



The Flow

Springfield Water & Sewer Commission

Volume 3, Issue 8
August 2024



More Information

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WATER DEMAND

Trying to predict water demand is tricky. Of all the factors that go into forecasting unusual water demand in a known customer base, weather is probably at the top of the list.

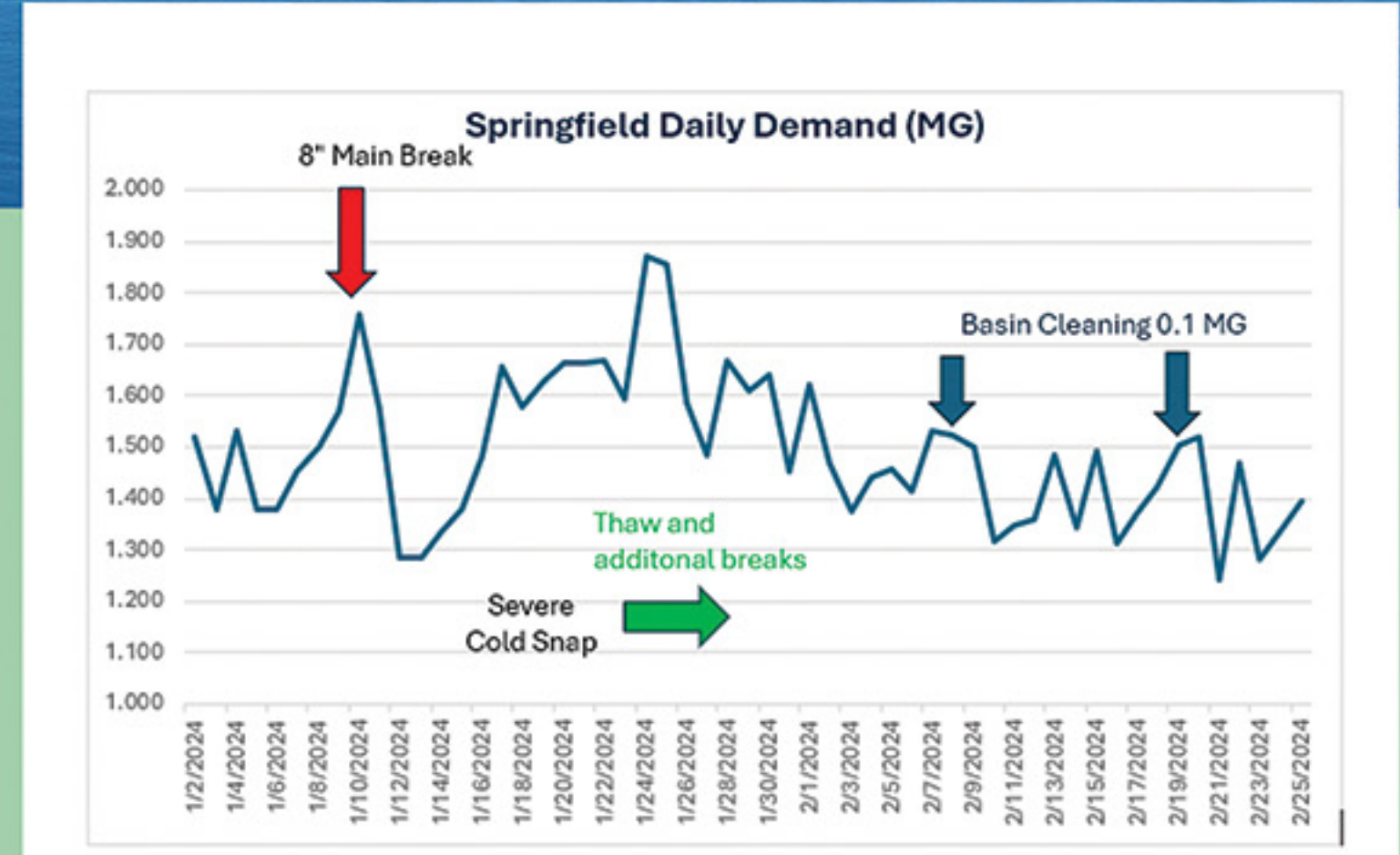
Weather has a very strong correlation with water demand. The hotter and drier it is outside, the more water is used for watering gardens, lawns, cattle, crops; filling pools or otherwise cooling off and entertaining; washing cars. During winter months, the colder the temperatures are outside, the more water is left running to prevent freezing.

Weather also plays a key role in unforeseeable events such as main breaks. When the ground is hot and dry, the earth settles and shifts, also shifting infrastructure such as water lines, causing breaks.

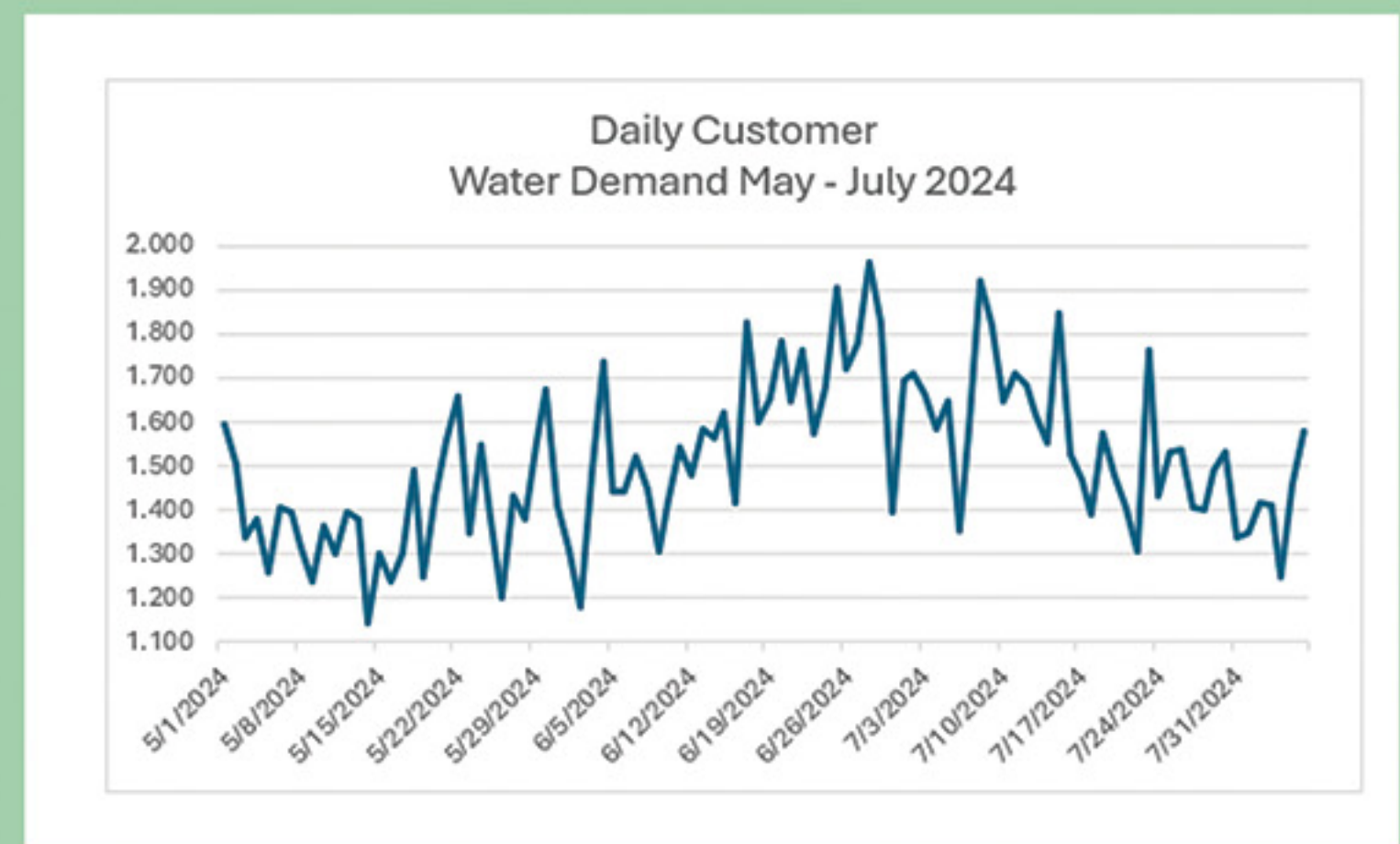
(A neighboring system recently lost about 400,000 gallons of water in less than an hour because of a main break on a 12" line. Thank goodness for speedy response times in getting that break isolated, or this break could have run the entire system dry.)

On the flip side, cold weather causes the ground to freeze; the longer the cold persists and the lower the temperatures, deeper layers of earth will freeze. When the earth finally thaws out following the cold snap, the earth will shift, causing disturbance to infrastructure such as water lines.

These patterns have been evident through the weather ups and downs of Springfield in 2024. In January, severe cold weather drove customers to run faucets overnight. When temperatures warmed back up a bit, the thaw shifted the ground causing some main breaks.



May was a relatively wet month as we recorded almost 7" of rain at the WTP. June followed, with hot, dry weather and demand increased as the month continued. Less than 2" of rain was recorded at the WTP for the entire month. Things eased up in July as we again recorded almost 7" of rain for the month.



Employee Spotlight

Brandon Baker has been a distribution crew member for the Springfield Water Company for four and a half years.

He is also certified to run the water treatment plant.

Brandon was raised in Washington County and is 2008 graduate of WCHS. He now resides in Willisburg with his wife and their dog where they spend their time doing outdoor activities. Brandon enjoys spending time with his family and his nephews.

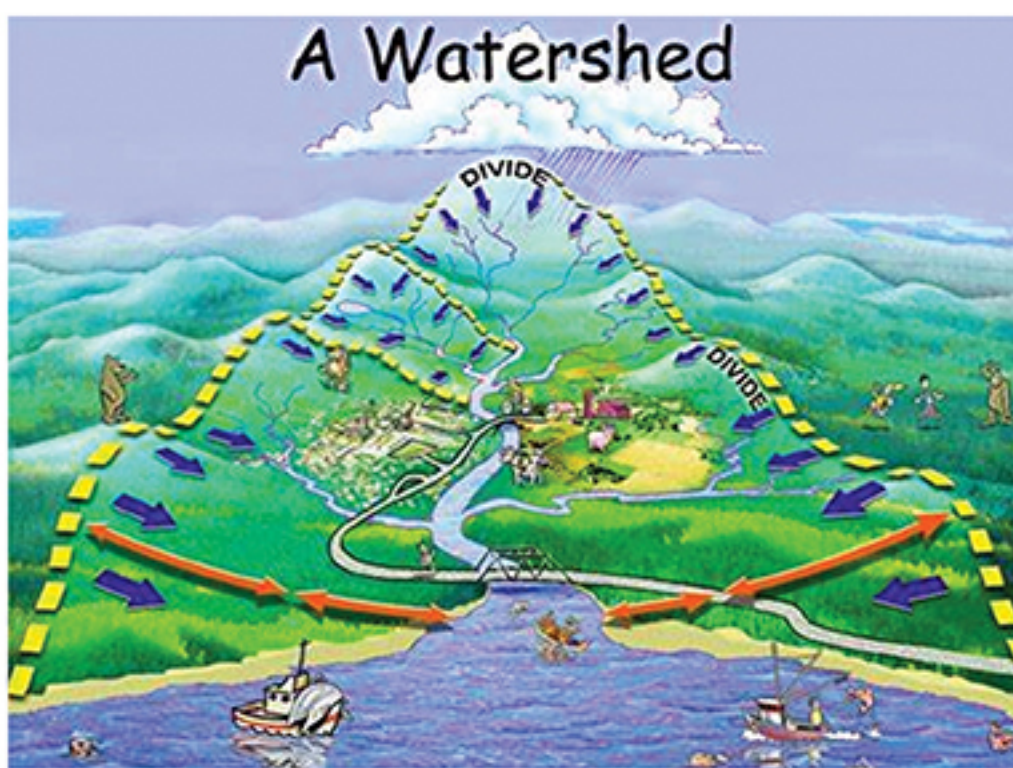


EFFICIENT & HIGH QUALITY WATER SUPPLY

WATERSHED

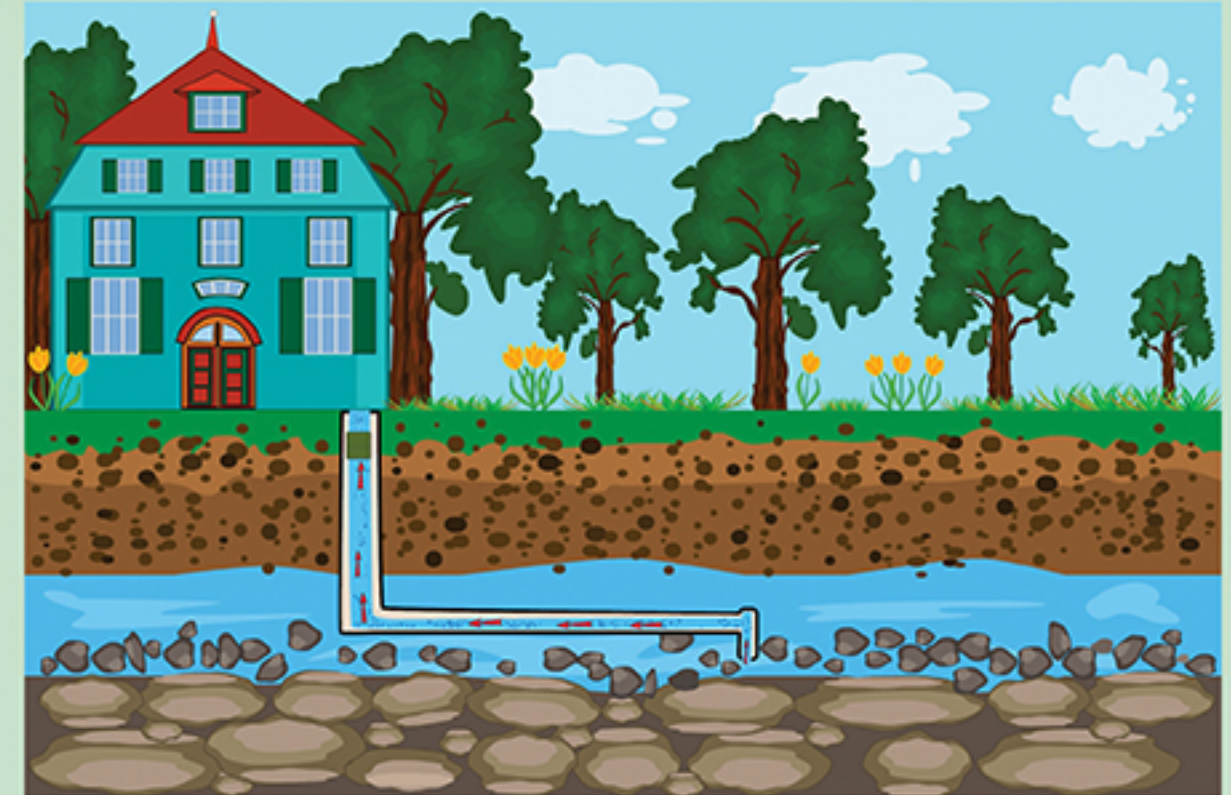
A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common area. The periphery of the watershed is a ridge that separates watersheds. If rain falls within the watershed boundary, it is channeled inwardly; whereas if it falls outside the watershed boundary, it is channeled outwardly. Willisburg Lake, a 126 acre reservoir, was created in 1969 and holds approximately ¾ of a billion gallons of water.

Over half of the volume of water is contained in the top 12', though the deepest depths of the lake reach almost 50'. Willisburg Lake showcases 10 miles of natural shoreline and is a popular attraction for nature and fishing enthusiasts. (Boating is allowed.)



Willisburg Lake is the raw water source for all of Washington County, which generally requires about 1.5 MGD finished water to meet demand, though daily water demand so far for 2024 has fluctuated between 2.0 and 1.1 MGD. Water from Willisburg Lake is pumped to a water treatment plant located on Main St in Springfield. The concrete intake structure is located near Don's Marina.

The watershed that surrounds Willisburg Lake channels rain and other forms of precipitation to the lake; so, as long as there is a reasonable amount of precipitation, the lake will be quickly re-charged. During early 2024 (following drought conditions in late 2023), Willisburg Lake measured almost 8' low, but was quickly recharged with the plentiful January precipitation.



SEPTIC SYSTEMS DO'S AND DON'TS

Do's and Don'ts of Systems

- Do keep your tank clean and maintained: leaks can pollute your water supply.
- Do only flush items that are meant to be flushed.
- Do limit tree and shrub roots, cars, and livestock around your septic system.
- Don't use your toilet and sink as a trash can! Do not flush or dump feminine hygiene products, diapers, coffee grounds, cigarette butts, cat litter, or wipes (Including those labeled 'flushable').
- Don't let your septic system go unmonitored. Regular maintenance on your tank is important - it can save thousands on repairs and protect public health.

Most importantly, remember that a healthy septic leads to decreased costs for drinking water. Protect your source!

Serving the cities of Springfield, Mackville, Willisburg and surrounding communities since 1951.

