



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



*Presented By*



**Village of  
Richton Park**  
Your home.



PWS ID#: IL0312550



## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit <http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8>.

## 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 - or 4.9 million gallons per day - and 1 million gallons of storage. In 2023 we delivered 371,631,000 gallons, which is an average of 1.02 million gallons per day.

## Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. A 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 importance of source water, susceptibility to contamination determination, and documentation/recommendation of source water protection efforts, visit [epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl](http://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. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (800) 426-4791 or [water.epa.gov/drink/hotline](http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline).



**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the Assistant Director of Public Works at (708) 481-8950 extension 151.



## 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## 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.

## About Our Violation

During the summer of 2022, we did not provide results of the lead tap water monitoring within 30 days of obtaining the results. Furthermore, we received an additional violation for public notification for the Lead and Copper Rule for the same action. All residents were notified, but not within the 30-day requirement. We have already taken the steps to ensure that adequate monitoring and reporting will be performed in the future so that this oversight will not be repeated. The violation period ended on March 31, 2023.

## 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.

## 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.

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

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.

We are participating in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0	2.47	2.36–2.47	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.00591	ND–0.00591	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	0.7	0.6–1.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2022	100	100	16.6	15–16.6	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2020	5	0	0.659	0.659–0.659	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.64	0.6–0.64	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	4	3.47–4.08	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Iron (ppb)	2019	1,000 <sup>1</sup>	NA	170	170–170	No	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2019	150 <sup>2</sup>	NA	1.5	1.5–1.5	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2019	10	10	0.04	ND–0.04	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2023	50	50	2.59	ND–2.59	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	2022	NA <sup>3</sup>	NA	241	238–241	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used in water softener regeneration
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	16.8	10.4–16.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Zinc (ppb)	2018	5,000 <sup>4</sup>	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).

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)	2023	1.3	1.3	00.281	0/120	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	12.9	5/120	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup>Iron is 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.

<sup>2</sup>Manganese is 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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Zinc is 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.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**5.1** TRILLION

The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.

**12** THOUSAND

The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.

**1.7** TRILLION

The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.

**2**

How often in minutes a water main breaks.

**47.5** TRILLION

The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.

**33%**

The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire by 2033.