

# City of St. Louis Park

# 2016 Drinking Water Report

## Abbreviations key

**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 five 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).

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

**ppb – Parts per billion**, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

**nd – No Detection.**

**N/A – Not Applicable** (does not apply).



**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, 2016. 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 St. Louis Park provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 10 wells ranging from 446 to 1095 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Mt. Simon and Jordan-St. Lawrence aquifers.

The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems' source(s) 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](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

Call 952.924.2562 if you have questions about the City of St. Louis Park drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

# Your water

## Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some 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 2016. 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.


Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level found		Typical source of contaminant
			Range (2016)	Average/ Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15.4	N/A	8.1	Erosion of natural deposits.
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.38	.19	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	N/A	3.5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.65-.91	.91	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	nd-1.4	1.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	nd-.27	.27	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes (ppb)	0	80	.7-3.8	3.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.7	.51	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	nd-1.9	1.86	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	nd-19	17.63	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	nd-.86	.8	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

\*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.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical source of contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.5-.89	.67	Water additive used to control microbes.

\*\*\*\*Highest and lowest monthly average.

\*\*\*\*\*Highest quarterly average.



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% level	# sites over AL	Typical source of contaminant
Copper (ppm) (6/23/2015)	1.3	1.3	.09	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (6/23/2015)	0	15	1.1	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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 St. Louis Park 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 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651.201.4700 or 1.800.818.9318 during normal business hours.

Monitoring for unregulated contaminants as required by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules (40 CFR 141.40) was conducted in 2015. Results of the unregulated contaminant monitoring are available upon request from Cindy Swanson, Minnesota Department of Health, at 651.201.4656.

## 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 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 EPA'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* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.**





# Conserve water

## 2016 St. Louis Park water facts

- 1.76 billion gallons of water pumped from the ground in 2016.
- The highest daily amount of water pumped was 8.5 million gallons on July 22, 2016.

### Sprinkling Ordinance

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 that end with an odd number sprinkle on the odd-numbered days on the calendar; properties that end with an even number 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 gardens are also exempt. Even in these circumstances, sprinkling must be done before noon or after 6 p.m.

### Questions? Please contact:

Jay Hall, utilities superintendent  
St. Louis Park Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St.  
Phone: 952.924.2557 | Fax: 952.924.2560 | [jhall@stlouispark.org](mailto:jhall@stlouispark.org)



## An update on Water Treatment Plant #4

Water Treatment Plant #4 (WTP4), located at 4701 41st St. W. in St. Louis Park, was taken out of service at the end of 2016 after aggressive, regular testing showed that while some volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were being reduced by an implemented short-term treatment solution at WTP4, others were increasing.

Even prior to this action, the city had been working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and a design consultant on upgrades to WTP4 to treat all identified contaminants, regardless of their source, down to published advisory levels. The upgrade will include two air stripping units to treat the VOCs found in the water at this plant.

At a March 2017 city council meeting, city staff reported that design for permanent upgrades to WTP4 are expected to be complete in June 2017, with construction starting in August 2017 and completion in the fall of 2018. Until permanent upgrades are complete, WTP4 will remain out of service.



While the city was disappointed to discover an increase in certain VOCs at WTP4, it was considered good news that regular, aggressive testing of water across the system is doing just what it's supposed to do – protect the public health and ensure continued delivery of safe, quality drinking water to residents.

As evidenced by the drinking water data provided in the 2016 Drinking Water Report, testing by the Minnesota Department of Health confirms that City of St. Louis Park water is safe to drink and meets all drinking water standards set by the US EPA to be in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

For more information about WTP4 or to view past years' drinking water reports, visit [stlouispark.org](http://stlouispark.org).