

## 2019 Drinking Water Report

### 2019 drinking water highlights

This report contains the City of St. Louis Park drinking water monitoring results from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2019. The city's drinking water supply continues to be safe.

The city works with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts since no water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

The purpose of this report is to advance understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

This year's highlights include:

- Returning Water Treatment Plant #4 to service following a yearlong upgrade. The plant has met its design goals of reducing volatile organic compounds to half of the health risk limits and health based values recommended by the MDH.
- Sandblasting and repainting the interior and exterior of the water reservoir on Zarthan Avenue, which takes place about every 25 years to ensure continued reliability as well as to prevent rust and deterioration of the tank.
- Started upgrade of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system in August 2019, with completion scheduled for June 2020. The SCADA system communicates and automates city water and sewer systems. This includes an automated system for turning wells on and off based on water levels in the tanks, and alerting city staff to any failures in the system such as no power, intrusion or low or high pressure. The new SCADA system adds redundancy to help prevent any communication and alarm failures and to ensure the flow of safe drinking water to the community.

Visit [bit.ly/2KFWITg](https://bit.ly/2KFWITg) to learn about the MDH's basics of monitoring and testing of drinking water in Minnesota.



### COVID-19 and the water supply

We wanted to take this opportunity to reassure residents about the safety of the drinking water supply during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 poses very low risk to the water system, especially in St. Louis Park where chlorine is used to treat the water. Visit [bit.ly/2Vmjk8](https://bit.ly/2Vmjk8) to learn more about COVID-19 and drinking water.

City utility staff have split into two groups and are working in staggered, alternating shifts to ensure physical distancing and to keep staff healthy. Equipment, vehicles and work areas are sanitized regularly to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among staff. St. Louis Park is also coordinating with neighboring communities to provide assistance to one another if needed to keep systems safe and operational.

## Translations for this report

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.

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Gabaasii kun odeeffanno barbachisa wa'ee bisaan dhugaatii qaba. Akkaa isinii turjumaa'uu gaafadhaa yokaan nama afaan keessan dubbatuu dubbisaa.

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

Warbixintan waxay wadataa macluumaad muhiim ah ee la xiriiira biyaha aad cabtid. Cid ha kuu tarjunto ama la hadl cid fahmaysa.

## Did you know?

Most Minnesotans, whether they drink from a public water supply or a private well, have drinking water that doesn't need treatment for health protection. Water treatment units are best for improving the physical qualities of water, such as taste, color or odor. Visit [bit.ly/2UEreRR](https://bit.ly/2UEreRR) to learn more about home water treatment.



## Making safe drinking water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: nine wells, ranging from 485 to 1,095 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Mt. Simon, Jordan and Jordan-St. Lawrence aquifers.

St. Louis Park works hard to provide safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide information on drinking water and tips on how to protect precious water resources.

Contact Jay Hall, utilities superintendent, at 952.924.2557 or [jhall@stlouispark.org](mailto:jhall@stlouispark.org) if you have questions about St. Louis Park's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The EPA sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water and ensure tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

## Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Those particularly at risk of infections include immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water.

These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.



## Abbreviations key

AL – action level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

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.

N/A – not applicable: does not apply

pCi/l – picocuries per liter: a measure of radioactivity

ppb – parts per billion: One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

ppm – parts per million: One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

PWSID – public water system identification

Variances and exemptions: state or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.



## Reading the water quality data tables

The tables on these pages show the contaminants found last year or the most recent time water was sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the EPA's limits.

Substances that were tested for and were not found are not included in the tables. Some contaminants are sampled for less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. Any contaminants found the last time they were sampled for are included in the tables with the detection date.

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, monitoring for contaminants that are not regulated sometimes takes place. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. There are no unregulated contaminants to report for 2019 because there were no samples taken this year.

For more information, call MDH at 651.201.4700 or 1.800.818.9318 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Contaminants related to disinfection — Tested in drinking water

Substance (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's limit (MCL or MRDL)	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical sources
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)</b>	80 ppb	N/A	3.4 ppb	0.70 - 3.40 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total Haloacetic Acids* (HAA)</b>	60 ppb	N/A	2.5 ppb	2.10 - 2.50 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total Chlorine</b>	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.19 ppm	0.98 - 1.45 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

\*Total HAA refers to HAA5



## Inorganic and organic contaminants — Tested in drinking water

Contaminant (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's limit (MCL)	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical sources
Nitrate	10.4 ppm	10 ppm	0.17 ppm	0.00 - 0.17 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (11/01/17)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.19 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene (trans-1,2-dichloroethylene)	100 ppb	100 ppb	0.76 ppb	0.00 - 1.10 ppb	NO	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene (cis-1,2-dichloroethylene)	70 ppb	70 ppb	2.2 ppb	0.00 - 2.00 ppb	NO	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Gross Alpha	15.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	4.9 pCi/l	0.0 - 5.5 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	5.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	2.9 pCi/l	1.0 - 3.1 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

### Potential health effects and corrective action (if applicable)

**Combined radium:** Operational changes at the treatment plants successfully dropped the results to roughly half the MCL.

## Other substances — Tested in drinking water

Substance (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's limit (MCL)	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.69 ppm	0.64 - 0.71 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth

**Fluoride:** Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. An overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence shows that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm to protect teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.





## Lead and copper — Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's action level	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG)	90% of results were less than	Number of homes with high levels	Violation	Typical sources
<b>Copper</b> (09/05/18)	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	0.49 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
<b>Lead</b> (09/05/18)	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	4.3 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing

## Lead in drinking water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under the age of 6 and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. St. Louis Park provides high-quality drinking water, but it can't control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

- Let the water run** for 30 - 60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in more than six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
  - You can find out if you have a lead service line to your home by contacting your public water system, or visit [bit.ly/2UHMefw](http://bit.ly/2UHMefw) and follow the steps to check.
  - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run doesn't reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
- Use cold water** for drinking, making food and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
- Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water. Contact an MDH-accredited laboratory for a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample. Visit [bit.ly/2IB0HxU](http://bit.ly/2IB0HxU) for the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. MDH can help you understand your test results.
- Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. Visit [bit.ly/2VNdOPY](http://bit.ly/2VNdOPY) to learn about water treatment units.

## Learn more

- Visit [bit.ly/2XgEhFU](http://bit.ly/2XgEhFU) to learn about lead in drinking water.
- Visit [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) for basic information about lead in drinking water.
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.
- Visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources at [bit.ly/2Uj1LbJ](http://bit.ly/2Uj1LbJ) to learn about how to reduce your contact with lead.



# Learn more about your drinking water

**Drinking water sources:** Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers and streams above the surface of the land and supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can make their way into drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. Five main types of contaminants are in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g., rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g., radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

MDH provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How St. Louis Park is protecting your drinking water source(s)
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [bit.ly/2XhWbZb](https://bit.ly/2XhWbZb) or call 651.201.4700 or 1.800.818.9318 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Conserve water

### Sprinkling ordinance

To conserve water, St. Louis Park prohibits lawn sprinkling between noon and 6 p.m. Also, 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? 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)

