

# 2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

**D**rinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The City of Oak Park and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are committed to meeting state and federal water quality standards including the Lead and Copper Rule. With the Great Lakes as our water source and proven treatment technologies, the GLWA consistently delivers safe drinking water to our community. Oak Park operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. This year's Water Quality Report highlights the performance of GLWA and Oak Park water professionals in delivering some of the nation's best drinking water. Together, we remain committed to protecting public health and maintaining open communication with the public about our drinking water.

## QUALITY & SAFETY

As mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Oak Park is proud to present our latest Water Quality Report. Developed to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water, you will see as you review this report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all governmental standards set for water quality and safety. The Department of Public Works is proud of that fact and wants you to know they are committed to delivering the highest quality drinking water possible.

## SAFEGUARDS

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which 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 which must provide the same protection for public health. The State and the EPA both require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety.

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek, and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of GLWA's Detroit River source water for potential contamination. The



susceptibility rating is based on a seven-tiered scale and ranges from very low to very high determined primarily using geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and potential contaminant sources. The report described GLWA's Detroit River intakes as highly susceptible to potential contamination. GLWA's Springwells water treatment plant that draws water from the Detroit River has historically provided satisfactory treatment and meets drinking water standards.

GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. GLWA has an updated Surface Water Intake Protection plan for the Belle Isle Intake. The plan has seven elements that include: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection areas, identification of potential sources of contamination, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation, and public education activities. If you would like to know more information about the Source Water Assessment report, please, contact GLWA at (313) 926-8127.

## CRYPTOSPORIDIUM FACTS

GLWA voluntarily monitors for Cryptosporidium and Giardia in our source water monthly. The untreated water samples collected from our Belle Isle Intake indicated the presence of one Giardia cyst in November 2024. All other samples collected from the Belle Isle Intake in 2024 were absent for the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Systems using surface water like GLWA must provide treatment so that 99.9

percent of Giardia lamblia and Cryptosporidium is removed or inactivated. GLWA's drinking water treatment process is designed to remove and inactivate these protozoans.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. Beginning in July of 2008, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) began monitoring quarterly for unregulated contaminants under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2.) All the UCMR2 contaminants monitored on List 1 and List 2 in 2008 were undetected.

For more information on safe drinking water,  
visit U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

## SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as person 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 (800) 426-4791.

## SUBSTANCES EXPECTED TO BE IN 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Oak Park is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact David DeCoster, (248) 691-7497, with the City of Oak Park for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing

fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in service pipes throughout the system, including in your home or business. The City of Oak Park is proud to have completed the replacement of all known lead service lines. Additionally, the City of Oak Park performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses, and can take steps to limit their exposure to lead.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

As of December 31, 2024, the City of Oak Park has the following service line inventory:

- Total number of lead service lines: 0
- Total number of service lines with unknown material: 1,243
- Total number of service lines: 10,844

## CONCLUSION

The City of Oak Park and the Great Lakes Water Authority are committed to safeguarding our water supply and delivering the highest quality drinking water to protect public health. Please contact David DeCoster, at (248) 691-7497, if you have any questions or concerns about your water. As always, public participation is always welcome.

The Oak Park City Council meets at 7:00pm on the first and third Monday of each month. The meetings are held at the Oak Park City Hall, located at 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237.

Water System Serial Number (WSSN): 4880

## 2024 Springwells Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

2024 Inorganic Chemicals – Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	2/13/2024	ppm	4	4	0.49	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	2/13/2024	ppm	10	10	0.31	n/a	no	

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Customer's Tap in 2024								
Regulated Contaminant	Unit	Year Sampled	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90th Percentile Value*	Range of Individual Samples Results	Number of Samples Over AL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2024	ppb	0	15	0.0	0-3	0	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Copper	2024	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.0-0.3	0	

\*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.

2024 Disinfection Residual – Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDLG	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest RAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine Residual	2024	ppm	4	4	0.74	0.63-0.76	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2024 Disinfection By-Products – Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	ppb	n/a	80	38.25	31-47	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	ppb	n/a	60	22.25	11-29	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination

2024 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap				
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
0.13 NTU	100%	no	Soil Runoff	

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.  
Summary of Violation: Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) did not monitor individual filter turbidity for five hours on September 2, 2024, due to an interruption of power at the GLWA Springwells Water Treatment Plant. The issue was resolved

2024 Special Monitoring						
Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	2/13/2024	ppm	n/a	n/a	5.2	Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each quarter and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.	Erosion of natural deposits

These tables are based on tests conducted by GLWA in the year 2024 or the most recent testing done within the last five calendar years. GLWA conducts tests throughout the year only tests that show the presence of a substance or require special monitoring are presented in these tables. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. The data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

### About Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where these contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

In 2023/24 the City of Oak Park participated in the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. During this monitoring period 29 per – and polyfluoroalkyl substances and lithium were analyzed. During this monitoring one detection occurred. In August 2023 Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) had a test result of 0.0063 µg/L (micrograms/Liter). The reporting limit for PFBA is 0.0050 µg/L. All systems are required to report their data to the EPA. The analytical results from the UCMR are stored in the National Contaminant Occurrence Database for drinking water. For a summary of the UCMR results, please refer to the UCMR Occurrence Data webpage.

Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is required to notify water users of any unresolved significant deficiencies identified by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Drinking Water and Environment Health Division (EGLE). Below is the status of significant deficiencies in the GLWA water system identified by EGLE:

Date Identified by EGLE	Description	Compliance Agreement Deadline	Status
05-25-2022	Inoperable rapid mixing equipment at the Springwells 1930's water plant	12-31-2023	Completed in December 2023.
05-25-2022	Inoperable flocculation equipment at the 1958 Springwells water plant	11-11-2027	Phase I construction is completed as of December 2024. Phase II scheduled to begin at the fall of 2025.



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**YOUR TAP WATER MEETS  
OR SURPASSES ALL FEDERAL  
AND STATE STANDARDS  
FOR WATER QUALITY**



**2024 Springwells Mineral Analysis**

Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.
Turbidity	NTU	0.78	0.03	<b>0.13</b>
Total Solids	mg/L	148	126	<b>136</b>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	150	92	<b>120</b>
Aluminum	mg/L	0.088	0.020	<b>0.037</b>
Iron	mg/L	0.3	0.2	<b>0.2</b>
Copper	mg/L	0.002	ND	<b>0.001</b>
Magnesium	mg/L	8.6	6.7	<b>7.8</b>
Calcium	mg/L	29.8	25.6	<b>27.4</b>
Sodium	mg/L	8.9	0.5	<b>4.8</b>
Potassium	mg/L	1.2	0.9	<b>1.1</b>
Manganese	mg/L	ND	ND	<b>0.000</b>
Lead	mg/L	ND	ND	<b>0.000</b>
Zinc	mg/L	0.002	ND	<b>0.000</b>
Silica	mg/L	3.7	1.7	<b>2.3</b>
Sulfate	mg/L	35.9	24.8	<b>28.8</b>
Chloride	mg/L	13.2	9.9	<b>11.1</b>

Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.
Phosphorus	mg/L	0.81	0.35	<b>0.52</b>
Free Carbon Dioxide	mg/L	13.6	6.2	<b>10.3</b>
Total Hardness	mg/L	110	88	<b>101</b>
Total Alkalinity	mg/L	82	66	<b>73</b>
Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	9	0	<b>1</b>
Bi-Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	82	56	<b>71</b>
Non-Carbonate Hardness	mg/L	36	12	<b>28</b>
Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	8.3	ND	<b>4.2</b>
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	14.3	6.7	<b>10.5</b>
Nitrite Nitrogen	mg/L	ND	ND	<b>0.0</b>
Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/L	0.40	0.17	<b>0.27</b>
Fluoride	mg/L	0.65	0.43	<b>0.54</b>
pH		7.39	7.02	<b>7.15</b>
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C.	µmhos	233	147	<b>200</b>
Temperature	°C	23.2	1.9	<b>13.7</b>

**KEY TO THE DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE**

SYMBOL	ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION/EXPLANATION
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.
>	Greater than	
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
Level 1	Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four quarters.
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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
n/a	not applicable	
ND	Not Detected	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity
ppb	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
RAA	Running Annual Average	The average of all analytical results for all samples during the previous four quarters.
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level	
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
µmhos	Micromhos	Measure of electrical conductance of water

**Public Works Department**

The Public Works Department is able to assist residents with questions about the quality of their water. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**10600 Capital | (248) 691-7497**

**Utility Department**

The Utility Department assists residents with utility billing and payment issues. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and every other Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**14000 Oak Park Blvd. | (248) 691-7470**