

CITY OF OAK PARK

# Annual Water Quality Report



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

## Public Works Department

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

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF OAK PARK  
10600 Capital  
Oak Park, MI 48237  
(248) 691-7497**

## Water Department

The Water Department assists residents with water 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.

**WATER DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF OAK PARK  
14000 Oak Park Blvd.  
Oak Park, MI 48237  
(248) 691-7470**

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



Drinking 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.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, and several watersheds within the U.S. and Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and several other governmental agencies, performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility or relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very low" to "very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from Detroit River have his-



torically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards.

GLWA initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. GLWA voluntarily developed and received approval in 2016 for a source water protection program (SWIPP) for the Detroit River intakes. The program includes seven elements: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection area, identification of potential of source water protection area, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new sources and public participation, and education. If you would like to know more information about the Source Water Assessment or SWIPP, contact the Department of Public Works at (248) 691-7497.

## Cryptosporidium Facts

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. Cryptosporidium was detected once, during a twelve-month period at our Detroit River intake plants. 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.





## Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than are 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 (800) 426-4791.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is 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 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 pres-

ent 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 discharges, 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 organics, 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.

## Quality and 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.

## Lead Monitoring

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. Oak 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 two 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).

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 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.

## 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 us with any questions or concerns about your water.

*Source: Water Quality Work Group. This messaging was developed collaboratively between GLWA and its wholesale water customers as part of the GLWA Customer Outreach effort in 2016.*

# SPRINGWELLS WATER TREATMENT PLANT

## 2016 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Fluoride	5/10/2016	ppm	4	4	0.50	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	5/10/2016	ppm	10	10	0.34	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

<b>Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products</b>								
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)	2016	ppb	n/a	80	31.33	22.1-48.4	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2016	ppb	n/a	60	11.75	10-13	no	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<b>Disinfectant Residuals – Monitoring in Distribution System by Treatment Plant</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDLG	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest RAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	Jan-Dec 2016	ppm	4	4	0.74	0.67-0.81	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2016 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 yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.33 NTU	99.7%		no	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.				

<b>January-March 2016 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water			
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	0	no	Naturally present in the environment.			
E. coli Bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E.coli positive.	0	no	Human waste and animal fecal waste.			

<b>2014 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90th Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2014	ppb	0	15	0.8 ppb	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2014	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.166	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*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.								

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

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.66	Erosion of natural deposits

The Great Lakes Water Authority monitored for Cryptosporidium in our source water (Detroit River) from our Southwest Water Treatment Plant during 2016. Cryptosporidium was detected twice in our source water samples. A follow-up water sample was collected from the treated water and Cryptosporidium was not found to be present. 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, immunocompromised 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.

KEY TO THE DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE		
SYMBOL	ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION/EXPLANATION
>	Greater than	
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	
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.
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	
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
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.