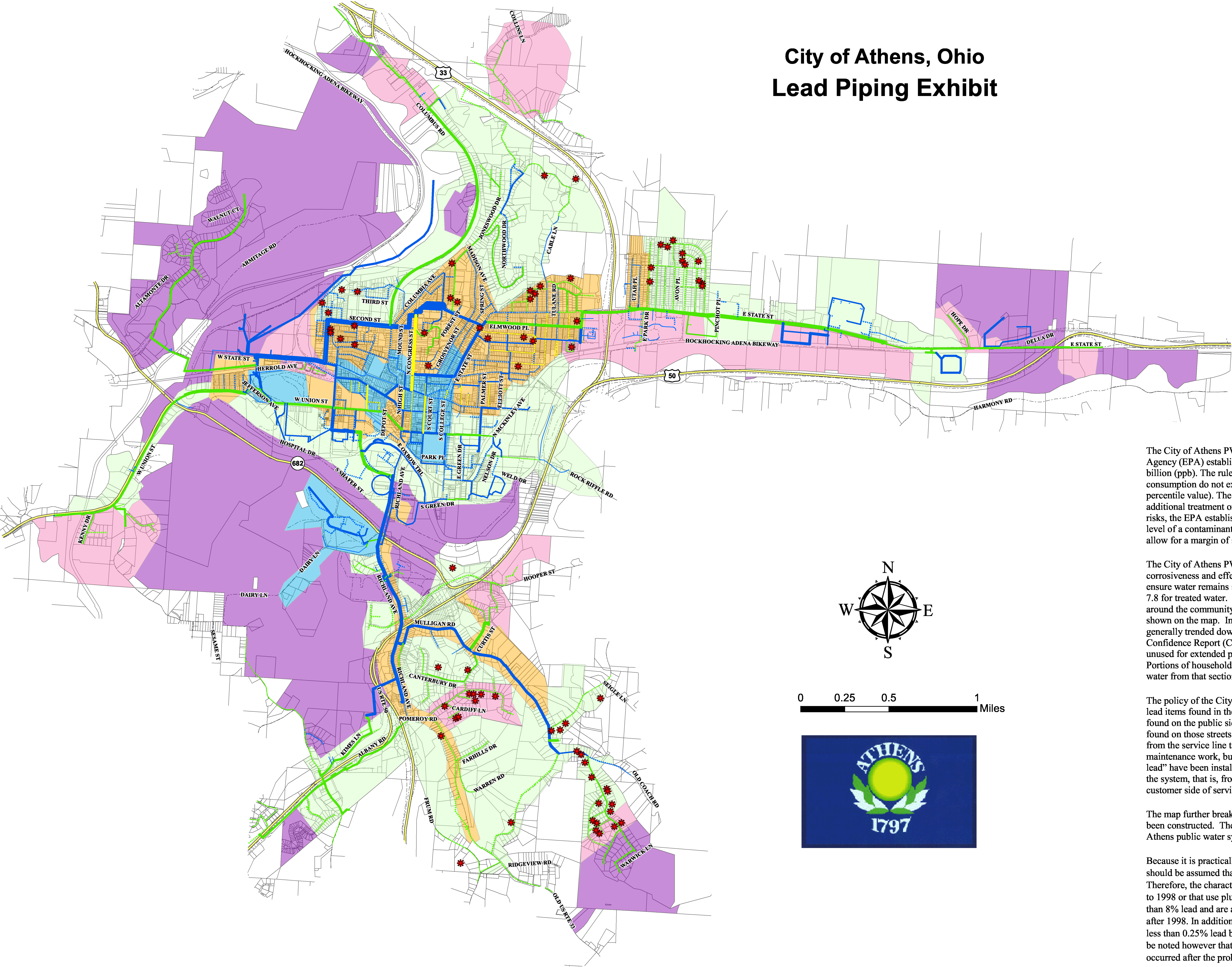


# City of Athens, Ohio Lead Piping Exhibit



**Legend**

Tier 1 Sampling Location

**Water Mains**

< 6"

6"

8"

10"

12"

14"

< 6"

6"

8"

12"

< 6"

6"

8"

10"

12"

14"

16"

**No lead on public side - lines were built later than period when lead services were common.**

**Lead possible on public side. Lead service lines have been found (generally goosenecks) and replaced by water maintenance personnel in the past.**

**Not enough information. No lead service lines ever found by water maintenance personnel, but main lines are old enough (pre-1950) that service lines could exist.**

**General Eras of Development**

Pre 1900

1900-1950

1950-1980

1980-2000

2000-Present

The City of Athens PWS follows the Safe Drinking Water Act, under which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 micrograms/liter (ug/L), or parts per billion (ppb). The rule requires Public Water Systems (PWS) ensure that water from taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled around the system (90th percentile value). The “action level” is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers additional treatment or other requirements which a PWS must follow. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA established a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is 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.

The City of Athens PWS regularly tests both source water and finished water leaving the treatment plant for its corrosiveness and effects on plumbing. Athens Public Water System controls these levels very carefully to ensure water remains stable in order to limit its corrosive potential. The annual average for 2016 for pH was 7.8 for treated water. Additionally, since 1992 the City under U.S. EPA mandate has tested many homes around the community, and currently the city tests on a tri-annual basis (Tier 1 sites). These locations are shown on the map. In all cases the 90th percentile value of these tests has been 5 ppb or lower and has generally trended down over time. However, the city informs customers through its annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to remember that water has a natural solvent capability, and water that sits in pipes unused for extended periods of time (months or more) still has the potential to leach lead from those pipes. Portions of household plumbing systems that go unused for a long time should be flushed before drinking water from that section of the building by running the water for a few minutes.

The policy of the City of Athens is to prohibit installation of lead pipe, fittings, or fixtures, and to remove any lead items found in the public water system during maintenance activities. Areas noted on the map with lead found on the public side of the water system do not definitively have lead, but lead service lines have been found on those streets in the past and removed. In nearly all cases the lead was a short gooseneck connection from the service line to the main. Lines noted on the map as “unknown” have never had led found during maintenance work, but are old enough to have been installed when lead was still used. All lines marked as “no lead” have been installed after the ban on lead was imposed. All references are made to the “public” side of the system, that is, from the meter out to the main and back to the plant/reservoirs. There are no records for the customer side of service lines.

The map further breaks down the city into eras of development, to give indication of when buildings may have been constructed. These sections were determined by historic atlases and historic aerial photos. The City of Athens public water system does not keep records of when buildings were constructed.

Because it is practically impossible to determine the lead content of an installed fixture, fitting or pipe, it should be assumed that the manufacture or installation date is the primary indicator of the lead content. Therefore, the characteristics of buildings and piping solder or fixtures would be buildings in Ohio built prior to 1998 or that use plumbing material or solder manufactured before 1998 may have materials with greater than 8% lead and are at a higher risk of contributing lead to the drinking water than materials manufactured after 1998. In addition, buildings built and plumbing materials manufactured after 2014 were required to have less than 0.25% lead by weight and have the lowest risk for contributing lead to the drinking water. It should be noted however that, although prohibited, some use of leaded solder or leaded components may have occurred after the prohibitions became effective.

