. There is a \$150 disconnection/trip charge for commercial locations. No payments will be taken at the property site, payments must be made prior to dispatching reconnection. Checks are not accepted as form of payment for reconnection; payment options include cash, money order, credit card or debit card. Payment can be made in our office, by phone or online. For commercial or industrial customers who are disconnected for non-payment, a 2-month estimated utility bill deposit will be required before reconnection.



Powering Your Business with **Renewable Energy**

Clean Energy Choice for Business provides Elk River Municipal Utilities customers with the opportunity to have **100%** of their electricity come from environmentally responsible, renewable sources. Commercial electric customers who participate are making a choice to support the environment as well as their community and its future.



EASY ENROLLMENT

- Contact Elk River Municipal Utilities at 763.441.2020 to enroll in the Clean Energy Choice for Business program.
- Participation is based on a calendar-year term.
- We can help you determine how this program will affect your monthly electric bill.



AFFORDABLE COST

- The program adds an incremental charge to the standard electric rate.
- As an example, a customer with usage of 10,000 kWh per month would pay an additional \$16 based on the following formula: $(10,000 \times [100\% - 20\%] \times \$0.002) = \$16$. See the back of this form for details.



PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Convenient and affordable way to power your business with 100% renewable energy
- Meet your company's sustainability goals without investing in equipment
- Position your business as an environmentally responsible leader in the community

BECOME A SUSTAINABILITY LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY. ENROLL IN CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE TODAY!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is generated from facilities powered by wind, solar, bioenergy, water, and more.



**CLEAN ENERGY
CHOICE**

Where does the renewable energy for Clean Energy Choice come from?

The renewable energy for the Clean Energy Choice program is supplied by Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's renewable resources. MMPA's renewable resources include wind, solar, and biomass.

For more information please visit mmpa.org/sustainable-energy/overview/

Does renewable energy flow directly to my business?

No. The renewable energy that's generated enters into the "electric grid," so it's difficult to pinpoint exactly where the specific electricity supplying your business originates. However, Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) provided as part of the Clean Energy Choice program guarantee that your renewable purchases are certified renewable energy in Minnesota.

What are Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)?

Every kilowatt-hour of renewable energy generated by MMPA is assigned a unique REC number to ensure that each unit of renewable energy is accurately tracked. The State of Minnesota also uses RECs to track renewable energy use. The Clean Energy Choice program utilizes these RECs to ensure that you are helping to support sustainable energy systems for the future.

Am I committed to a contract term?

Yes. Participation in the Clean Energy Choice for Business program is based on an annual contract term. In return, the per-kWh surcharge is fixed for the same time period. You will be informed of any change in the per-kWh surcharge for the upcoming year by November 1, and you have until December 1 to inform us if you want to continue your contract in the new year.

How much does Clean Energy Choice for Business Cost?

An incremental charge of \$0.002 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is added to the standard electric rate. The charge is applied to all kWh in excess of the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard, which is currently 20% of all electric sales. An example fee table is listed below.

Formula: (kWh per month (10,000 x [100%-20%]) x \$.002) = Clean Energy Choice Additional Surcharge

kWh per Month	Approximate Electric Charge	Clean Energy Choice Additional Surcharge
1,000	\$100	\$1.60
10,000	\$1,000	\$16
100,000	\$10,000	\$160

Providing our customers more time, more money, and more peace of mind.

You can forget worrying about due dates or late fees when you sign up for Automatic Bill Payment. With this service, regular payments will be debited from your bank account on the due date of each month, ensuring your bill will always be paid on time.

Automatic Bill Payment is designed to give you:

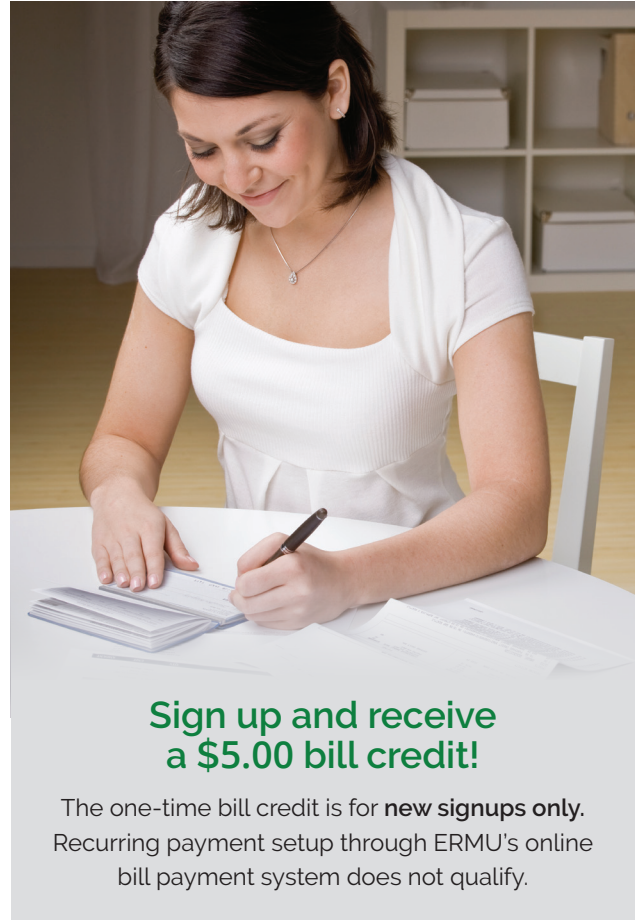
More time. You'll receive an itemized bill every month but won't need to take time to schedule the payment.

More money. You'll no longer have the cost (or hassle) of purchasing stamps.

More peace of mind. Rest assured, your bill will be taken care of on its due date.

To enroll:

- ✓ [Complete the Bank Draft Authorization Form below.](#)
- ✓ [Attach a voided check.](#)
- ✓ [Return the form and voided check to our office.](#)



**Sign up and receive
a \$5.00 bill credit!**

The one-time bill credit is for **new signups only**.
Recurring payment setup through ERMU's online
bill payment system does not qualify.

BANK DRAFT AUTHORIZATION FORM

I authorize Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) to draft the full amount of my monthly utility bill from the financial institution listed below on the due date of each month (or on the first business day thereafter). I understand that ERMU reserves the right to discontinue my Automatic Bill Payment enrollment in the event a payment is returned. **PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK.**

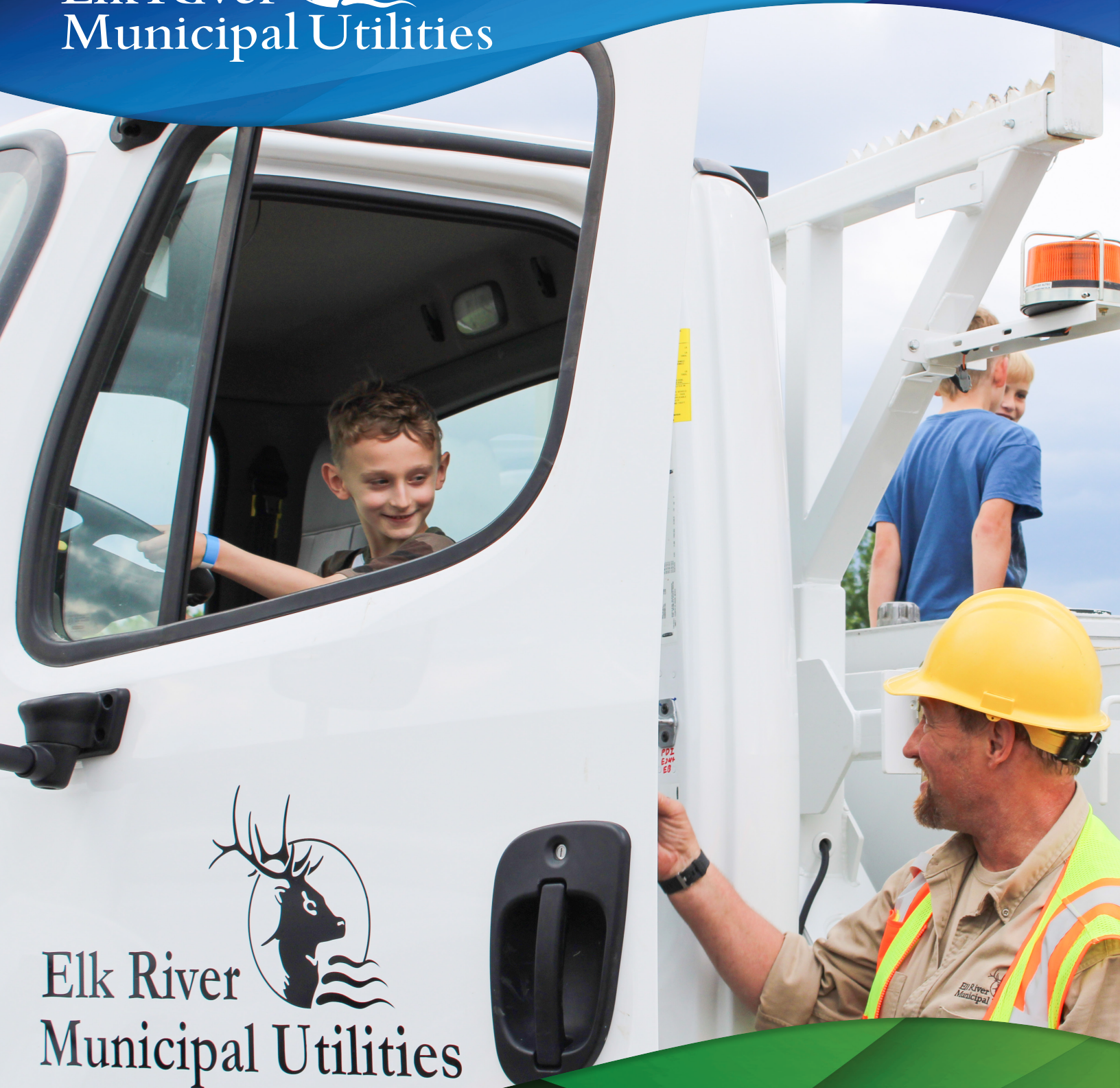
Name _____ Account Number _____

Service Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Financial Institution _____ Routing Number _____ Bank Account Number _____

Account Holder's Signature _____ Date _____



YEAR IN REVIEW
2022

HOMETOWN PRIDE



A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



I'm excited to be writing my first year-in-review letter as ERMU's new General Manager. I joined ERMU last July, just after the Sherburne County Fair parade, after nearly 30 years of public service in the military and public works fields. I was immediately impressed by how many of our staff volunteered to march in the parade. I knew I was joining an organization that was excited to get out into the community, but I was pleasantly surprised by how much our staff enjoyed getting involved. In the last six months of 2022, ERMU has participated in the Summer Safety Camp at Fire Station #2, Day of the Dozers, Downtown Elk River Trick-or-Treat, and mock interviews at the high school, just to name a few (check out the back cover for lots of fun photos).

As a publicly-owned company, I believe it's incredibly important that we are out in the community we serve. After all, we are YOUR utility company. ERMU is here to provide hometown services, build on hometown strengths, and offer hometown solutions to meet your utility needs. Our mission is to provide our customers with safe, reliable, and cost-effective utility services in an environmentally responsible manner. Our goal, however, is to accomplish our mission by truly serving our customers through effective community outreach, focused public education, and transparent multimedia communication. To that end, please let us know how we can better serve you in our operational, outreach, or customer service efforts.

Lastly, in 2023 we'll be hosting an open house at our new Field Services Building. More information is forthcoming, but we're excited to see you there!

- Mark Hanson, General Manager



FIELD SERVICES FACILITY NEARS COMPLETION

In the fall of 2022, after over a year of construction, crews moved into our new Field Services Building. The expansion and upgrade to ERMU's field services facility near the Lake Orono Dam is designed to improve operations, allowing us to better serve the community. ERMU took advantage of what experts called a 50-year low in bonding interest rates to accommodate the much-needed growth. The new facility will offer secure storage for ERMU vehicles and materials, improving their longevity and reducing replacement costs.



October 2020



November 2022

HOMETOWN SERVICE



MUTUAL AID

Our community depends on us to provide exceptional service every day. Being part of a national public utility network means our crews also answer the call from other communities in times of crisis. As part of American Public Power Association's (APPA) Mutual Aid effort, a team from ERMU joined a nationwide mobilization to restore power to Florida residents impacted by the devastation brought on by Hurricane Ian in the fall of 2022.



ERMU team prepares to leave for Florida with APPA's mutual aid effort in response to Hurricane Ian.



ERMU regularly monitors mineral levels in the water, removes potentially harmful elements, and treats the water to ensure quality and safety.



WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

ERMU implements best practices to keep our community safe and works to ensure high-quality drinking water is there when you need it. The Wellhead Protection (WHP) plan helps protect your drinking water from pollution by managing potential sources of contamination. Updates to a WHP plan are made every 10 years. ERMU's plan updates were completed in 2022 as part of the scheduled 2023 amendment, which is submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health.



LANDFILL GAS PLANT

The Landfill Gas Plant has been operating since 2002, when Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) and Elk River Landfill (ERL) entered into a 20-year agreement to convert the methane gas from the landfill into energy. ERL and ERMU worked well together over the term of this agreement, benefiting the community with local generation, educational opportunities, and reduced gas flaring during this partnership. Over its 20-year life, the project netted \$1.5 million, which aided in ERMU's ongoing goal to provide affordable energy.



At 10:32 a.m. on October 31, 2022, the final engine was turned off as the agreement came to an end.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Throughout the year, ERMU participated in a number of local events and outreach efforts. As a community-owned municipal utility, we value these opportunities to interact with the people we serve, give back to both our local and global communities, and inspire a new generation to learn more about the many benefits of hometown public power.



Summer Safety Camp



Sherburne County Fair Parade



Night to Unite



Day of the Dozers



Downtown Elk River Trick-or-Treat



Feed My Starving Children

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



Presented By

**Elk River
Municipal Utilities**





Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office, or you may search for “Elk River” online at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa.html>. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

About 90 percent of our drinking water supply management area is considered non-vulnerable; less than 10 percent is vulnerable. Our wellhead protection plan has many items that address limiting or stopping potential contamination.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Elk River Municipal Utilities' (ERMU) wells are supplied from the Mount Simon-Hinckley Aquifer. ERMU maintains eight wells, six water treatment plants, four water towers, over 125 miles of water main, 1,300 fire hydrants, and just under 3,000 valves. In 2022 ERMU pumped over 866 million gallons of water. We are proud to serve over 5,500 water customers.

Important Health Information

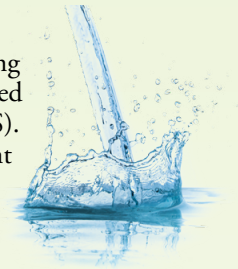
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The

U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



PFAS Testing

The U.S. EPA has proposed drinking water standards for six of the recognized per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). It plans to create maximum contaminant level goals (MCLG) and maximum contaminant levels (MCL) to manage water contamination and mitigation. PFAS are not regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and community well systems are not required to monitor them at this time. However, ERMU has voluntarily conducted monitoring in 2022 and determined that our system is below any risk level. We, as always, will be following the required guidelines and testing protocols given by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). For more information and an interactive dashboard for PFAS, please visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/pfasmap.html>.



Source Water Protection

It is important to seal unused wells and contact your county or city to update records. Every unused well is a potential pipeline to contamination if left unsealed. The same goes for contaminants that are put on the ground or in water. Substances that are absorbed into the ground or flow to a waterway percolate down to drinking water sources in variable time lines and can alter our drinking water. Please use caution when using chemicals and getting rid of items that may change the environment.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Elk River Municipal Utilities at (763) 441-2020 – Dave Ninow, Water Superintendent. You may review this report online at <https://www.ermumn.com/services/water/water-quality-report>

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

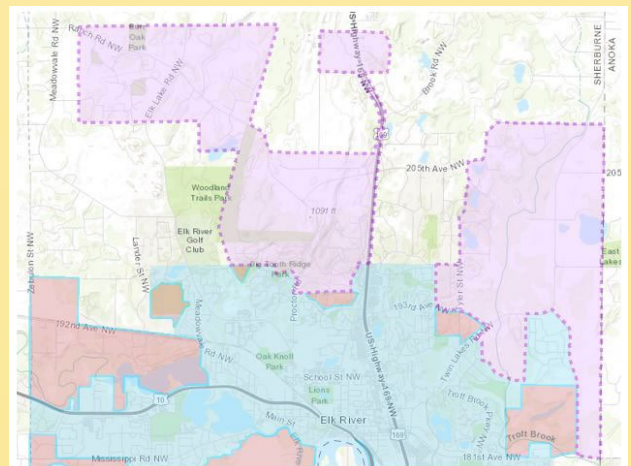
Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Wellhead Protection Amendment and Urban Services Expansion

We recently completed our Wellhead Protection Amendment, which has been reviewed and approved by MDH. We update and amend our Wellhead Protection Plan every 10 years to identify the changing needs of our water system. ERMU creates action items to address goals and concerns through the plan's 10-year time line. This illustrates our needs to MDH so it can address concerns, adjust, create grants and programs, and better communicate with us and legislators with the foundational knowledge disclosed through the amendment process. Now that the City of Elk River has approved its most recent Urban Services Expansion north of town, ERMU needs to continue to plan ahead and consider growth potential, which will impact water consumption for residential, commercial, and fire protection use.



Map Legend

Blue - Water Territory - Infrastructure Accessible

Red - Water Territory - Infrastructure Not Currently Accessible

Purple - Proposed Future Urban Services Territory

Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of 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, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detections below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2018	2	2	0.02	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	0.79	0.60–0.84	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.73	0.64–0.77	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particles (pCi/L)	2020	15.4	0	3.6	ND–3.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2022	60	NA	6.70	5.10–6.70	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2022	10	10	ND–1.40	ND–1.40	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2022	80	NA	17.60	11.90–17.60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Xylenes (ppm)	2019	10	10	ND	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.23	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	1.37	0/30	No	Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Manganese (ppb)	2019	0.41	ND–0.81	NA
Sodium ¹ (ppm)	2021	3.58	3.40–3.58	NA
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	7.76	2.95–7.76	NA

¹ In-home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.



Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Irrigation

The number one use of water is irrigation, which is also the easiest way to save - not only for the resource, but for your wallet. So many households and commercial properties use extensive amounts of water to irrigate their lawns. ERMU has assisted many customers in reducing water waste through our SMART irrigation rebates, educating them about how to save money on their yard.

1. If you irrigate, consider a SMART controller. Many can be retrofitted to replace your current system. They are very affordable and can pay for themselves in water savings in a small amount of time.

2. Soak and cycle: the trick to using less water and getting the same great results is to water more frequently but for shorter amounts of time. This is the best feature of most SMART controllers, but similar results can be achieved if you manually move your sprinkler around the yard. If the front yard is Zone A and the backyard is Zone B, it may be best to water for 15 minutes and then rotate to the next zone. You may need to water a zone two or three times in a session, but by breaking up the amount of watering time in each zone, you are allowing better absorption for the roots and reducing runoff. If you irrigate a zone all at once, the water strips the soil of nutrients and runs right past the roots. That's money and a precious resource down the drain. You can often see when there's too much water at the surface of a lawn; it starts to run down the driveway or road or accumulate at the lowest level of the yard. That's not helping to reduce waste.

3. Water during the coolest part of the day, and not in the sunlight. Evapotranspiration happens more in the sun and at higher temperatures. Also, irrigation should follow the seasons. Many people begin irrigating too early in the year. Snowmelt generally leaves soil wet for longer than we realize. Grass is naturally dormant until sunlight and temperatures increase, so hold off watering until it's needed. Minnesota lawns typically do well with moisture in the spring to early summer.

4. Irrigation head replacement can be helpful to reduce excess watering. Moving or redirecting irrigation heads to avoid watering areas with no grass will optimize your water use in the intended areas.

5. Regular irrigation system checks will help you identify issues faster and allow you to get acquainted with your lawn's needs instead of just dousing it. Grass often does not require as much water as you think, and SMART features combined with checks can facilitate savings of both money and water.

These small changes can drastically reduce your watering volume while keeping your lawn lush and healthy, allowing the roots to grow deeper to seek water.

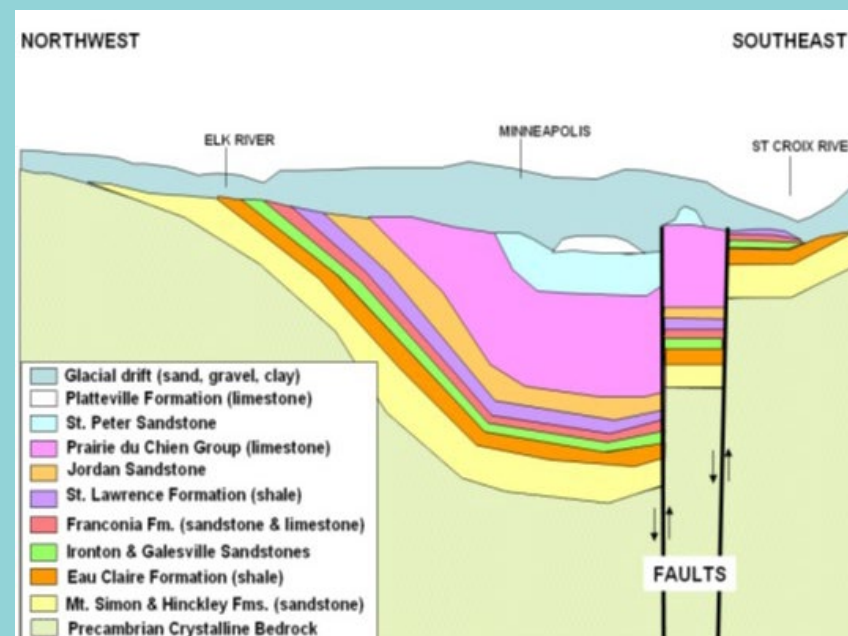
We've had many town/home associations navigate to SMART controllers in the last 15 years, and they have received our SMART rebate. One association was gathering information on SMART controllers for a few years prior to making the leap, and we continued to promote retrofitting its systems to reduce its immense water consumption for multiple sites. It has now been utilizing a SMART controller for just shy of a decade, and the results are amazing!

Water Conservation

Water conservation is perhaps best described as “mindfulness to reduce water waste.” Water resource consideration is imperative for our future. Elk River is on the outskirts of the Twin Cities basin, which is a bowl-shaped water flow system, similar in shape to the metro freeway loop of I-694/I-494. The inner portion of the circle below the center of the Twin Cities has more accessibility to water at depth, meaning the volume of water concentrates at the bottom of the bowl. The center also houses the densest population, which consumes more resources.

There are over three million people who require water in the Twin Cities basin. As we all draw water, the edges of the bowl witness noticeable negative impacts more prominently and more immediately than the middle. Through the arid growing season, wells must pull from greater depths, and some wells run dry as consumption increases and the recharge trickles. It takes a long time for the aquifer to recharge, and we never know how the weather will affect the replenishment rate.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is restricting new nonpotable wells that draw from our primary aquifer. Future potable wells in the Mount Simon-Hinkley Aquifer must be preapproved by the DNR and show a valid need, such as limited access to other drinking water resources. It is our goal to educate consumers on best practices in order to enjoy our limited precious resource. With mindful water consumption we can work together to mitigate potential shortages that may be imminent in the outer communities.



STORMWATER PROGRAM

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

The City of Elk River is required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act to obtain a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit for managing stormwater. Stormwater runoff is a leading source of water pollution and can harm surface waters such as lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. Management of stormwater runoff from urbanized areas is very important for restoring and protecting surface waters.

Our lakes, rivers, and wetlands help make Elk River one of the area's most livable communities.

On your utility bill statement you will see a line item for the Stormwater Utility Fee. Full details about the fee can be found at ElkRiverMN.gov/Stormwater

WHY HAS THE CITY ADDED THIS FEE?

The fee will fund the stormwater program which includes measures to comply with state and federal law. Due to the significant and ongoing cost of the program, the City Council utilized an alternative to property taxes that is fairer and more equitable, similar to a user fee.

Adding the costs of the program to the tax levy would have been a significant tax increase for property owners.

HOW MUCH WILL I BE CHARGED?

- Residential properties, including single family, duplex, and townhome units, will be charged a flat rate of \$3.90 per month if your property is connected to city water or sewer service.
- Residential properties that are **not** connected to city water or sewer service will be charged a flat rate of \$2.65 per month.
- Non-residential properties such as commercial, industrial, institutional, etc., will be charged \$28.00 per month per acre of impervious area (i.e. bituminous, class 5, roof area, etc.)



CONTACT US

Stormwater@ElkRiverMN.gov

763.635.1000

ElkRiverMN.gov/Stormwater



City Street **PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Elk River's Pavement Management Program is a proactive and systematic approach to maintaining and rehabilitating city streets in order to maximize the lifespan of the roadway in the most cost efficient manner. Funding for the city's Pavement Management Program is generated from the collection of franchise fees. Different from many other cities, Elk River collects all needed revenue for street maintenance and reconstruction through this fee, rather than levy separate general property taxes or special assessments to secure funding.

WHAT DOES THIS COST ME?

On your monthly utility bill (electric, gas) you will see a franchise fee, charged in accordance with your property classification:

Residential - \$9 (\$5 electric and \$4 gas)

Small Commercial/Industrial - \$29

Large Commercial/Industrial - \$170

HOW DOES THIS FEE HELP EXTEND A STREET'S LIFESPAN?

The Pavement Management Program supports regular seal coating, overlays, full depth reclamation, and reconstruction projects. It is the city's goal to help facilitate a 50 to 60 year roadway lifespan. Studies have shown that without ongoing maintenance, the average life of a roadway is cut in half.

WHEN WILL MY STREET BE MAINTAINED?

Every year staff review the condition of our roadways and recommends street improvement projects for consideration by city council. These projects, and others, are outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which details the proposed capital expenditures for the city over the next five years.

The CIP is available for review at ElkRiverMN.gov/CIP



DID YOU KNOW?

Elk River maintains nearly 150 miles of paved city streets.

The city invests approximately \$350,000 annually for seal coating and other preventative maintenance treatments.

The city budgets for and invests \$4.5 million every two years for larger street repairs and replacements.

The city pays for all of these investments with revenue from franchise fees and state aid funding - property tax revenue is never used for these projects.