

**Title:** Milwaukee Water Works Collection

**Reference Code:** Mss-2050

**Inclusive Dates:** 1861 – ongoing

**Quantity:** 3.8 cu. ft. total

**Location:** WC, Sh. 071 (1.8 cu. ft.)  
WHS, Sh. A115 (2.0 cu. ft.)  
OS MS “M-2”

**Abstract:** From a very early period in the city’s history, Milwaukee made several attempts to provide clean water to city residents, but it was not until April 1871 that the Milwaukee Water Works was established, and the utility began operations on Sept. 14, 1874. It is the longest continuously operating water utility in Wisconsin.

**Scope and Content:** The collection includes articles of association, annual reports, monthly bulletins, reports, abstracts, pamphlets, publications, maps, histories and litigation.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Notes:** Originally processed by M. A. Dyer, February 2, 2000. Other material added by Kevin Abing and Steve Schaffer.

**Arrangement:**

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
<b>Articles of Association</b> , 1861. Original and two typed copies.	1	1
<b>Monthly Reports/Bulletins</b> , Jan. 1912, March 1913, Sept. 1916, Oct. 1916		
<b>Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>Report On Milwaukee Water Works</i>, 1868 (Photocopy)</li><li>– <i>Waterworks Improvement Program recommended by Black &amp; Veatch, Consulting Engineers</i>, 1957</li><li>– <i>Conclusions of the Metropolitan Functions Committee Based on a Review of "History of Water Supply in the Milwaukee Area"</i>, 1958</li><li>– <i>Recommendation Regarding a Water Utility for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area</i>, 1959</li><li>– <i>Report Re: - Water Works</i>, 1960</li><li>– <i>Water Quality Report</i>, 2003</li></ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>The Water Supply and Water Purification Works of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area</i>, 1935</li> </ul>		
<b>Notices</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Notice To Homeowners With Meters</i>, 1888</li> <li>– <i>Notice To Plumbers</i>, 1905</li> <li>– <i>Notice to Plumbers and Drain Layers</i>, 1906 (Blueprint included)</li> <li>– <i>Notice To Licensed Plumbers</i>, 1913 (2 copies)</li> <li>– <i>Notice To Licensed Plumbers</i>, 1921</li> </ul>		
Annual Reports, 1916, 1918, 1919, 1920 & 1962, 1976-1978	1	2
Annual Reports, 1980-1999	1	2A
Annual Reports, 2000-	1	2B
<b>Pamphlets</b>	1	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Milwaukee Water Works: A Brief Descriptive Article With Interesting Facts Concerning the Operation of the Waterworks</i>, 1926(2), 1930, 1935, 1937(2), 1938(2), 1944 (2)</li> <li>– <i>Milwaukee Water Works: The Water Purification Plant</i>, 1936(3), 1939, 1948</li> <li>– <i>Milwaukee Water Works: How Milwaukee Operates Its Water Works</i>, 1925</li> <li>– <i>The Story of Water Supply in Milwaukee: From Lake Michigan To You</i>, 1965</li> <li>– <i>Dedication of Historical Marker North Point Water Tower</i>, 1973</li> <li>– <i>Milwaukee's Water Story</i>, 1976</li> </ul>		
<b>Publications</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Souvenir Edition, <i>Fire and Water Engineering</i>, 1909 (Featuring articles about Milwaukee's Water Works.)</li> <li>– “Milwaukee's Water Purification Problem” by Joseph P. Schwada. Reprinted from <i>Journal of the American Water Works Assoc.</i>, Oct. 1934</li> <li>– “Milwaukee's Water Purification Plant” by Joseph P. Schwada. Reprinted from <i>Water Works &amp; Sewerage</i>, 1940</li> <li>– “Milwaukee’s Water Story,” ca. 1977</li> </ul>		
<b>Maps</b>	1	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annexation Maps, 1949</li> <li>– Feeder Mains -16" &amp; Larger, 1950</li> </ul>		
<b>Linwood Avenue Intake</b>	1	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Pamphlet - <i>Advertisement, Instructions to Bidders, Proposal, Contract &amp; Specifications</i>, 1915</li> <li>– Article from <i>Engineering Record</i>, 1914 (2 copies)</li> </ul>		
Town of Milwaukee vs. City of Milwaukee Litigation File (Contains transcripts, summons, resolutions, arguments, opinion & order, pressure data & maps pertinent to case, ca.1941)	1	6
Project 1000 - Water Milwaukee - correspondence & reports	1	7

<b>Wells</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– North Well, 1937</li> <li>– Copy of Bidding Blank on Last Wauwatosa Well, 1938</li> <li>– Town of Lake Well, 1938-1939</li> <li>– Use of Wells in the City of Milwaukee, n.d.</li> <li>– List of Private Water Supplies in Milwaukee - n.d.</li> </ul>	1	8
<b>Miscellaneous</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Chlorine Experts Squabble</i>, n.d.</li> <li>– <i>Surplus Earnings Transferred To General City Fund</i>, n.d. (2 copies)</li> <li>– <i>Milwaukee Water Works Purification Plants</i>, n.d.</li> <li>– General Statistics Tables, 1911, 1912, 1936</li> <li>– Rate Schedules - recommended &amp; ordered 1938 &amp; 1939</li> <li>– Misc. correspondence, notes, clippings</li> <li>– 1999 Water Quality Report</li> <li>– 2002 Water Quality Report</li> <li>– Brochure - Water for Beautiful Lawns</li> <li>– Newspaper clipping re: Cryptosporidium outbreak, 2003</li> <li>– Newspaper clipping re, “Love Rock” 1986</li> <li>– Newspaper Clipping re. 1893 Water Intake Crib disaster, June 1952</li> <li>– Flyer – MMSD Green and Grey Partners for a Cleaner Environment, Jan. 2021</li> <li>– Flyer – Waterway Restoration Partnership Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern, circa 2022</li> </ul>	1	9
<b>Bound Volumes in Box</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Water Works Data</i> - various information from 1872 to 1951 Rates, Distribution System, Pipes/Hydrants - materials, Purification Plant, Fluoridation, Financial, Other City Water Works</li> <li>2) <i>Water Main Breaks</i>, 1883 to 1967</li> <li>3) <i>City Engineer's Specifications</i>, 1896 to 1902</li> <li>4) <i>1st Preliminary Report on the Milwaukee Bay Investigation for the South Side Intake</i>, 1928</li> <li>5) <i>Supplementary Report on Financing the Water Purification Plant with Aid of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation</i>, 1933</li> <li>6) <i>Investigation of Menomonee River Nuisance</i>, 1935</li> </ol>	1	LOOSE
<b>Bound Volumes in Box</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>City of Milwaukee City Engineer's Office Water Construction Division - Research -Project No. 1000 - Water Milwaukee Creation of Metropolitan Water District</i>, ca. 1946</li> <li>2) <i>Report on Water Works System, Milwaukee, Wisconsin</i>, 1956 (2 copies)</li> <li>3) <i>Future Requirements of the Milwaukee Water Works</i>, 1954</li> <li>4) <i>History of Water Supply in the Milwaukee Area</i>, Metropolitan Study Commission, 1958</li> </ol>	1A	LOOSE

5) <i>Summary Report on Water System Improvements and Financing for Milwaukee Water Works</i> , 1956		
6) <i>Report on Seasonal Water Consumption, Milwaukee, Wisconsin</i> , 1959		
<b>Bound Volumes Loose on Shelf</b>		
1) <i>Record of Pipe Laid and Hydrants &amp; Gates Set</i> , 1873 to 1952		
2) <i>Index to Record of Pipe Laid and Hydrants &amp; Gates Set</i>		
Miscellaneous Ledgers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribution Department, 1899</li> <li>- Distribution Department Index/Record, 1899</li> <li>- Index/Record, 1898</li> <li>- Index/Record, 1896</li> <li>- Ledger, Jan.-Sept. 1949</li> <li>- Daily Record, 1909</li> <li>- Daily Record, 1893</li> <li>- Night Book, 1922-1923</li> <li>- Daily Record, 1898</li> <li>- Night Book, 1927-1928</li> </ul>	2	LOOSE
Miscellaneous Ledgers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Daily Record, 1896</li> <li>- Daily Record, 1899</li> <li>- Index/Record, 1897</li> <li>- Index/Record, 1910</li> <li>- Index/Record, 1914</li> <li>- Record, 1936</li> </ul>	3	LOOSE
<b>Oversize Material</b>		
Water Commissioner Warrants, 1870s	OS	SM "M-2"