

A close-up photograph of a water filter with water flowing through it, set against a blue background. The filter is a cylindrical mesh structure, and the water is clear and flowing downwards. The background is a soft-focus blue, suggesting a kitchen or utility area.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2018

Presented By



**Village of
Richton Park**
Your home.

Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Public Meetings

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, you are 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

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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), and we have 1 million gallons of storage. In 2010 we delivered a total of 390.7 million gallons, for a daily average of 1.07 million gallons per day. In 2017 we delivered 350.5 million gallons, which is an average of 960,000 gallons per day.

Water Treatment Process



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

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 0.75 to 3 inches.

Chlorine is added again 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.) Finally, 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.

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.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has a Web site (<https://goo.gl/m7D4cm>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Illinois, including valuable information about our watershed.

Source Water Assessment

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 Assessment Report, including Importance of Source Water, Susceptibility to Contamination Determination, and documentation of and recommendations for 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>.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent, according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out its website at <https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG>.

We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

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.

About Our Violations

During 2018 the village received five violations for reporting requirements for the lead and copper rule as well as one for consumer confidence reporting. Upon being notified of these violations by the Illinois EPA, we immediately corrected the violations. We violated reporting and public notification requirements and did not impact public health and safety. We have already taken steps to ensure that these tasks will be performed in the future so that this oversight will not be repeated.

The violations are as follows:

- Follow-up or Routine Tap M/R (LCR)
- Lead Consumer Notice (LCR)
- Public Education (LCR)
- Water Quality Parameter M/R (LCR)
- Public Notice Rule Linked to Violation
- Consumer Confidence Reporting Adequacy/Availability/Content

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 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 (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

800
TRILLION

1¢ The average cost for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

99%

50
GALLONS

The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's surface that's covered by water.

71%

330
MILLION

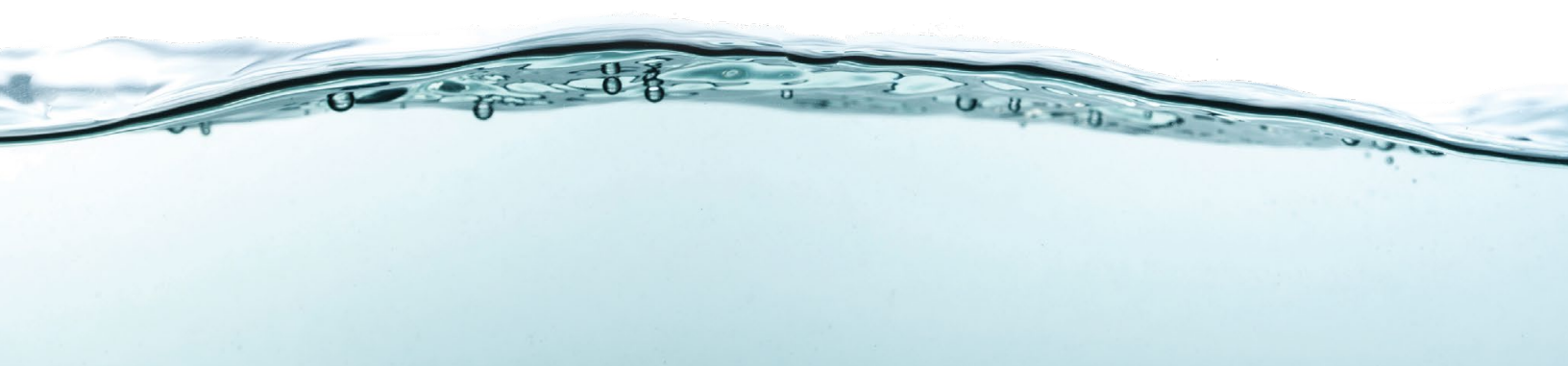
The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

The amount of Earth's water that is available for all of humanity's needs.

1%

75%

The amount of the human brain that contains water.



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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2014	15	0	0.323	0.323–0.323	No	Erosion of natural deposits
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	0.012	0.012–0.012	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2018	[4]	[4]	0.7	0.4–0.5	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2018	100	100	5.4	ND–5.4	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2014	5	0	0.61	0.61–0.61	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	4	4	0.604	0.562–0.604	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2018	10	10	0.12	0.06–0.12	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2018	80	NA	15	1.479–15	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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)	2018	1.3	1.3	0.18	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0	19	4/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

STATE REGULATED SUBSTANCES ¹

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Iron (ppb)	2018	1,000	NA	580	38–580	No	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2018	150	NA	4.5	ND–4.5	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

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).

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
HAA5 (ppb)	2018	1.64	ND-1.64	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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

² No maximum contaminant level (MCL) or mandatory health effects language has been established for this contaminant by either state or federal regulations. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.