

2022 Water Sampling Program

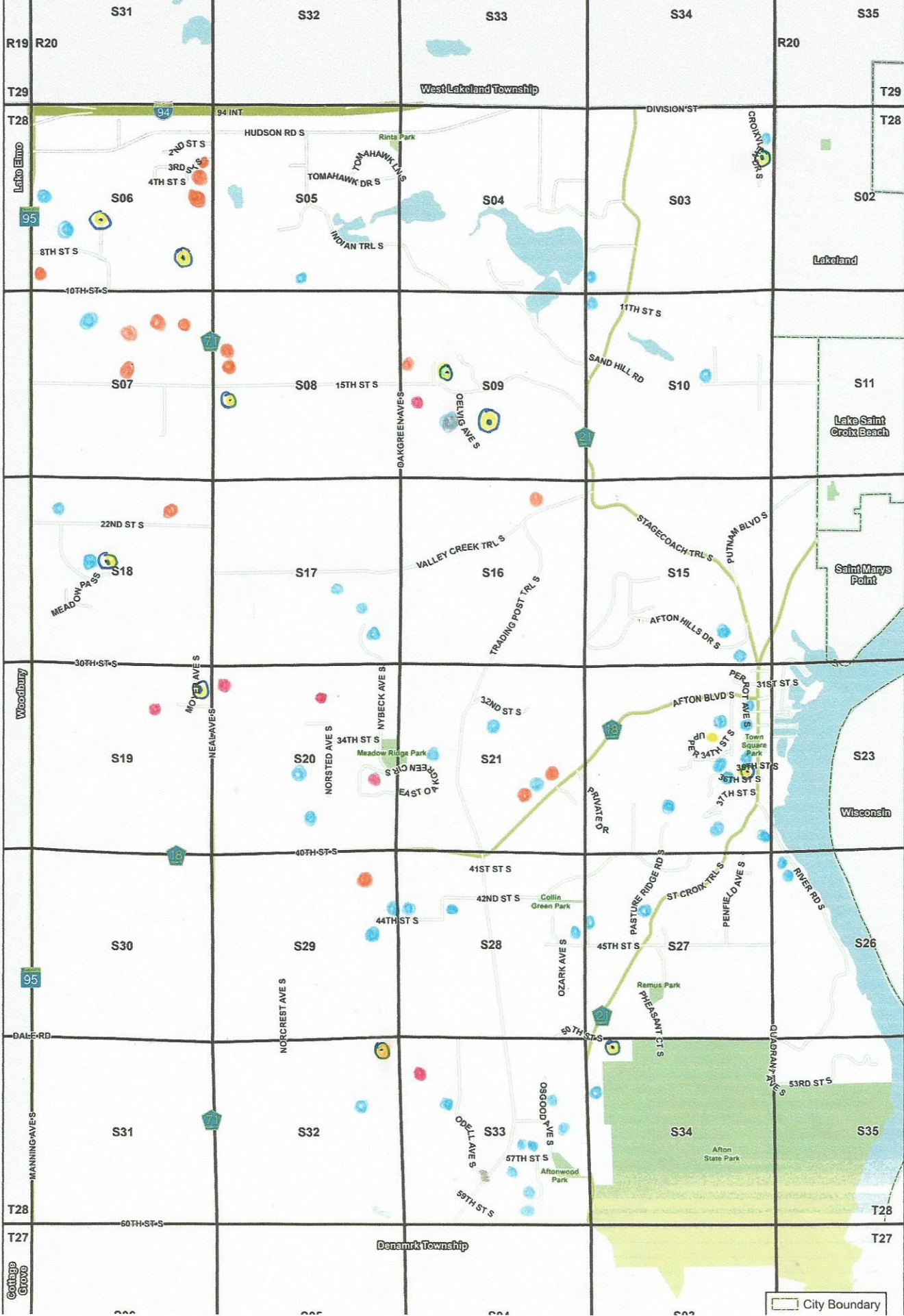
In July 2022 (on short notice) Afton residents were given the opportunity to have their drinking water tested for nitrates and coliform bacteria. Over 115 requests for sample kits were received, but only 115 sample kits were available at City Hall. Eighty-four sample kits were returned. The EPA drinking water standard for nitrate is 10 mg/L (milligrams per liter) reported as nitrate-nitrogen. Coliform testing is reported as absent or present.

Nitrate results ranged from <0.05 to 15.4. Higher levels were generally noted in the western parts of Afton (more open, frequently agricultural areas), and lower levels in the east and south (more trees, limited agriculture).

Sixteen samples were positive for coliform bacteria, and two of the sixteen had E Coli (the type of coliform bacteria which could indicate sewage contamination). It is recommended to use a bleach solution to disinfect a well that shows the presence of any coliforms. There was not a good correlation between nitrate levels and the presence of coliform except when the nitrate levels were >10 (where 3 of the 6 samples with nitrates >10 also had coliform bacteria present).

Ongoing testing of well water for nitrates and coliform bacteria is the best way for well owners to monitor the suitability of their drinking water. When many participate in a city-sponsored testing opportunity, more data are provided to help understand the health of our shared valuable water resource, our drinking water. In the future we hope to continue to provide sampling opportunities, and encourage you to participate in this project. The members of the NRGC would like to thank the City Council for the ongoing support for this program. We also thank all of those residents who participated.

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee



Well nitrates 7/2022

Legend

- < 2.0
- $2.0 - 5.0$
- $5.0 - 10.0$
- ≥ 10.0

City Boundary