

City of Newton



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

July 1, 2016

Dear Newton Community Members,

On May 17, the City was notified that an external drinking fountain at Family Access of Newton was found to have elevated lead levels. This fountain was turned off. After learning about this, the City decided to proactively test 7 public drinking fountains in the City's parks to determine whether further action needed to be taken on external fountains. This testing took place on June 10th.

The results, received June 23, showed that 5 of 7 fountains tested were above the actionable level. These fountains are:

- Cabot Park hardball field drinking fountain
- Cabot Park softball field drinking fountain
- Cabot Park tennis court drinking fountain
- Crystal Lake bathhouse
- Gath Pool right, rear drinking fountain

Department of Public Works immediately turned off the water to these 5 fountains and Department of Parks and Recreation began supplying bottled water at Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. The City also began evaluating potential options for remediation or additional testing. On June 29, based on the high proportion of tested fountains with elevated lead levels from this screening round, the City chose to turn off external fountains at the following locations:

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|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Albemarle | • LFCC | • Richardson |
| • Angier Park | • Lyon's Cove | Playground |
| • Auburndale Cove | • Magni Colletti Park | • Solomon Schechter |
| • Bowen Park | • Memorial | • Stearns |
| • Boyd Park | Spaulding School | Playground |
| • Burr Park | • Nahanton Park | • Upper Falls |
| • Cabot Park | Fieldhouse | Playground |
| • Crystal Lake | • New Cold Spring | • Ward Park |
| • Davis School | • Newton Centre | • Warren House |
| • Emerson | Park | Park |
| Playground | • Newton Highlands | • Warren Lincoln |
| • Farlow Park | Park | Park |
| • Forte Park | • Peirce School | • Wellington |
| • Franklin School | • Police Park | Playground |
| • Gath Pool | | • West Newton |
| • Hawthorne Park | | Common |
| • Hyde Park | | |

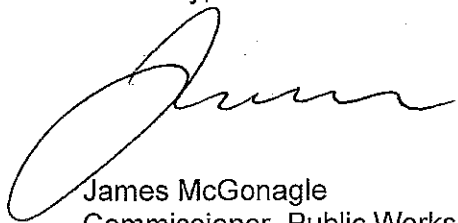
Jim McGonagle
Commissioner

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We are currently evaluating options for remediation of these outdoor fountains. To make informed choices on next steps, we need public input. Please take a short survey at: www.newtonma.gov/watersurvey to let us know how you and your family use the outdoor public drinking fountains. If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns, please email us at: drinkingwater@newtonma.gov. **In the meantime, we are asking you to bring your own drinks when you visit our parks.**

The safety of children and families is of the highest importance to us. We hope to hear from you and find solutions that meet residents' needs and expectations.

Sincerely,



James McGonagle
Commissioner, Public Works



Robert DeRubeis
Commissioner, Parks and Recreation

Jim McGonagle
Commissioner

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