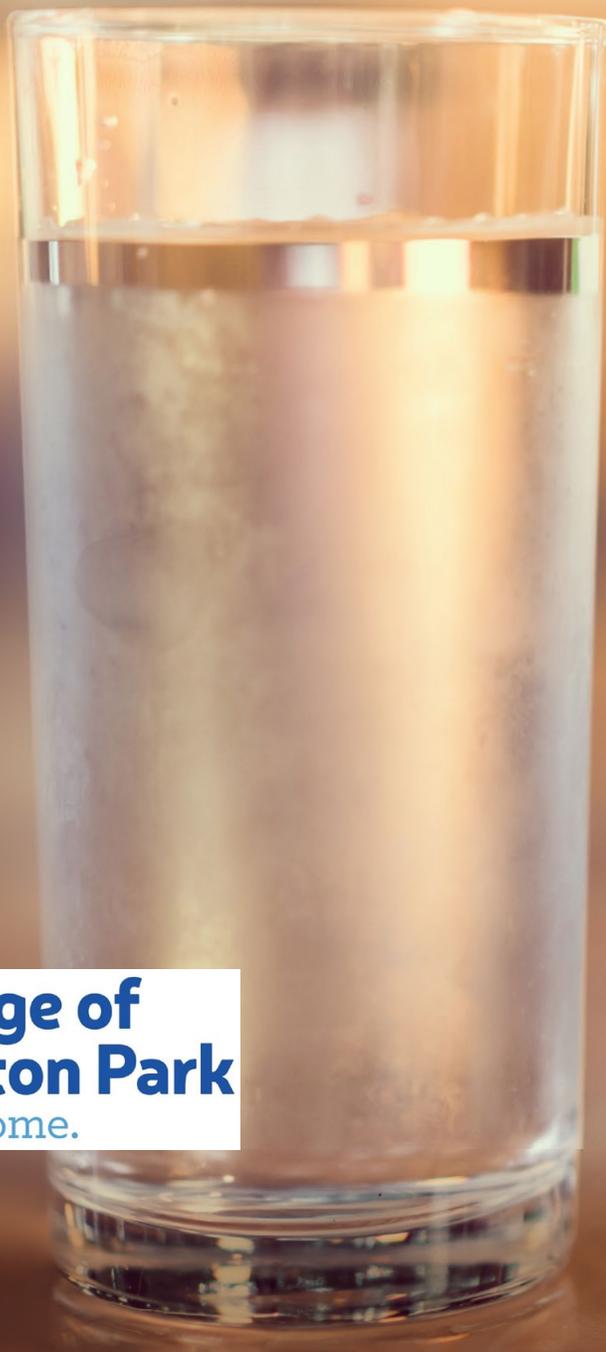


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



Presented By





We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

Source Water Assessment

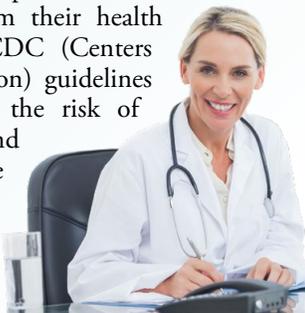
We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by Village Hall or call our water operator at (708) 481-8950. To view a summary version of the completed source water assessments, including information on the importance of source water, susceptibility to contamination determination, and documentation and recommendation of source water protection efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Public Meetings

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. The village also provides a quarterly newsletter as well as information you can obtain at the community center, library, and Village Hall.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Where Does My Water Come From?

The water production system currently pulls from groundwater and utilizes ion exchange and aeration treatment facilities. Our total maximum daily pumping capacity is 3,400 gallons per minute (4.9 million gallons per day). We have one million gallons of storage. In 2010 we delivered a total of 390,693,000 gallons, for an average of 1.07 million gallons per day. In 2020 we delivered 366,441,000 gallons, which is an average of 1.014 million gallons per day.

“
When the well is dry, we
know the worth of water.

—Benjamin Franklin

”

Water Treatment Process

The village water system consists of three wells, each with its own treatment and elevated tank for water storage. Our water treatment plants are located in Richton Hills subdivision, with a capacity of 250,000 gallons of storage; Lakewood subdivision, with a capacity of 250,000 gallons of storage; and the Lincoln Crossings subdivision, which has a capacity of 500,000 gallons of storage.



The water distribution system consists of approximately 42 miles of pipe ranging from 6 to 16 inches in diameter. There are also 650 fire hydrants, 600 water main line valves, and approximately 3,500 water meters ranging in size from 3/4 to 3 inches.

Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Fluoride (to prevent tooth decay) and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized water towers and into your home or business.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Wegrzyn, Director of Public Works, at (708) 481-8950, ext. 147.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but

we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.





BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.

300
MILLION

1
MILLION

The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S.

34
BILLION

135
BILLION

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S.

The number of active public water systems in the U.S.

151
THOUSAND

199
THOUSAND

The number of highly trained and licensed water professionals serving in the U.S.

The age in years of the world's oldest water, found in a mine at a depth of nearly two miles.

2
BILLION

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by Illinois EPA.

During lead and copper sampling in 2019, we failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations. The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency). There were no violations relating to water quality, only the public notification requirement. This violation is required to be posted for three years.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2018	10	0	2.8	1.5–2.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2018	2	2	0.0019	0.0019–0.0019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2021	[4]	[4]	0.9	0.5–1.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2020	5	0	0.659	0.659–0.659	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	4	4	0.562	0.562–0.562	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	2	2.29–2.42	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2019	10	10	0.04	ND–0.04	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2021	80	NA	11	10.27–10.52	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

STATE REGULATED SUBSTANCES ¹							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Iron (ppb)	2019	1,000	NA	170	170–170	No	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2019	150	NA	1.5	1.5–1.5	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2018	NA	NA	270	220–270	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Water softener regeneration
Zinc (ppb)	2018	5,000	NA	0.015	0.015–0.015	No	Naturally occurring; Discharge from metal factories

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.3	1.3	0.127	0/120	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2021	15	0	9.5	0/120	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹These substances are not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA. However, the state has set MCLs for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.