



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

The City of Park Ridge is committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. We remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. In previous years, this report has been mailed to you separately; this year the report is being included with your water bill.

This year, as in years past, your tap water met all United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Illinois drinking water health standards. This report summarizes the quality of water that we provided last year, including details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

If you have any question about this report or about our water system, please contact Donald Mann, Supervisor of Water Distribution, at (1-847-318-5251). You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The City Council meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at City Hall, 505 Butler Place.

The City of Park Ridge purchases all of our drinking water from the City of Chicago and enjoys an abundant supply of water from Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan water is first treated and then pumped from the City of Chicago's Jardine Filtration Plant off of Navy Pier, one of the largest and most advanced filtration plants in the world. The water is then pumped into Park Ridge's distribution system and into your home.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

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 infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

LEAD AND DRINKING WATER

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. The City of Park Ridge is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but 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 2 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

Our Mission:

THE CITY OF PARK RIDGE IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN CITY SERVICES IN ORDER TO UPHOLD A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE,
SO OUR COMMUNITY REMAINS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK.

WATER CONSERVATION

You can play a role in conserving water and save 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 can save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks (if you are allowed access). Simply turn off the taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection other than dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance great enough that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, wet-weather flows and river reversals can potentially contaminate offshore intakes. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls, and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to stormwater runoff, marinas, and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

Information on the Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management, at (1-312-744-6635).

SUBSTANCES THAT COULD BE IN WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. USFDA 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 source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants 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 and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791) or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

CITY OF PARK RIDGE 2014 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED

DEFINITIONS

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

MFL: Million fibers per liter.

mrem/year: Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

NA: Not applicable.

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

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

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

Parts per quadrillion (ppq): Or pictograms per liter.

Parts per trillion (ppt): Or nanograms per liter.

Treatment Techniques (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDGL)	CITY OF PARK RIDGE		CITY OF CHICAGO		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTIONS		
Barium (ppm)	2014	2	2	NA	NA	0.0227	0.0223-0.0227	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural materials
Chlorine (ppm)	2014	4	4	0.74	0.50-0.74	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2014	4	4	NA	NA	0.98	0.94-0.98	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	2014	60	NA	16.7	116.-16.7	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	2014	80	NA	48.7	15.3-48.7	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria (%positive samples)	2014	5% OF MONTHLY SAMPLES ARE POSITIVE	0	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2014	10	10	NA	NA	0.31	0.30-0.31	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2014	TT=1NTUMAX	NA	NA	NA	0.11	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly % of samples meeting limit)	2014	TT=95% OF SAMPLES<0.3	NA	NA	NA	100%	100%-100.0%	No	Soil runoff

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 (90 TH %TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL / TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper(ppm)	2014	0	1.3	ND	0/30	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	2014	15	0	ND	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

TOC (Total Organic Carbon) The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by the IEPA.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	CITY OF CHICAGO					TYPICAL SOURCE
	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDGL)	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	2014	5	0	0.84	0.50-0.84	Decay of natural and manmade deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon & uranium (pCi/L)	2014	15	0	6.6	6.1-6.6	Decay of natural and manmade deposits

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	CITY OF PARK RIDGE		CITY OF CHICAGO		TYPICAL SOURCE
		HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)-IDSE Results (ppb)	2007	21.9	7.67-21.9	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Sodium ² (ppm)	2014	NA	NA	10.0	9.53-10.0	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; used in water softener regeneration
Sulfate (ppm)	2014	NA	NA	35.5	20.9-35.5	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)-IDSE Results (ppb)	2007	54.81	35.3-62.72	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection

¹ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of disinfectants.

² Sodium is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA. However, the state has set an MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.

UCMR3 COMPLIANCE REPORTING

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDGL)	CITY OF PARK RIDGE		CITY OF CHICAGO		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTIONS		
Chromium (ppb)	2013-2014	100	100	0.5	0.2-0.5	0.3	0.2-0.3	No	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys
Molybdenum (ppb)	2013-2014	NA	NA	1.2	<1-1.2	1.1	1.0-1.1	No	Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide
Strontium (ppb)	2013-2014	NA	NA	135.4	111.5-135.4	120	110-120	No	Naturally-occurring element; has been used in cathode-ray tube TV's to block x-ray emissions
Vanadium (ppb)	2013-2014	NA	NA	0.4	<0.2-0.4	0.3	ND-0.3	No	Naturally-occurring metal; vanadium pentoxide is used as a catalyst and a chemical intermediate
Chromium-6 or Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2013-2014	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.22	0.18-0.22	No	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and alloys
4-Androstene-3, 17-Dione (ppb)	2013-2014	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0008	0.0006-0.0008	No	Steroidal hormone naturally produced in the human body; and used as an anabolic steroid and a dietary supplement
Testosterone (ppb)	2013-2014	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0001	0.0001-0.0001	No	Androgenic steroid naturally produced in the human body; and used in pharmaceuticals
Cobalt (ppb)	2013-2014	NA	NA	<1	<1	NA	NA	No	Naturally-occurring element found in the earth's crust and at low concentrations in seawater, and in some surface and ground water