

# Village of Frankfort Drinking Water Fact Sheet

Safe. Reliable. Forward-Thinking.



## ◆ Water Supply Overview

- The Village of Frankfort Utility System serves approximately **24,000 customers**, including residents in: Frankfort, Frankfort Square, Parts of Tinley Park, and a portion of unincorporated Cook County.
- **Water Source:** Frankfort’s drinking water is sourced from **10 individual wells** located throughout the community. These wells draw from the **Silurian dolomite aquifer**—a shallow, more rapidly recharging aquifer **distinct from deeper aquifers** that are being phased out by some neighboring communities.
- Water levels in shallow aquifers naturally fluctuate with the seasons and annual precipitation. **Ongoing monitoring and a 2022 engineering review** confirmed the aquifer remains **healthy and viable for long-term use**.

## ◆ Water Quality and Safety

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Frankfort’s drinking water is tested regularly and **meets all state and federal safety standards**.
- The annual **Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)** shares test results and system updates. View the latest report here: [2024 CCR Report \(PDF\)](#)
- View Illinois **EPA test results** here: [IL EPA Water System Detail – Frankfort](#)

## ◆ Minerals, Hardness & Treatment

- Frankfort’s water contains **naturally occurring minerals** like calcium, magnesium, and iron. These contribute to what’s commonly referred to as **“hard water.”**
- **What it means for you:** These minerals can leave scale on appliances and plumbing. Many residents use water softeners to help protect water heaters, dishwashers, coffee makers, and more.
- To improve water quality, the Village operates **iron filtration plants** that reduce iron levels before water reaches homes and businesses. Iron filters do not eliminate all water hardness.

## ◆ Exploring Future Water Options

- The Village remains open to evaluating **alternative water supply options** when opportunities arise.
- In **2000**, the Village placed a **non-binding referendum** on the ballot to gauge public support for switching to Lake Michigan water. Approximately **two-thirds of voters opposed** the change and as a result, the initiative did **not move forward**.
- Most recently, Frankfort completed an **in-depth engineering analysis** to explore connecting to the **Oak Lawn Regional Water System (RWS)** and transitioning to **Lake Michigan water**.
- Making this switch would:
  - ◆ Require a **new transmission main** be constructed between Frankfort and Tinley Park.
  - ◆ Require **significant infrastructure upgrades**, estimated between **\$75–100 million**.
  - ◆ Result in a projected minimum **water rate increase of nearly 300%**.
- To switch to Lake Michigan water, the Village would first need to secure a **water allocation permit** from the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)**. This is not guaranteed, as **Illinois is legally limited** in how much water it can withdraw from the lake under a **U.S. Supreme Court decree**, which restricts new allocations.

## ◆ Estimated Cost Impact – If Transition Occurred

Water Cost (alone)			
Usage	Current Cost	Projected Cost (Lake Water)	Percentage Increase
1,000 gallons	\$5.44	\$21.75	299.82%
2,000 gallons (minimum bill)	\$10.88	\$43.50	299.82%
5,000 gallons	\$27.20	\$108.75	299.82%
10,000 gallons	\$54.40	\$217.50	299.82%
15,000 gallons	\$81.60	\$326.25	299.82%
20,000 gallons	\$108.80	\$435.00	299.82%

The above estimates **do not include** sewer fees (\$11.01 per 1,000 gallons) and garbage / recycling fees (\$23.46 / month). Garbage fees only apply to Village of Frankfort residents.

### Total Bill (including water, sewer, and garbage fees)

Usage	Current Cost	Projected Cost (Lake Water)	Percentage Increase
2,000 gallons (minimum bill)	\$56.36	\$88.98	57.87%
5,000 gallons	\$105.71	\$187.26	77.14%
10,000 gallons	\$187.96	\$351.06	86.77%
15,000 gallons	\$270.21	\$514.86	90.54%
20,000 gallons	\$352.46	\$678.66	92.54%

The above estimates **include** sewer fees (\$11.01 per 1,000 gallons) and garbage / recycling fees (\$23.46 / month). Garbage fees only apply to Village of Frankfort residents.

#### ◆ Additional Considerations for the Future

As the Village continues to evaluate long-term water supply options, here are some important factors to keep in mind:

##### Benefits of Lake Water

- Lake Michigan offers a **stable and abundant water source** that is less susceptible to annual / seasonal fluctuations.
- Lake Michigan water is naturally **softer than well water**, meaning it contains lower levels of calcium and magnesium. As a result, most households would **no longer need water softeners**—**saving money** on salt, electricity, and appliance wear over time.

##### Loss of local control

- Connecting to a regional water system means **rates would be set by outside agencies**.
- Frankfort would be subject to **pass-through rate increases**, with limited say in pricing decisions.
- Surface water suppliers often impose **seasonal or permanent restrictions** on water usage including car washing, lawn watering, and time-of-day usage rules.

##### Wastewater System Upgrades Coming

- In the coming years, **wastewater treatment upgrades** will be necessary to meet stricter environmental regulations and increase treatment capacity.
- These upgrades may require **additional rate increases**, regardless of our water source.

#### ◆ Public Input Matters

- The Village is hosting a **public open house on August 4th at 5:00 PM** located at 432 W. Nebraska Street to gather additional feedback from utility customers about the potential transition to Lake Michigan water. A **customer survey** is also available to share your input. To participate in the survey visit the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XVSBV3Y> or scan the QR code below. Your voice matters—stay tuned for more details!

##### Survey QR Code



##### Questions or Comments?

Contact the Frankfort Utility Department:

📍 432 W. Nebraska Street

📞 (815) 469-2177

🌐 [www.frankfortil.org](http://www.frankfortil.org)