

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

Annual Water Quality Report
For Calendar Year 2025



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We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the calendar year 2025 (January 1 to December 31, 2025). The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence Report" (CCR) to its customers, in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. We are committed to providing the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. The drinking water supplied by the Lake Forest Water Plant meets or surpasses all Federal and State drinking water standards. During the 2025 Calendar year, the Water Plant produced 1.290 billion gallons of water. The Water Plant is supplied by surface water from Lake Michigan drawn through 42-inch and 24-inch intake pipelines.

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 847-810-4650. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Susceptibility is defined as the likelihood for the source water(s) of a public water system to be contaminated at concentrations that would pose a concern. 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 intakes with no protection only dilution, which is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Lake Forest's intakes are moderately sensitive to potential pollution, and although there are no potential sources within Lake Forest's critical assessment zone, there are several within the immediate source water area. The combination of the land use, potential sources and the proximity of storm sewer outfalls adds to the susceptibility of Lake Forest's intakes. However, it should be stressed that treatment employed by Lake Forest CWS is protective of their consumers, as noted by the facility's finished water history.

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

The City of Lake Forest welcomes your questions about the Lake Forest Water Plant and water quality. Call Jim Lockfeer, Assistant Director of Public Works, at 847-810-3542 or Michael Tieg, Chief Water Plant Operator, at 847-810-4650. We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular City Council meetings occur on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Forest City Hall (220 East Deerpath). Agendas for these meetings can be viewed at the bulletin boards located in the train depots, the Municipal Service Building (800 North Field Drive), City Hall, and on the web at www.cityoflakeforest.com.

Sources of Drinking Water

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 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.

Required Additional Health Information

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.

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).

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 drinking water supplier is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact Mike Tiegs at 847-810-4650 or tiegsmj@cityoflakeforest.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

City of Lake Forest PFAS Testing

Date	City of Lake Forest Drinking Water		
	Source	PFOS	PFOA
1/6/2025	Pace	No detect	2.2
4/7/2025	Pace	No detect	No detect
7/7/2025	Pace	No detect	No detect
10/6/2025	Pace	No detect	No detect

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Public Notice Requirement

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level 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.

Access to the most recent Lead Service Line Material Inventory

https://www.cityoflakeforest.com/departments/public_works/lead_service_line_replacement.php



For access to the most recent lead tap sampling results please contact Mike Tiegs, Chief Water Plant Operator at 847-810-4650 or tiegsmjr@cityoflakforest.com



2025 Monitoring Results

WATER QUALITY TABLE — LEAD AND COPPER (Testing completed once every six months)									
Lead & Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Range of Individual Samples	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2025	1.3	1.3	0.388	0	ppm	N	0.013 to 0.720 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	2025	0	15	28	14	ppb	N	<1.00 to 44.0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS									
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products		Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine		2025	1.1	0.9 - 1.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)		2025	33	17.08 - 28.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)		2025	58	33.7 - 64.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants		Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium		2025	0.02	0.02 - 0.02	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride		2025	0.7	0.688 - 0.688	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]		2025	.38	0.38 - 0.38	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium		2025	12	12 - 12			ppb	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
Radioactive Contaminants		Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228		1/08/2024	0.334	0.334 - 0.334	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

TURBIDITY				
	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.03 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil runoff.

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

Total Organic Carbon

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 violations section.

Definitions

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Avg – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

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 our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL – 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG – 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: – 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: – 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.

mrem: – millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb – micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm – milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Treatment Technique or TT – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

PFAS Detections

In 2021, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Illinois PFAS Statewide Investigation. Results from this sampling indicated PFAS were detected in our drinking water above the health advisory level established by Illinois EPA. Follow up monitoring is being conducted. For more information about PFAS health advisories please visit the following link: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas/pfas-healthadvisory.html>.

If you have questions, please contact:

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Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	
Barb Lieberoff, Office of Community Relations	
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217-524-3038	