

2019 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS

PWSID: 1820020



2019 Drinking Water Report

MAKING SAFE DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 290 to 310 feet deep, that draw water from the Jordan aquifer.

Oak Park Heights works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Andy Kegley, Public Works Director, at 651-439-4439 or akegley@cityofaokparkheights.com if you have questions about Oak Park Heights' drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

OAK PARK HEIGHTS MONITORING RESULTS

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2019. We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and Testing Drinking Water in Minnesota: www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/sampling.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/sampling.html)

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables on these pages show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- ◆ **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ◆ **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).
- ◆ **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ◆ **PWSID:** Public water system identification.



Water Quality Data Tables

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Action Level	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	90% of Results Were Less Than	No. of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Copper (08/14/17)	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	0.18 ppm	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (08/14/17)	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	2.8 ppb	1 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10.4 ppm	10 ppm	3.6 ppm	3.10 - 3.60 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.93 ppm	0.86 - 1.00 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 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 1-800-426-4791.

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).



A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions - like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity – may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

- More information is available on MDH's [A-Z List of Contaminants in Water \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html) and [Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 4\) \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html).

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sodium*	20 ppm	10.6 ppm	7.29 - 10.60 ppm
Sulfate	500 ppm	12.9 ppm	12.20 - 12.90 ppm

*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Oak Park Heights is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments \(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Oak Park Heights provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.

- * You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: Are your pipes made of lead? Here's a quick way to find out: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>



- * The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
- 2. Use **cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
- 3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - * Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: [Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program \(https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam\)](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)
The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
- 4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
 - * Read about water treatment units: [Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction \(http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water \(http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water \(http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead\)](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources \(http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html).

HELP PROTECT OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE—WATER

The Value of Water

Drinking water is a precious resource, yet we often take it for granted.

Throughout history, civilizations have risen and fallen based on access to a plentiful, safe water supply. That's still the case today. Water is key to healthy people and healthy communities.

Water is also vital to our economy. We need water for manufacturing, agriculture, energy production, and more. One-fifth of the U.S. economy would come to a stop without a reliable and clean source of water.

Systems are in place to provide you with safe drinking water. The state of Minnesota and local water systems work to protect drinking water sources. For example, we might work to seal an unused well to prevent contamination of the groundwater. We treat water to remove harmful contaminants. And we do extensive testing to ensure the safety of drinking water.

If we detect a problem, we take correction action and notify the public. Water from a public water system like yours is tested more thoroughly and regulated more closely than water from any other source, including bottled water.

Conservation

Conservation is essential, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. For example, in parts of the metropolitan area, groundwater is being used faster than it can be replaced. Some agricultural regions in Minnesota are vulnerable to drought, which can affect crop yields and municipal water supplies. We must use our water wisely. Below are some tips to help you and your family conserve – and save money in the process.

- Fix running toilets—they can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Shower instead of bathe. Bathing uses more water than showering, on average.
- Only run full loads of laundry, and set the washing machine to the correct water level.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Use water-efficient appliances (look for the WaterSense label).
- Use water-friendly landscaping, such as native plants.
- When you do water your yard, water slowly, deeply, and less frequently. Water early in the morning and close to the ground.
- Learn more
 - [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Conserving Water webpage \(https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/conserving-water\)](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/conserving-water)
 - [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense webpage \(https://www.epa.gov/watersense\)](https://www.epa.gov/watersense)

Overview

Most Minnesotans, whether they drink from a public water supply or a private well, have drinking water that does not need treatment for health protection. Water treatment units are best for improving the physical qualities of water—the taste, color, or odor.

No single treatment process can remove all substances in water. If you decide to install a home water treatment unit, choose a unit certified and labeled to reduce or remove the substance of concern. If there is more than one substance you want to remove from your water, you may need to

combine several treatment processes into one system.



HOME WATER TREATMENT

Even well-designed treatments systems can fail. You should continue to test your drinking water after you install a treatment unit. All home water treatment units need regular maintenance to work correctly. Regular maintenance may include changing filters, disinfecting the unit, or cleaning scale buildup. Always install, clean, and maintain a treatment unit according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Learn more at [Home Water Treatment \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html).

Beware of Water Treatment Scams

False claims, deceptive sales pitches, or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies. Every person has a right to decide what is best for themselves and their family, and you may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants of emerging concern, chlorine, and other chemicals in your water. However, you should be cautious about purchasing a water treatment system. If you are considering the purchase of a home water treatment system, please read the Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations online at [Warning: Beware of Water Treatment Scams \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html).

CITY SERVICES DURING PANDEMIC

City Hall officially reopened to the public on June 1. Hours are 8am–4:30pm weekdays. Here are some things to know before you visit:

- We have a barrier at the front counter to help keep distance between staff and visitors. Please stay behind the barrier unless staff directs you to come closer to help assist you.
- Face masks are not required but encouraged.
- Please keep a distance of at least six feet between you and other individuals.
- Please use the hand sanitizer

available before and after transactions.

- Please call ahead if you want to meet with department staff about specific projects.
- Utility payments can be made online or dropped in the utility payment box in the traffic circle directly outside of City Hall.
- Documents can also be dropped off for City staff in the utility payment box.
- Most importantly, if you are sick, please DO NOT enter the building.

from the Office of the Governor). Please contact us if you would like to check availability for your small group gathering.

The summer park program has begun and events are listed on the City's website. Staff is offering a pick-up and take-home option of craft kits if you don't feel comfortable staying at the park for the events. Contact Summer Park Program Coordinator Gina Zeuli at gzeuli@q.com to arrange for project pickup.

City park shelters also officially reopened on June 1. Reservations for park shelters are being accepted for groups of 25 or fewer people (this may change depending on guidance

City Council and advisory committee meetings were being held via videoconference during March, April and May, but we have made some modifications to the Council Chambers to allow for in-person meetings. Because of the need to practice social distancing, several chairs have been removed and there is limited space for the public. Meetings will continue to be broadcast live on Cable Access Channel 16.

Our priority is to keep the our residents and staff safe. Please check our website for updates.

