

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019



Presented By



Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.



Where Does My Water Come From?

Our drinking water is obtained from Lake Travis, in the Colorado River watershed. Mansfield Dam was completed in 1941 and is a part of the Highland Lakes chain, with a 369 billion gallon capacity. Our raw untreated water is purchased through a wholesale contract with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). More information on Lake Travis can be accessed on the Internet at www.lcra.org.

Important Health Information

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Lead in Home Plumbing

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. This water supply is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 2 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the state water regulatory agency. They completed a source water assessment (SWA) for Lake Travis in 2003. The SWA is a report on the susceptibility of public drinking water systems to 227 drinking water contaminants. The results include a high, medium, or low rating for each contaminant, as well as a list of potential sources of contamination. A copy of this report is available at the Hurst Creek Municipal Utility District Office at 102 Trophy Drive, The Hills, Texas. You can access more information on the Internet at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/SWAP/swsa_results.html.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the third Monday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please call (512) 261-6281 for more information.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Kurt Pendleton, Assistant General Manager, at (512) 261-6281.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on the taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

- Pour fats, oil, or grease down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a waste basket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect fat, oil, and grease into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products including nonbiodegradable wipes.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Also, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show only those substances that were detected in our water. (A complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request.) Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set (unless a TOC violation is noted in the Violation column).

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2019	2	2	0.0616	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters ¹ (pCi/L)	2015	50	0	4.9	4.9–4.9	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2019	[4]	[4]	2.99	1.50–3.70	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	2015	5	0	1.5	1.5 – 1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2019	60	NA	13.28	9.0–15.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2019	10	10	0.56	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	33	28.6–38.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon ² (ppm)	2019	TT	NA	2.97	2.36–3.18	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2019	TT	NA	0.293	0.009–0.293	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2019	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.360	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0	0.0022	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2019	300	NA	33.0	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.0	NA	0.0461	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2019	2.0	NA	0.17	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Manganese (ppb)	2019	50	NA	16.7	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2019	>7.0	NA	8.1	7.7–8.4	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2019	300	NA	22.0	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2019	1,000	NA	245	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES⁴

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2019	11.0	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	2019	1.6	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2019	8.9	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2019	8.3	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppm)	2019	0.0015	NA	Naturally occurring in the environment
Sodium (ppm)	2019	22.8	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; By-products of oil field activity

OTHER UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES⁴

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Calcium (ppm)	2019	40.6	NA	Naturally occurring
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2019	158	NA	Naturally occurring
Total Hardness (ppm)	2019	170	NA	Naturally occurring
Zinc (ppm)	2019	0.0202	NA	NA

¹ EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles

² The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between the percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

³ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

⁴ Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of monitoring unregulated contaminants is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

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.

NA: Not applicable

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

SCL (Secondary Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Emergency/Supplemental Water Sources

In 2019 Hurst Creek MUD received approximately 170,000 gallons of water via an emergency interconnect with Travis County Water Control and Improvement District 17 (TCWID17). Because of temporary mechanical failures, this water was obtained at that time to ensure uninterrupted service to Hurst Creek MUD customers. To obtain information in regard to TCWID17 water quality, please call (512) 266-1111. This information may also be obtained at <http://www.wcid17.org/quality>.



Water Loss Audit

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board during the year covered by this report, our system lost an estimated 34,215,000 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (512) 261-6281.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

