

La Grange Highlands Sanitary District, 2024 Consumer Confidence Report

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about the source of your water, its composition, and how it compares to standards established by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality (2024). We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 healthcare 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 Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

La Grange Highlands Sanitary District's water is 100% purchased surface water from the City of Chicago.

The City of Chicago utilizes Lake Michigan as its source water via two water treatment plants. The Jardine Water Purification Plant (JWPP), with a capacity of 1,458 MGD, is the largest in the world and serves the northern areas of the city and suburbs. The Sawyer Water Purification Plant (SWPP), with a capacity of 720 MGD, is the second largest water plant in the world and serves the southern areas of the city and suburbs. Both plants have two intakes that draw water from the Lake: one approximately 2 miles offshore, and one "shore" intake located within the property of the water treatment plants.

Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely contained within the United States. It borders Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and is the second largest Great Lake by volume, with 1,180 cubic miles of water, and the third largest by area.

Source Water Assessment & Its Availability

The Illinois EPA implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determines the susceptibility of the source water to contamination. The Illinois EPA has completed the Source Water Assessment Program for our supply. Further information on our community water supply's Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling DWM at 312-742-2406 or by going online at <http://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx>. You can find both the City of Chicago and La Grange Highlands Sanitary District Source Water Assessment Summary here.

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of the community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the

intake with no protection, only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance where shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls, and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to stormwater runoff, marinas, and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of the community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection, only dilution. This is the reason for the mandatory treatment of all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance where shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls, and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to stormwater runoff, marinas, and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Board meetings are held in the conference room at 5900 Willow Springs Road on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5 pm. The dates are as follows for the second half of CY2025: July 15th, August 19th, September 16th, October 21st, November 18th, & December 16th.

*All FOIA requests for meeting minutes or any other items can be emailed to: info@infohighsd.org.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day, or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today, and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving, and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain, reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Results of Voluntary Monitoring

The City of Chicago has continued monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, and *E. coli* in its source water as part of its water quality program. No *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia* was detected in source water samples collected in 2024. Treatment processes have been optimized to provide effective barriers for the

removal of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts and *Giardia* cysts in the source water, effectively removing these organisms in the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity through the removal of particles from the water, the possibility of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

In 2024, CDWM has also continued monitoring for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. USEPA has not yet established a standard for chromium-6, a contaminant of concern which has both natural and industrial sources. Please address any questions or concerns to DWM's Water Quality Division at 312-744-8190. Data reports on the monitoring program for chromium-6 are posted on the City's website, which can be accessed at the following address:

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/water/supp_info/water_quality_resultsandreports/city_of_chicago_emergincontaminantstudy.html.

Additional Information for Lead

The system inventory does not include lead service lines. As part of the District's 2024 Meter Replacement Program, all service meters in the system were replaced. During this process, no lead service lines, galvanized lines requiring replacement, or service lines of unknown material were identified. This comprehensive program confirmed that the system contains no lead service lines. The following link can be used to access inventory information - <https://lagrhighsd.org/wp2018/service-line-material-inventory/>.

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. La Grange Highlands Sanitary District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or running a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact La Grange Highlands Sanitary District (Public Water System ID: IL0315860) by calling 708-246-5657 or emailing info@lagrhighsd.org. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Tables

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table, you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.3	1	1.3	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	17.8	17.7	17.8	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	38	33.6	38	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0203	0.0198	0.0203	2024	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.76	0.67	0.76	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.39	0.36	0.39	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.39	0.36	0.39	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA		9.18	8.87	9.18	2024	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Leaching; Used as water softener
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0203	0.0198	0.0203	2024	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	99.7	NA	NA	2024	No	Soil runoff
99.7% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.39. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	3.1	2.8	3.1	02/04/20	No	Decay and erosion of natural and man-made deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.95	0.83	0.95	02/04/20	No	Decay and erosion of natural and man-made deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: Not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

For more information, please contact:

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