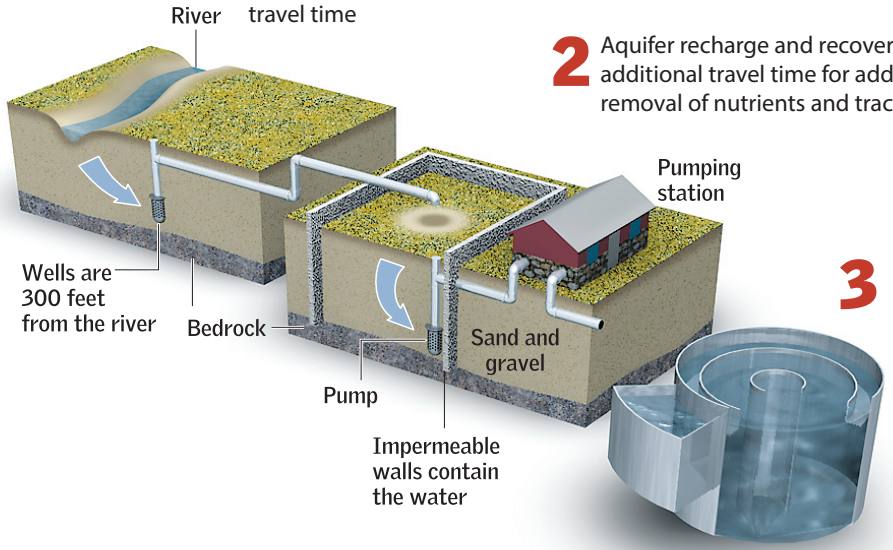
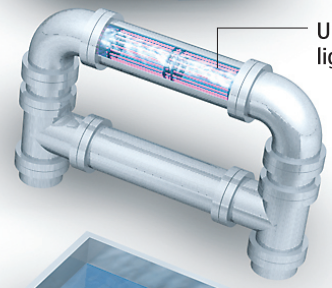
1 Riverbank filtration extracts water from the alluvium and removes nitrate, pathogens and trace organic chemicals in 7-10 days travel time



2 Aquifer recharge and recovery provides additional travel time for additional removal of nutrients and trace organics.

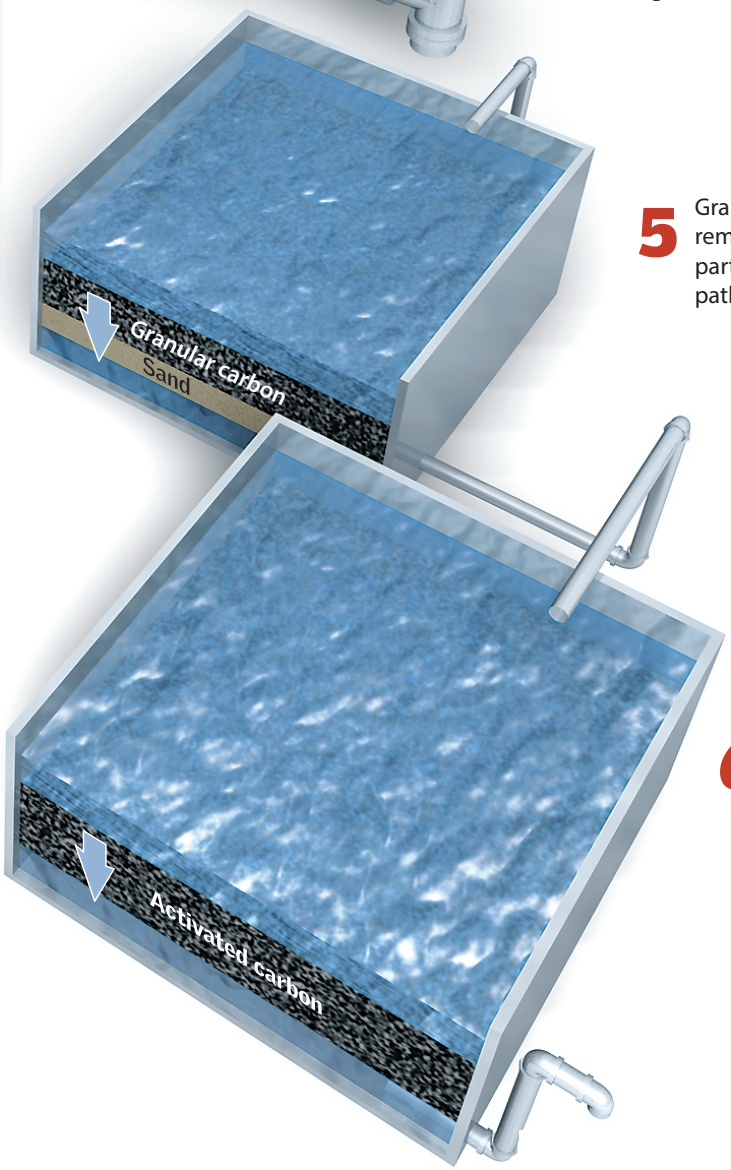
AURORA WATER

3 Chemical softening reduces hardness, calcium, manganese, iron and scaling potential.



4 High intensity UV light combined with hydrogen peroxide oxidizes remaining trace organics

6,912 ultraviolet bulbs sit in specially designed quartz sleeves for the facility's advanced ultraviolet oxidation system. UV is one the most effective ways to remove pharmaceuticals from drinking water.



5 Granular filters remove remaining particles and pathogens

6 Granular activated carbon adsorbs remaining trace organics and improves taste

Owner:
Aurora Water
Aurora, Colorado

Ground Breaking:
July 2007

Completion:
October 2010

Capacity (S. Platte):
Up to 10 million gallons per day

Project Cost:
$638,000,000

Treatment capacity:
50,000,000 gallons per day

Water Sources:
Aurora Reservoir
South Platte River

Aurora Water

Prairie Waters Project

Prairie Waters is an innovative system that uses a sustainable water source by recapturing river water to provide drought insurance and as a cornerstone of a water supply plan that will help meet much of Aurora's needs for decades. Prairie Waters uses both natural cleansing processes and state-of-the-art purification technology to deliver an additional 10 million gallons of water per day.

Aurora owns rights to water in the South Platte River Basin which includes water from the Colorado and Arkansas River Basins, as well as agricultural rights in the South Platte purchased from willing sellers. In most cases, Aurora's water rights in the South Platte allow the city to use the water "to extinction." Essentially, this means that the water residents use for washing, laundry, showering, as well as some of the water from lawn watering, stays in the South Platte River Basin. Since this water is not native to the South Platte basin, we have the right to take an equivalent amount back out of the river.