



# Drinking Water for Vienna

**City of  
Vienna**

Vienna Water



[wien.gv.at/wienwasser](https://wien.gv.at/wienwasser)



# Refreshingly Viennese

## Directly from the spring

All of Vienna is supplied with top-quality drinking water. The spring water originates in the Lower Austrian-Styrian Alps and reaches Vienna via two spring water mains. At the endpoints of these mains, it is introduced into reservoirs and then distributed via the city's underground pipe network, which supplies Vienna's flats and houses with mountain spring water. In periods of very high water consumption, groundwater resources ensure additional reliability of supply.

## Good for the environment

The mountain spring water reaches Vienna by following the natural gradient. This means that there is no need for pumps. Water distribution across Vienna is likewise mostly achieved by means of gravity. Hence, drinking water from the tap equals a minimal carbon footprint, contrary to the consumption of bottled beverages. Since mountain spring water also allows for the generation of more electricity than is needed for water supply, tap water is climate-neutral.

## Strictly protected

All areas where spring water and groundwater are extracted are subject to extensive protection. They are left in a largely natural state and managed with only a minimum of human intervention. Special regulations protect these resources against contamination. For example, all industrial and commercial activities are prohibited in water protection zones. This is why Vienna's water is of such outstanding quality.



Spring water protection zone in the Hochschwab massif

## Vienna's spring water mains

Vienna's water supply can count on fully 70 springs.

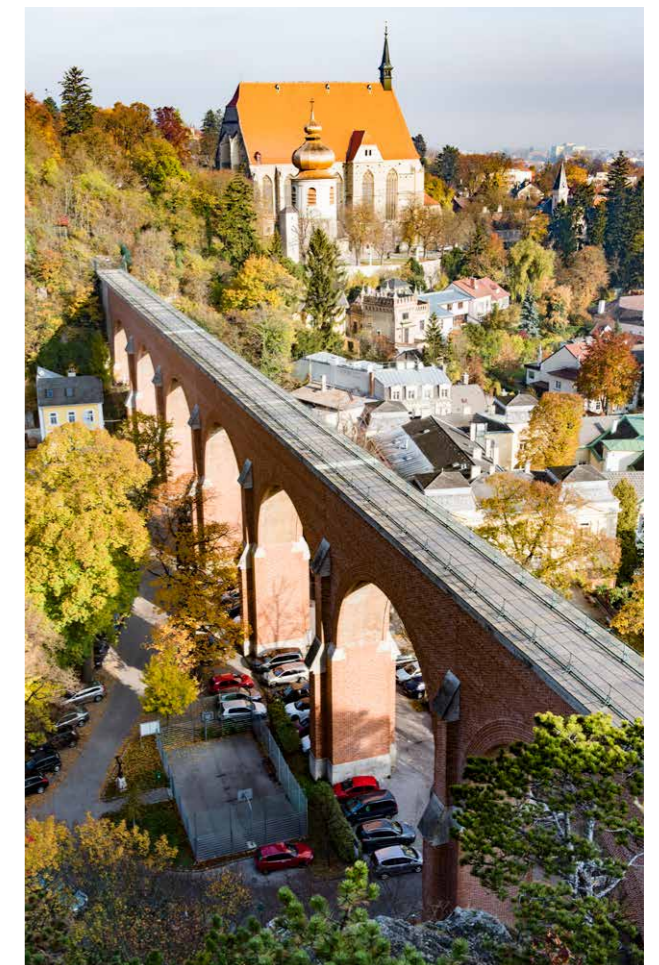
The springs of the **1<sup>st</sup> Spring Water Main** rise in the mountain regions of Rax, Schneeberg and Schneealpe. The water from the Pfannbauern spring – which is situated farthest from Vienna – flows 150 kilometres in the spring water main before reaching the city.

The springs feeding the **2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Water Main** originate at the foot of the Hochschwab massif. Crystal-clear water gushes forth from the springs at a maximum temperature of eight degrees Celsius in both summer and winter. It arrives in Vienna after a journey of 180 kilometres.

## Groundwater wells

The Lobau, Moosbrunn, Danube Island and Nussdorf waterworks ensure that Vienna's water supply is always able to act as needed. The advantages of groundwater lie above all in its rapid availability for water supply as well as in its high quality.

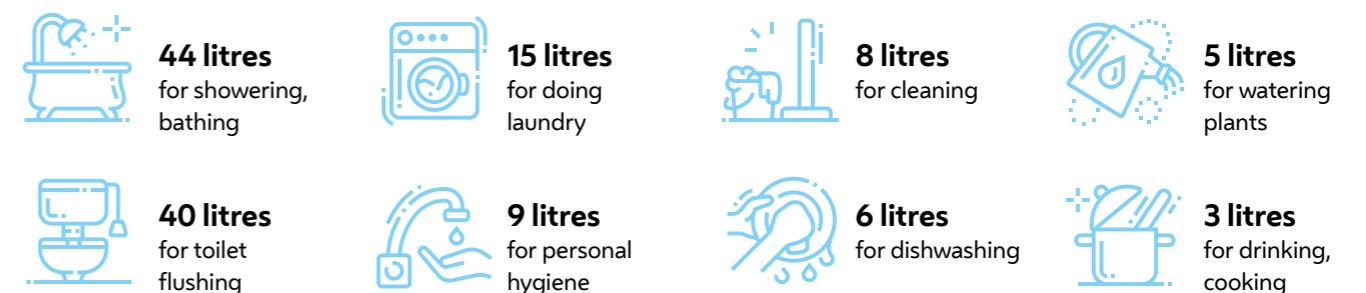
Groundwater is mostly abstracted in the Donau-Auen National Park, which is situated in the Lobau wetlands, and in the southern Vienna Basin, one of Europe's biggest aquifers. The excellent filtering and purification capacity of the soil ensures high groundwater quality. Whenever required, the City of Vienna can thus draw water from 30 wells.








Mödling aqueduct

## Household water use

The daily water consumption per person in Vienna is **130 litres**, composed as follows:



# The journey of Vienna's water

-  Spring
-  Waterworks
-  Reservoir
-  1<sup>st</sup> Water Main Hiking Path
-  Protection and conservation zone

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main

Volume delivered: up to **217,000 m<sup>3</sup>** of water per day  
 Travel time from Alps to city: **36 hours**  
 Length of water main: **180 km**



## 1<sup>st</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main

Volume delivered: up to **220,000 m<sup>3</sup>** of water per day  
 Travel time from Alps to city: **24 hours**  
 Length of water main: **150 km**

## Facts and figures about Vienna's water



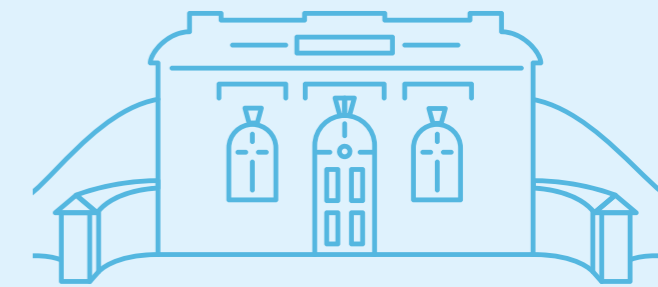
**2 million** inhabitants in Vienna



**Approx. 400,000 m<sup>3</sup>** average daily water consumption in Vienna



**130 litres/day** average water consumption per person excluding industry and commerce



**1.6 million m<sup>3</sup> storage volume** total (all reservoirs)

**31 reservoirs** 29 in Vienna and two more in Moosbrunn and Neusiedl am Steinfeld (Lower Austria)

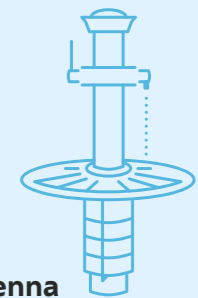
**600,000 m<sup>3</sup> storage volume** of the largest reservoir

**70** water abstraction points in the spring zones

**16** drinking water power stations

**63 million kWh** electricity produced per year with spring water

**130 aqueducts**



**1,800 drinking fountains in Vienna**



# Rigorous monitoring – Superlative quality

It is the goal of Vienna Water's staff to provide top-quality drinking water for a metropolis with two million inhabitants.

## Unique on a worldwide scale Online quality monitoring

All of Vienna is supplied with top-quality drinking water. Water protection zones were established to safeguard this excellent quality standard. In these areas, special regulations and provisions apply to protect spring water and groundwater against contamination.

Equipment controlled online and set up at numerous measuring points in the water protection zones, along the two spring water mains and in Vienna records a variety of parameters of importance for water quality. Data are transmitted online from these checkpoints to the nearest control centre and constantly monitored.

## Safety first

Before being introduced into the pipe network, Vienna's drinking water is disinfected with a minimal addition of chlorine dioxide or with UV light. This measure is stipulated for preventive hygienic reasons, as it prevents all potential microbiological contamination of the water.



Measuring device for real-time water quality monitoring directly in the spring



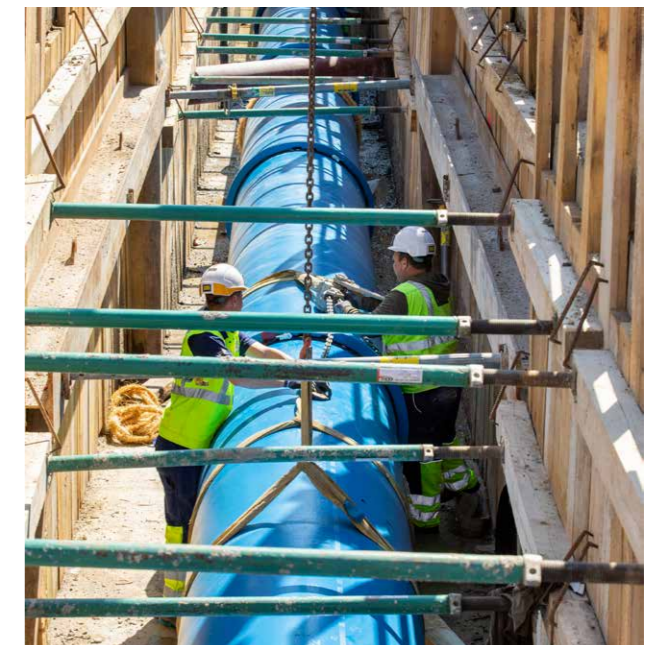
Water quality analysis at the in-house lab of Vienna Water

## Monitoring Vienna's drinking water quality

It is the task of the laboratories of the Hygiene Unit of the City of Vienna (Testing Centre, Inspection and Certification Body) to verify whether Vienna's drinking water complies with the legal requirements. Thus, regular checks are carried out to determine whether the water quality has been compromised. Compliance with the rigorous requirements of the Drinking Water Directive and the Austrian Food Code must be safeguarded at any given moment.

## Pipe installation with quality checks

If no workers are seen around a construction site, this may be due to the fact that the hygienic status of the pipes in this area is being examined. Before being taken into operation, new pipes must be flushed; the water quality, too, is analysed. This analysis can take several days. Thus, new pipes are only commissioned after they have been cleared for use. This ensures that Vienna's citizens will be able to enjoy drinking water of superlative quality from this pipe in the years to come.



A clearance check by the in-house lab ensures that the hygienic condition of the water travelling in a newly laid pipe is reliably perfect.

# Activities of Vienna Water



## Control centre

Around the clock, the employees at the control centre make sure that Vienna's water supply is safe and secure at any given moment. They calculate Vienna's water consumption rate several days in advance. For example, the water needs 36 hours to flow from the Kläffer spring to reach the city. Therefore, the staff at the control centre must decide in due time how much water should be brought from the spring zones to Vienna.

## Power generation

On its journey from the spring zones to Vienna, 63 million kilowatt-hour of environmentally friendly electricity are generated by 16 hydropower stations. Photovoltaic systems produce another two million kilowatt-hour. This is several times the energy required to manage Vienna's water supply. The excess energy is fed into the local power grid. An additional drinking water power station is currently under construction.

## Quick damage relief

On an average, the **stand-by repair team of Vienna Water** is called ten times per day to remedy defects and leakages. Whenever a defective pipe is discovered in the public network, they are on site to eliminate the problem.

The experts of Municipal Department 31 – Vienna Water can be reached around the clock by calling **01 599 59**, no matter whether the problem is a damaged water hydrant or a burst pipe.



# Strategy for the future

## Vienna Water 2050

Vienna is growing, the climate is changing. This will cause water consumption to rise over the coming decades. The City of Vienna is preparing for this scenario: The basis of the related efforts is the "Vienna Water 2050" strategy, which is aimed at safeguarding top-quality drinking water for Vienna in the long term. The strategy comprises measures implemented along the entire journey of the water from springs and wells to flats and households.

## Springs and groundwater wells

With its water resources from spring and groundwater protection zones, Vienna is very well prepared for the future. However, it must be ensured that these 100 resources (i.e. springs and wells) can be exploited without limitation to be able to cope with rising water consumption rates. Structural measures increase the yield of individual springs and wells. A key project for the future lies in the enlargement of the Danube Island waterworks.

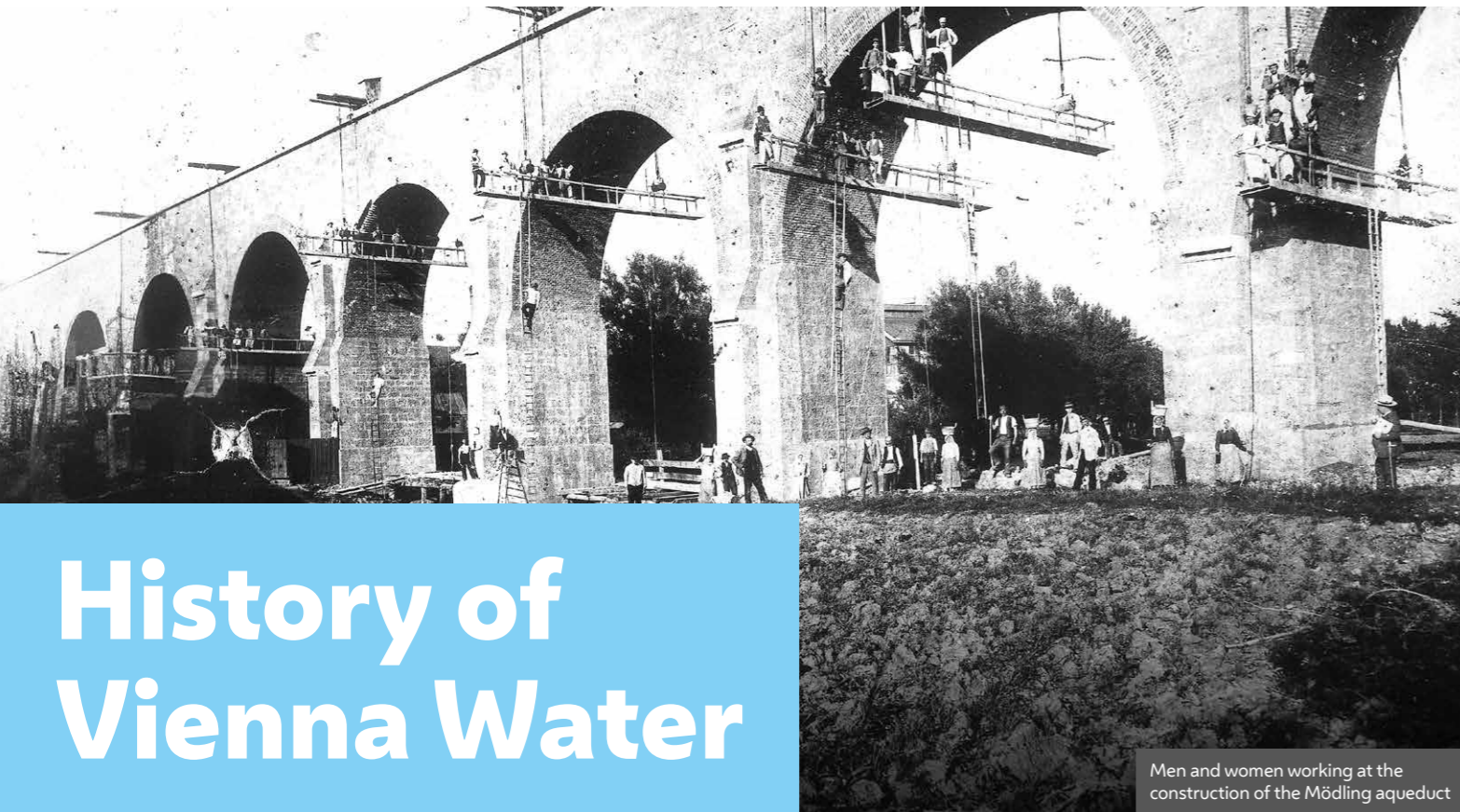
## Reservoirs

At the moment, 29 reservoirs are active in Vienna; in addition, there are two reservoirs in Lower Austria (Moosbrunn and Neusiedl am Steinfeld). Due to the huge total storage volume of **1.6 billion** litres of water, it is possible to react effectively to variations in water consumption. To ensure that this situation will continue, the reservoirs are renovated and enlarged on an ongoing basis. In all, the storage volume of the reservoirs managed by the City of Vienna is to be **increased** to roughly **2 billion** litres of water.

## Drinking water distribution pipes

Vienna's pipe network brings the spring water from the Alps into the city's households. The huge water volumes are transported to all parts of the municipal territory via **supraregional distribution pipelines**. This underground network must be rehabilitated and extended to meet the demands of a growing metropolis.

# History of Vienna Water



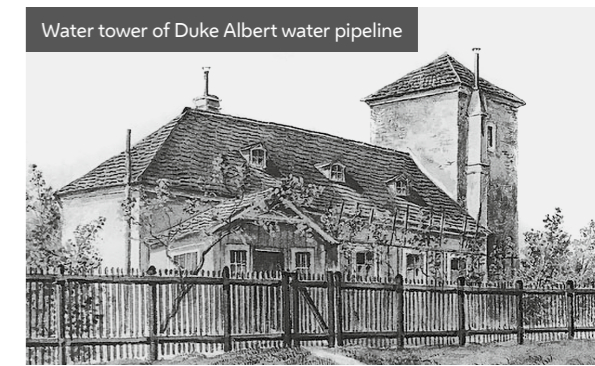
Men and women working at the construction of the Mödling aqueduct



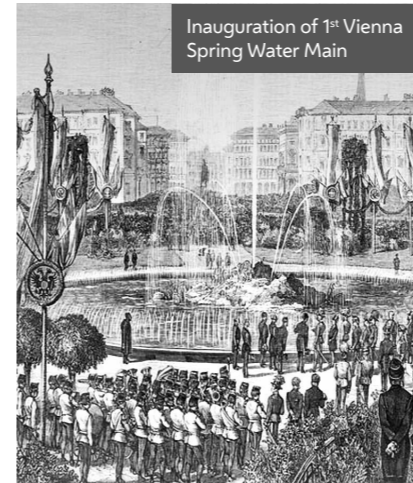
Roman water conduit



Well chamber of Hernalser water pipeline



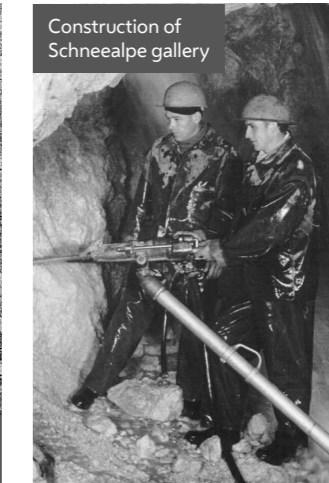
Water tower of Duke Albert water pipeline



Inauguration of 1<sup>st</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main



Inauguration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main



Construction of Schneealpe gallery



PV plant atop Unterlaa reservoir

**Vindobona**  
Already the ancient Romans had spring water transported from the area south of today's Vienna to their legionary camp Vindobona.

**Duke Albert water pipeline**  
The Duke Albert water pipeline led from the village of Hütteldorf to Vienna and supplied four suburbs with fresh spring water.

**Construction of 1<sup>st</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main**  
On 24 October 1873, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main was taken into operation with the inauguration of the high-jet fountain in Schwarzenbergplatz square.

**Construction and inauguration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main**  
On 2 December 1910, Emperor Francis Joseph inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main during a solemn ceremony at Vienna City Hall.

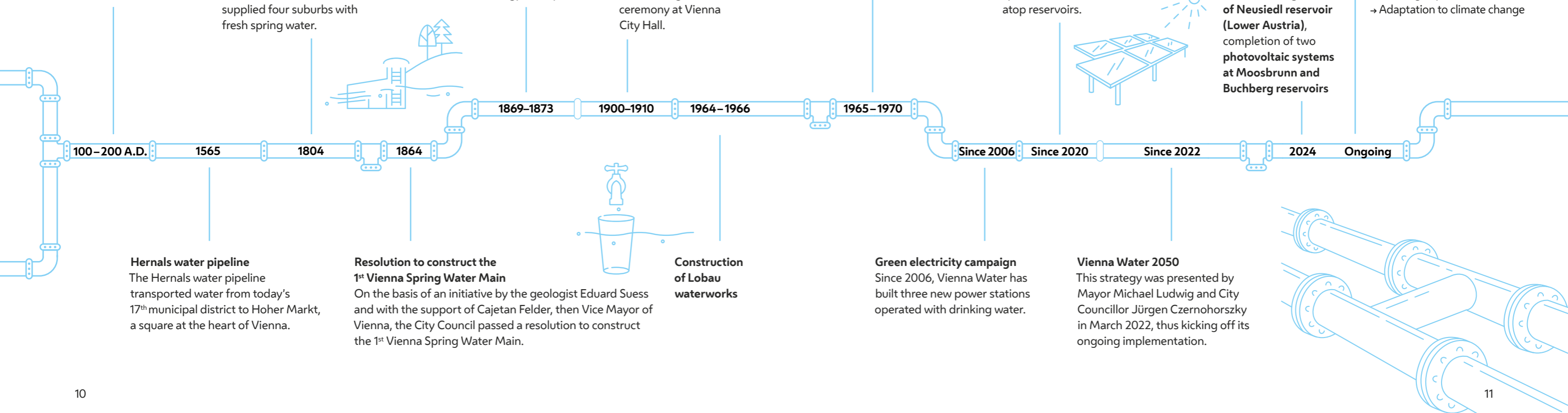
**Construction of Schneealpe gallery**  
The 9,680-metre Schneealpe gallery was constructed to integrate the Seven Springs in the Karlgraben rift into the network.

**Photovoltaic systems**  
Since 2020, PV systems are installed atop reservoirs.

**Maintenance of all water supply installations**  
(spring water mains, reservoirs, pipe network, etc.)

**Challenges:**  
→ Growing city  
→ Adaptation to climate change

Start of **enlargement of Neusiedl reservoir (Lower Austria)**, completion of two **photovoltaic systems at Moosbrunn and Buchberg reservoirs**





# Vienna's water belongs to all

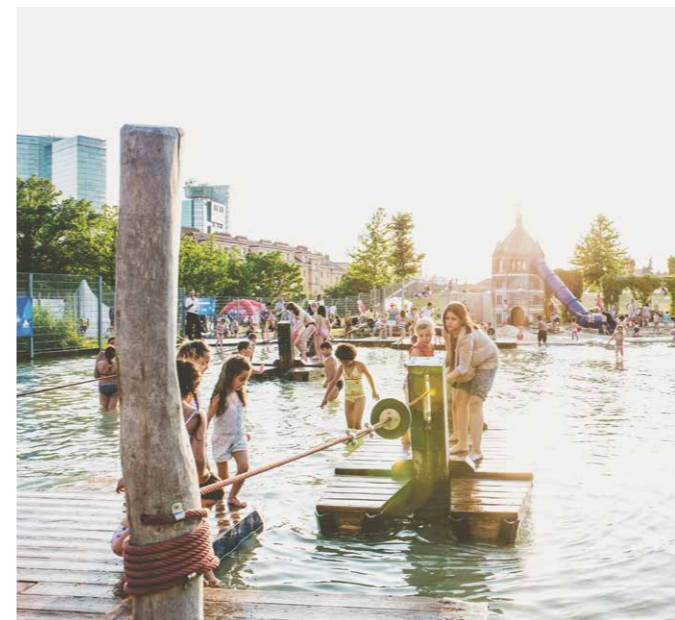
## Keeping cool in public space

Quenching your thirst with tap water while on the go? No problem in Vienna. From April to October, over 1,800 drinking fountains provide easy access to drinking water in public space. The three-metre-high drinking fountains called "Brunnhilde" ("Brunnen" means "well" or "fountain" in German) are particular eye-catchers. In addition to offering mountain spring water to drink, they function as cooling spray mist dispensers on hot days. In the case of extremely high temperatures, special attachments on hydrants, called "Sommerspritzer" ("summer splash"), help passers-by to cool off. The fine spray mist cools the immediate surroundings and, in this way, creates a pleasant microclimate. Spray mists are among the **emergency measures** defined in the **Heat Action Plan** of the City of Vienna, while **long-term interventions** include new parks, more green spaces and more trees along urban streets.



## Old valve chamber

When today's Meiselmarkt shopping mall was still a reservoir, the entrance to this facility was through the valve chamber, which housed inlet and outlet pipes with their shutting-off devices (valves). Today, the old valve chamber is used as an event venue. Historic plans were drawn upon to reconstruct, inter alia, the entrance portal and the windows.



## Water playground at the Favoriten water tower

This playground is situated at the Wienerberg reservoir. Two waterfalls and an artificial brook for playing provide the perfect setting for kids to splash and cool off to their hearts' content. The lake can be crossed with cable ferries. The water playground is open daily from the beginning of May to the end of September from 9 a.m. (on Fridays from 11 a.m.) to 9 p.m. Admission is free.



## Vienna's water tower

In 2024, the water tower celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday. Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main was built, this structure supplied the high-lying areas of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> municipal districts with drinking water. In 1956, the building was decommissioned. Today, it is under monument protection and serves as an exhibition space. For information about guided tours and exhibitions, please call 01 599 59 or visit the site:

[wien.gv.at/en/environment/water-tower-favoriten](http://wien.gv.at/en/environment/water-tower-favoriten)

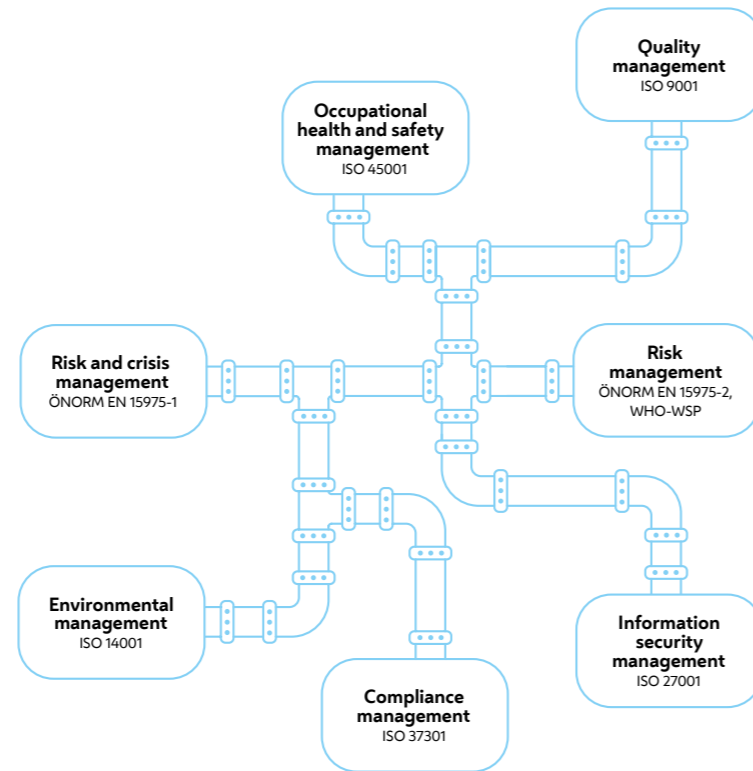
# Vienna Water acts responsibly

## The integrated management system of Vienna Water

For over 150 years, a key focus of Vienna Water has been on providing all-around quality. To continue to offer top-flight services, Vienna Water has adopted an integrated management system (IMS).

An IMS is characterised by the tapping of synergies and the pooling of resources, which allows for leaner and more efficient management. Vienna Water's IMS combines the following management systems. →

Vienna Water is committed to complying with all requirements laid down in these standards to safeguard the quality of Vienna's water supply. This also means that the levels of performance and service must be continuously improved.



## Vienna water school

Third- to eighth-grade schoolchildren are the target group of the Vienna water school. By way of introduction, the kids are first given an overview of such issues as the worldwide water situation, Vienna's water supply and the future of Vienna Water. This is followed by a guided tour of the water tower. The classes take half a day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and are free of charge. Application is via an online form.



## Water main hiking path

Experiencing nature: The hiking path along the 1<sup>st</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main consists of two routes, both designed as full-day hikes. A section of the marked hiking path takes the form of a steep slope in alpine terrain and, hence, is particularly demanding. For this reason, sturdy shoes are required as an essential part of an all-round, reliable hiking gear.

### For ordering the brochure:

☎ 01 599 59 31006

✉ oeffentlichkeit@ma31.wien.gv.at



## Jubilee walk

The jubilee walk to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vienna Water comprises two sections. The first portion starts at the high-jet fountain in Schwarzenbergplatz square, where the 1<sup>st</sup> Vienna Spring Water Main was inaugurated in 1873. The walk then continues through historic and modern gardens and passes fountains and ponds before finally ending at the new jubilee fountain "WirWasser". The second portion leads from the jubilee fountain via Favoritenstrasse to Heuberggstätten, a largely natural park, and crosses the Wienerberg recreation area before ending at the Favoriten water tower.

## Vienna Water represents the interests of the City of Vienna

Vienna Water represents the interests of the Austrian capital in the field of water supply. Staff members are deployed to **regional, national and international** interest groups and **associations**. In this way, the concerns of Vienna's water supply find an expert audience; moreover, findings and suggestions voiced in the interest groups can be made practical use of.

## Vienna Water museums

The history of Vienna's water supply is vividly documented at the Kaiserbrunn and Wildalpen water main museums.



**Water Main Museum Kaiserbrunn**  
Kaiserbrunn 5, 2651 Reichenau an der Rax

**Opening hours:** 1 May to early Nov.:  
Sat, Sun, holidays: 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

**Admission/guided tours:**  
Admission is free.  
Guided tour per group: € 50.–  
(for groups of at least ten persons  
against prior appointment)

**Guided tours:** For family groups on presentation of a Familienland\*Pass or Niederösterreich-CARD: € 25.–. Guided tours for public educational institutions (schools, etc.) are free.

**For appointments and information:**  
☎ +43 1 4000-31760  
✉ kaiserbrunn@ma31.wien.gv.at



**SpringWater Museum**  
Säusenbach 14, 8924 Wildalpen

**Opening hours:** 1 May to 26 October:  
Mon–Fri: 10 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sun, holidays: 10 a.m. to noon

**Admission/guided tours:**  
Adults: € 7.–  
Schoolchildren aged six to 15 years: € 3.–  
Children under six years: free  
Guided tour per group: € 25.–

**Guided tours:** Guided tours for groups of at least ten persons are available outside regular opening hours but require prior appointment. The SpringWater Museum and the exhibition "Forest & Water" are also **accessible for persons with restricted mobility**.

**For appointments and information:**  
☎ +43 3636 451-31871 / +43 3636 451-31870  
☎ +43 676 811 832 923 / +43 676 811 831 870  
✉ museum.wal@ma31.wien.gv.at

## On the trail of Vienna Water

With the free audio guide of Vienna Water, it is easy to visit specific attractions or sights flexibly and without having to wait in line or to plunge into the world of Vienna Water from the comfort of your home. Learn interesting facts about Vienna's water supply, the Favoriten water tower, the high-jet fountain in Schwarzenbergplatz square and many other fountains scattered all over the city. The audio guide is available in German, English and Italian.

### How does it work?

Just download the free Hearonymus app to your smartphone, search for the "Vienna Water" keyword and get your guide free of charge (available for iOS and Android or from [hearonymus.at](http://hearonymus.at)).



Vienna is one of the world's most liveable cities. There are many reasons for this, and the outstanding quality of our drinking water is one of them. Arriving at every household fresh from the Alps, Vienna's water is totally climate-neutral. This is the best prerequisite for the water supply of a metropolis, also in the future.

I wish you a lot of fun browsing, reading, learning and experiencing!

**Jürgen Czernohorszky**  
Executive City Councillor for Climate, Environment,  
Democracy and Personnel

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WWW: [wien.gv.at/wienwasser](http://wien.gv.at/wienwasser)