

2008 Drinking Water Report



The City of St. Louis Park is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2008. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The City of Saint Louis Park provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 11 wells ranging from 286 to 1,095 feet deep, that draw water from the St Peter, Prairie Du-Chien-Jordan, and Mt. Simon-Hinkley aquifers.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call (651) 201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa. Call (952) 924-2558 if you have questions about the City of Saint Louis Park drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

The results contained in the following table indicate an exceedance of a federal standard. Some other contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2008. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

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.

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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level)

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal)

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level: This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

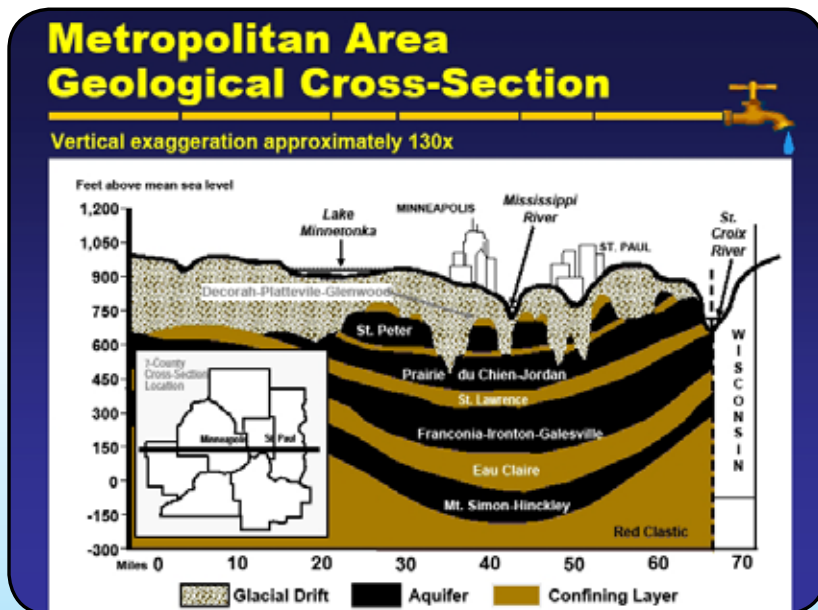
pCi/l: PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).

ppm: Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd: No Detection.

N/A: Not Applicable (does not apply).



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2008)	Average /Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15.4	3.4-21.1	16.63✓	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	N/A	.19	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	1-9.5	9.38✓	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.98-1.2	1.07	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	N/A	3.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	nd-.27	.27	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	N/A	4.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.2	.2	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2.4	nd-2.5	2.1	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	nd-3.7	3.7	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	nd-1	1	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

✓ During the year 2008, we had a violation for Alpha Emitters and Combined Radium; however, results for both contaminants from samples collected at Treatment Plant #6 on December 4, 2008, were less than the MCLs. Our system has returned to compliance for alpha emitters and combined radium after installing additional treatment equipment.



Radium

- Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
- Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2008)	Average /Result*	
Radon (pCi/l) (10/31/2005)	N/A	75	Erosion of natural deposits.

**This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.*

Radon is a radioactive gas which is naturally occurring in some groundwater. It poses a lung cancer risk when gas is released from water into air (as occurs during showering, bathing, or washing dishes or clothes) and a stomach cancer risk when it is ingested. Because radon in indoor air poses a much greater health risk than radon in drinking water, an Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL) of 4,000 picoCuries per liter may apply in states that have adopted an Indoor Air Program, which compels citizens, homeowners, schools, and communities to reduce the radon threat from indoor air. For states without such a program, the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 300 pCi/l may apply. Minnesota plans to adopt an Indoor Air Program once the Radon Rule is finalized.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.7-1	.83	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.

*****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# site over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (07/25/2006)	N/A	1.3	.43	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (07/25/2006)	N/A	15	5	2 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 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.

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

Five easy ways to conserve water and save money!

- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and **you could save 1,000 gallons a month**. Run them past 7 p.m. and you will save on energy as well!
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and **save up to four gallons a minute**. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four – enough to fill up over 6 fish tanks.
- Grab a wrench or call a plumber to fix that leaky faucet. It's easy, inexpensive, and could **save up to 140 gallons a week**.
- When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load so you don't accidentally use too much water. Also, try to only do laundry when you are going to do a full load – **it will cut electrical costs, too!**
- Install low-flow showerheads in all showers and faucet aerators on your sinks. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can **save your family up to 900 gallons a week**. Hint: If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then you probably need to replace it with a more water efficient showerhead.

For more energy saving tips, visit www.MnEnergyChallenge.org. Take the Challenge and join your neighbors and friends in reducing the city's carbon footprint! St. Louis Park has a goal of 1,000 households on the Energy Challenge!

More information is also available on the city's website at www.stlouispark.org.



Stop a Leak = Save Money

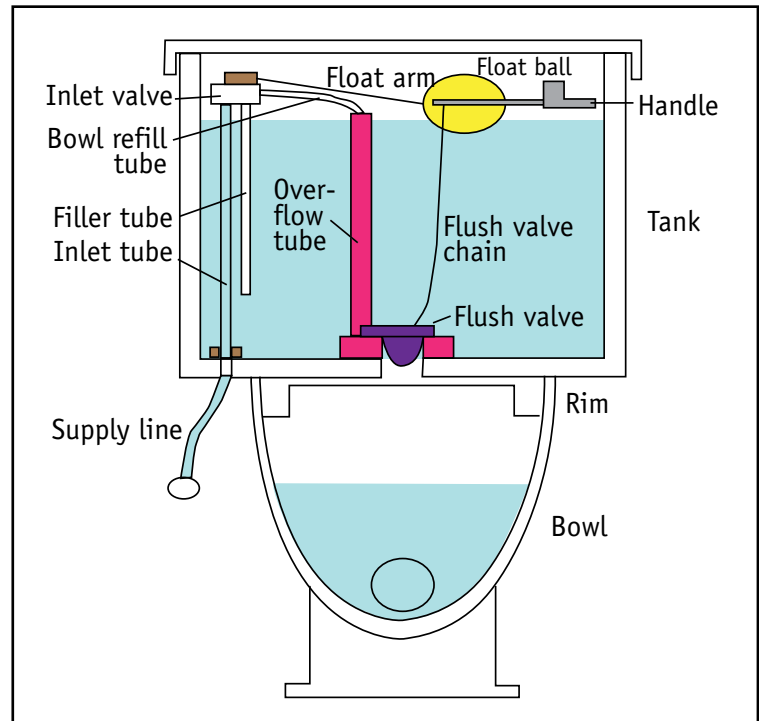
Most people don't realize the amount of water and dollars wasted by a leaky toilet. A leaky toilet often is a silent water waster. A small leak at the **Flush Valve** or water flowing over the **Overflow Tube** can leak up to 100 gallons a day. This may not sound like much but the cost adds up quickly.

100 gallons per day = 12 units of water per billing period

12 units of water used = \$14.52 per billing period for water

12 units of water used = \$24.12 per billing period for sewer

Do you have an extra \$38.64 you would like to "flush down" the toilet?



- To check for a leaking **Flush Valve** call the St. Louis Park Utility Division for free dye tablets and instructions at (952) 924-2558.
- To check for overflow, simply remove the tank lid and look for water overflowing.
- To stop leaks ask at your local hardware store, building supply center, type in "how to fix a leaking toilet" in your search engine, or call a local plumbing professional.
- Helpful websites for "Repairing a Leaking Toilet".

http://www.denverwater.org/cons_xeriscape/conservation/leakytoilet.html

<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/article/0,,219028,00.html>

http://homerepair.about.com/od/plumbingrepair/ss/toilet_flap555.htm

<http://www.doityourself.com/stry/h2repairtoilet>

CAUTION...Be careful when removing the tank lid. It is heavy and fragile.

Be Water Wise!

Sprinkling ordinance conserves water

Permanent restrictions

To conserve water, St. Louis Park prohibits lawn sprinkling between noon and 6 p.m. In addition, all households and businesses must follow an odd/even schedule when sprinkling lawns. (Properties with odd-numbered addresses sprinkle on odd-numbered days on the calendar; properties with even-numbered addresses sprinkle on even-numbered days.) Additional conservation measures may be required during critical water shortages. These can include limiting watering to once every five days or banning all outdoor sprinkling. Should this situation arise, a public notice will be given.

Exceptions

New sod or seed, and newly planted shrubs, trees and landscaping are exempt from the odd/even schedule. Flower and vegetable gardens are also exempt. Even in these circumstances, sprinkling must be done before noon or after 6 p.m.

Enforcement

The first offense fine, for failing to follow sprinkling restrictions, is \$25. After that, the fine rises by \$10 for each additional violation. (For example, the second violation is \$35, the third violation is \$45, etc.).

St. Louis Park
prohibits lawn
sprinkling
between noon
and 6 p.m.



IMPORTANT UTILITY RATE INFORMATION:

New Water Conservation Rates to Begin

The city is now charging for water using tiered rates based upon the volume of water used by your household beginning May 27th. The less water you use the better rates you'll receive.

NEW TIERED WATER RATES:

0-40 units* @ \$1.21

41-80 units* @ \$1.51

80+ units* @ \$2.27

**1 unit = 750 gallons*

The new rates reflect the city's commitment to environmental stewardship by way of conservation, and rates are based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and a new state statute promoting conservation. Please call (952) 924- 2111 or visit www.stlouispark.org with questions.





Experience LIFE in the Park

5005 Minnetonka Blvd.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-2216

City Hall (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.).....924-2500
Emergency911
Police (non-emergency).....924-2618
Recreation Center.....924-2540
Westwood Hills Nature Center.....924-2544

For more information on city events, activities and news,
visit www.stlouispark.org.

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