

2021 Drinking Water Report

Making safe drinking water

The City of St. Louis Park is committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality standards.

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.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that 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 at least 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.

Contact Jay Hall, utilities superintendent, at 952.924.2557 or 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.



About this report

This report contains drinking water monitoring results from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021 for the City of St. Louis Park.

The city's drinking water continues to be safe.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on drinking water and tips to protect precious water resources.

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

Visit bit.ly/2KFWITg to learn about the MDH's basics of monitoring and testing of drinking water in Minnesota.

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 and were not found are not included in the tables. Some contaminants are tested 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.

Monitoring for contaminants that are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act sometimes takes place. To request a copy of these results, call MDH at 651.201.4700
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Some contaminants are monitored regularly throughout the year, and rolling (or moving) annual averages are used to manage compliance. Because of this averaging, there are times where the range of detected test results for the calendar year is lower than the highest average or highest single test result, because it occurred in the previous calendar year.

St. Louis Park water facts: 2021

- Total gallons pumped: 1.96 billion
- Highest water use (June 17): 9.4 million gallons
- Water hardness: 19 grains or 330 ppm

Definitions

AL – action level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements 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

Contaminants related to disinfection — tested in drinking water

Substance (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	1.1 ppb	0.80 – 1.10 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids* (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	2.4 ppb	1.70 – 2.40 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.46 ppm	1.26 – 1.56 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

*Total HAA refers to HAA5



Lead in drinking water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies or your job. Contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under the age of six and pregnant women are at the highest risk. Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get into your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Service lines are the pipes that connect household plumbing to the water main in the street.

In the early 2000s, the City of St. Louis Park undertook a citywide effort to find and replace all lead service lines. The 2015 – 2016 citywide water meter replacement project provided another chance to identify lead service lines; only one was found and it was replaced. St. Louis Park provides high-quality drinking water, but it can't control the plumbing materials used in private homes and buildings.

Here's how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

- 1. 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 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.
- 2. Use cold water** for drinking, making food and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
- 3. 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/2IBOHxU for the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. MDH can help you understand your test results.
- 4. Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. Visit bit.ly/2VNdOPY to learn about water treatment units.

Learn more

- Visit bit.ly/2XgEhFU to learn about lead in drinking water.
- Visit 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/3JWivj3 to learn about how to reduce your contact with lead.

Lead and copper — tested at customer taps

Contaminant (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG)	EPA's action level	90% of results were less than	Number of homes with high levels	Violation	Typical sources
Copper	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.34 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	2.9 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing



Inorganic and organic contaminants — tested in drinking water

Contaminant (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG)	EPA's ideal limit (MCL)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical sources
Nitrate	10 ppm	10.4 ppm	0.08 ppm	0.00 – 0.08 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.12 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	0.71 ppb	0.00 – 0.71 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 – 2.20 ppb	NO	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Gross Alpha	0 pCi/l	15.4 pCi/l	4.2 pCi/l	3.1 – 4.2 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

Other substances — tested in drinking water

Substance (date, if sampled in a previous year)	EPA's ideal goal (MCLG)	EPA's limit (MCL)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical sources
Fluoride*	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.71 ppm	0.65 – 0.71 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth

*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 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 an optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (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.



Monitoring results for unregulated substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants that were detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions (like a fetus, infants, children, elderly and people with impaired immunity) may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action if they are detected. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

- Visit bit.ly/2IIPvWs for an A – Z list of contaminants in water from MDH.
- Visit bit.ly/2Uj1mGf for Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4).

Unregulated contaminants — tested in drinking water

Contaminant	Comparison value	Highest average result or highest single test result	Range of detected results
Sodium*	20 ppm	31.8 ppm	5.97 – 31.80 ppm
Sulfate	500 ppm	37.5 ppm	5.90 – 37.50 ppm

*Note: Home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

Statewide PFAS monitoring project

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water. MDH has been studying the potential health impacts of PFAS in groundwater in Minnesota since 2002. As part of this statewide PFAS monitoring project, St. Louis Park's water was sampled on Sept. 17, 2021. **All sample results were below the available health-based guidance values for PFAS.** Some PFAS were detected that don't have health-based guidance values in drinking water. This is an area of active research, and scientists at MDH and EPA have not yet determined whether these contaminants in drinking water pose a health concern at the levels detected. Visit bit.ly/3JJ1Tep for more information about PFAS monitoring in Minnesota.

PFAS contaminants		
PFAS contaminant	Maximum concentration (µg/L)*	MDH health value (µg/L)
PFBA	0.016	7
PFOA	0.0012	0.035
PFHxS	0.00085	0.047
PFPeA	0.00065	–

*One microgram per liter is the same as one part per billion (ppb).

Health Risk Index (HRI) calculation						
Sample location	PFBS (µg/L)	PFBA (µg/L)	PFHxS (µg/L)	PFOS (µg/L)	PFOA (µg/L)	HRI
Treatment Plant #4 - Well #4	–	0.0059	–	–	0.00097	0.03
Treatment Plant #1/G - Well #10	–	0.016	0.00085	–	0.0012	0.05

*The Health Risk Index (HRI) is a calculation that takes into account the health risks of exposure to multiple PFAS. Exceedance of the HRI indicates a health concern for the combined PFAS exposure. The HRIs for these samples range from 0.03 to 0.05. A person drinking water at or below an HRI of 1 would have little or no risk for side effects.



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% of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers and streams above the surface of the land. It supplies 25% 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 or call 651.201.4700 between 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Conserve water

Sprinkling ordinance

To conserve water, St. Louis Park prohibits lawn sprinkling (watering) between noon and 6 p.m. Also, all households and businesses must follow an odd/even schedule when sprinkling lawns. Properties with addresses that end with an odd number sprinkle on the odd-numbered days on the calendar; properties with an address that ends 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 watering. 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, watering must be done before noon or after 6 p.m.

Questions?

Jay Hall, utilities superintendent
952.924.2557
jhall@stlouispark.org

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 persons 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. 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.

