

Dear Residents,

*This year, as in years past, your tap water met all USEPA and Illinois EPA (IEPA) drinking water health standards. The Village vigilantly safeguards its water supply, and we are able to report that Harwood Heights had no violations of a contaminant level or any other water quality standards in the year 2018. This report covers January 2018 through December 2018, and summarizes the quality of water that was provided last year, including where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Much effort goes into ensuring that you and your family get an abundant supply of clean, fresh water from Lake Michigan. The Harwood Heights Water Department will be making some improvements in its distribution system in the near future and we hope this will add to the integrity of the system as a whole.*

Arlene Jezierny  
Mayor

Marcia Pollowy, Village Clerk  
Trustees: Zbigniew "Ziggy" Lewandowski,  
Anna Wegrecki, Annette Volpe,  
Therese Schuepfer, Lawrence Steiner,  
Giuseppe S. Zerillo

## Village of Harwood Heights

*Keeping you informed on water  
quality in your community*

May 2019

## Water Quality Report

### Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures not only save the supply of our water source, but can also cut the cost of water treatment by saving energy. Here are some conservation measures you can take:

#### At Home:

- ▲ Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- ▲ Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- ▲ Wash only full loads of laundry.
- ▲ Don't use the toilet for trash disposal.
- ▲ Don't let the water run while shaving, washing, or brushing teeth.
- ▲ Run the dishwasher only when full.

#### Outdoors:

- ▲ Water the lawn and garden as little as possible.
- ▲ Choose plants that don't need much water.
- ▲ Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- ▲ Use water from bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.
- ▲ Obey any and all water bans or regulations.



**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**Harwood Heights**  
**IL 0311140**  
**Annual Water Quality Report**  
**For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2018**



This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the Harwood Heights water system to provide safe drinking water. The source of drinking water used by Harwood Heights is Purchase Water. For more information regarding this report, contact:  
**Brian Terzo @ 708-867-7200, Thomas Wolfe @ 708-867-7206**  
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### **Source of Drinking Water**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### **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 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 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 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)

### **Source Water Assessment Availability:**

#### **When available, a Source Water Assessment summary is included below for your convenience:**

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of 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 that 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 storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake. Throughout history there have been extraordinary steps taken to assure a safe source of drinking water in the Chicago land area. From the building of the offshore cribs and the introduction of interceptor sewers to the lock-and-dam system of Chicago's waterways and the city's Lakefront Zoning Ordinance. The city now looks to the recently created Department of the Water Management, Department of Environment and the MWRDGC to assure the safety of the city's water supply. Also, water supply officials from Chicago are active members of the West Shore Water Producers Association, Coordination of water quality situations (i.e., spills tanker leaks, exotic species, etc.) and general lake conditions are frequently discussed during the association's quarterly meetings. Also, Lake Michigan has a variety of organizations and associations that are currently working to either maintain or improve water quality.

Finally, one of the best ways to ensure a safe source of drinking water is to develop a program designed to protect the source water against potential contamination on the local level. Since the predominant land use within Illinois' boundary of Lake Michigan watershed is urban, a majority of the watershed protection activities in this document are aimed at this purpose. Citizens should be aware that everyday activities in urban setting might have a negative impact on their source water. Efforts should be made to improve awareness of storm water drains and their direct link to the lake within the identified local source water area. A proven best management practice (BMP) for this purpose has been the identification and stenciling of storm water drains within a watershed. Stenciling along with an educational component is necessary to keep the lake a safe and reliable source of drinking water.

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. The Village of Harwood Heights Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the verity 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

# Village of Harwood Heights

Regulated Contaminants Detected in 2018 (collected in 2018 unless noted)

## Coli form Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant	Total Coli form Maximum	Highest No. of Positive Total	Fecal Coli form or E. Coli Maximum	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coli form Samples in	Violations	Likely Source of Contamination
0	0	0	Fecal Coli form or E. Coli MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive and one is also fecal coliform or E. Coli positive.	0	no	Naturally Present in the Environment

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled 07/9/17	Definitions						
Action Level (AL): The Concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.								
Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level(AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Copper	2017	1.3	1.3	0.139	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood Preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2017	0	15	2.81	0	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results								
Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures some of which may require explanation.				ug/l: micrograms per litre or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.				
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.				na: not applicable				
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.				Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCL's are based on running annual average of monthly samples.				
mg/l: milligrams per litre or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.				Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.				
				Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's allow for a margin of safety.				
Regulated	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Violations	Likely Source of contaminants
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) Chlorination	2018	27	20.5 - 26.8	ppb	n/a	60	No	By product of drinking water chlorination
(Total Trihalomethanes)	2018	40	37.2 - 35.5	ppb	n/a	80	No	By product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	12/31/2018	0.7	0.5 - 1	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Therefore some of this data may be more than one year old.

Village of Harwood Heights  
Board Meetings

7:30 pm 2nd & 4th Thursday of the Month

708-867-7200

## Regulated Contaminants City of Chicago 2018 Detected Contaminants

Contaminant (unit of measurement) Typical source of Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violations	Date of Sample
<b>Turbidity Data</b>						
Turbidity (NTU) Lowest Monthly % <0.3 NTU) Soil runoff	N/A	TT(Lime 95% <0.3 NTU)	Lowest Monthly % 100%	100%-100%		
Turbidity (NTU) Highest Single Measurement) Soil runoff	N/A	TT(Lime 1 NTU)	0.19	N/A		
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Barium (ppm) Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits	2	2	0.0214	0.0203-0.0214		
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	42	0.31 - 0.42		
Total Nitrate & Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	42	0.31 - 0.42		
<b>Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</b>						
TOC	The percentage of TOC removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.					
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>						
Sulfate (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits	N/A	N/A	27.6	26.3 - 27.6		
Sodium (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits. Used as water softener	N/A	N/A	8.89	8.14 - 8.89		
<b>State Regulated Contaminants</b>						
Fluoride (ppm) Water additive which promotes strong teeth	4	4	0.86	0.64 - 0.86		
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Combined Radium (226/228) (pCi/L) Decay of natural and man-made deposits	0	5	0.84	0.50 - 0.84		02-11-2014
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L) Decay of natural and man-made deposits	0	15	5.6	6.1 - 5.6		02-11-2014

## Water Quality Data Table Footnotes

### TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

### SODIUM

There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS:

A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

### FLUORIDE

Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

## VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS Frequently asked questions

### What causes the "musty" taste and odor in drinking water?

The earthy, musty taste and odor of the drinking water is the result of compounds produced by blue-green algae and other vegetation found in Lake Michigan. Taste and odors may be more noticeable when the lake water gets warmer. Refrigerating the water will minimize the taste and odors. The presence of taste and odors does not affect the safety of the drinking water.

### What if my water has a strong chlorine smell?

At times, especially during the summer, the chlorine smell may appear stronger than what is experienced at other times of the year because compounds are released from warm water more easily. Refrigerating the water will minimize the chlorine smell.

### Why is the water sometimes cloudy?

Increased levels of dissolved oxygen in colder water causes this to happen. During the winter months, water may appear "cloudy" when drawn from the tap. The water will clear from the bottom up as it warms.

### What is the cause for low water pressure?

Frequently, low pressure is due to plumbing problems in the home. A few simple checkpoints may solve the problem. Make sure all water valves are fully open and operational and clean all faucet aerators.

### Water: The Pure Facts

- Water constitutes 40% of the reported daily beverage consumption in the United States.
- You can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.
- The average five minute shower uses between 15 to 25 gallons of water.
- A 5/8 garden hose can carry more than 1,000 gallons per hour.
- One gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
- There are 7.48 gallons of water in 1 cubic foot.
- The Village of Harwood Heights pumped over 297 million gallons of water last year.

Copies of this report are available at the Harwood Heights Village Hall, Eisenhower Public Library and Harwood Heights Website  
@ www.harwoodheights.org.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this report, please contact the Harwood Heights Water Department.

Brian Terzo, Water Commissioner  
(708) 867-7200