

# 2013 Annual Water Quality Report

This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water and services the City provides every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

## Message From Public Water Supply Superintendent Andrew Resek

The City of Crystal Lake Water Division is proud to present our 2013 Annual Water Quality Report to you. This report is produced every year as mandated by the federal government. We hope it provides you with an easy-to-understand overview of your drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The City of Crystal Lake Water Division monitors your drinking water daily for regulated and non-regulated contaminants. In 2013, all detected contaminants were below the Environmental Protection Agency's allowed maximum contaminant level and no health violations were reported. You can be confident the City is providing safe, high-quality drinking water.

Please take the time to look through this report. This year, we have included information regarding questions frequently asked, such as: how drinking water is treated, where your drinking water comes from and how to protect this valuable natural resource.

If you have questions about this report, please contact me directly at (815) 459-2020 x 4041 or write to: 100 W. Woodstock St., Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

Andrew Resek  
City of Crystal Lake  
Public Water Supply Superintendent  
Public Water Supply ID#1110150



## Our Water Is Not A Limitless Resource!

Water seems to be everywhere and seems to always be there when we turn on our tap, but the supply is not endless. Below are some simple water-saving tips to do your part to conserve and become aware of how, when and why you are using water.

### Indoors:

- Take shorter showers and turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth or wash your face/hands.
- Install water efficient faucet aerators in your kitchen/bathroom.
- Check toilets and faucets for leaks. A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water or more, per day! Install a high-efficiency model.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of allowing water to run to cool it off.

### Outdoors:

- Consider watering your lawn no more than twice a week and only if it really needs it. More than 50% of irrigation water use goes to waste due to overwatering, evaporation or runoff. Make sure to follow the City's Water Conservation Ordinance and only water during allowed times.
- Plant native plants, which require less watering and support the local ecosystem.
- Apply organic mulch around plants to hold in the moisture and prevent weed growth.
- Check for leaks in hoses and sprinkler heads.
- Use a broom to sweep off your driveway and sidewalk instead of using a hose and water to clean them.

Did you know? In 2013, the City of Crystal Lake Water Division successfully distributed **1,512,302,000** gallons of water to its customers!

## Notice for Immuno-Compromised Persons

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 people and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791** or at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### Potential for Lead Exposure

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 City of Crystal Lake 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 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 your drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791** or at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### Regulated Contaminants Detected – 2013

Contaminant	Max Detected	Range	Unit	Max Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Max Contaminant Level	Date of Sample,	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>DISINFECTANTS/DISINFECTANT BY-PRODUCTS</b>							
Total Haloacetic acids (HAA5)	3.00	2.21-7.43	ug/l	NA	60*	2013	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	20.00	18.00 - 46.60	ug/l	NA	80*	2013	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	1.00	.761 – 1.00	mg/l	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	12/31/2013	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Barium	0.535	.0293 - .535	mg/l	2	2	2012	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries and erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	5.48	0 – 5.48	ug/l	200	200	2012	Discharge from plastic/fertilizer and steel/metal factories.
Fluoride 6	1.04	.746 - 1.04	mg/l	4	4	2012	Erosion of natural deposits, additive promoting strong teeth and discharge from fertilizer/aluminum factories.
Manganese	5.12	0 – 5.12	ug/l	150	150	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	0	0 - 0	mg/l	10	10	2013	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage and erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	0.0118	0 - .0118	mg/l	5	5	2012	Naturally occurring and discharge from metal factories
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Combined Radium 226 / 228	1.95	.779 – 1.95	pCi/l	0	5**	2009	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon & uranium	0	0	pCi/l	0	15	2012	Erosion of natural deposits

\*Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years experience problems with their livers, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of cancer.

\*\*The actual MCL for Beta Emitters is 4 milligrams per year. The Illinois EPA states that this converts to approximately 50 pCi/l.

Our water system was required to monitor for the contaminants required under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Results may be obtained by calling the contact listed on the first page of this report.

## What the EPA Says About Drinking Water Contaminants

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** or at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### 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 the result of oil/gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Regulated Contaminants Detected – 2013 (continued)

Contaminant	Max Detected	Range	Unit	Max Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Max Contaminant Level	Date of Sample <sub>4</sub>	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Ethylbenzene	0	0 - 0	ug/l	700	700	2013	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Trichloroethylene	0	0 - 0	ug/l	0	5	2013	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Xylenes	0	0 - 0	mg/l	10	10	2013	Discharge from petroleum/chemical factories
cis - 1,2 - Dichloroethylene	0	0 - 0	ug/l	70	70	2013	Discharge from petroleum/chemical factories
trans - 1,2 - Dichloroethylene	0	0 - 0	ug/l	100	100	2013	Discharge from petroleum/chemical factories
<b>SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Di (2-Ethylhexyl ) Phthalate	0	0 - 0	ug/l	0	6	2013	Rubber/chemical factory discharge
<b>STATE REGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Iron <sub>1</sub>	0	0	mg/l	NA	1	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium <sub>2</sub>	197	3.5 - 197	mg/l	NA	NA	2012	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softening regeneration

<b>COLIFORM BACTERIA</b>					
Microbiological Contaminants	Total Coliform MCL	Highest # of Positive Total	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Max Limit	Total # of Positive Samples	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples	0	0	0	Naturally present in environment

MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# of Sites Over AL	Date of Sample <sub>4</sub>	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>COPPER</b>					
1.3 mg/l	1.3 mg/l	0.776	0	2011	Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives and corrosion of household plumbing systems
<b>LEAD</b>					
0 ug/l	15 ug/l	7.47	0	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits

## Unregulated Contaminants Detected in 2013<sub>3</sub>

Contaminant	Unit	SMCL	Highest Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample <sub>4</sub>	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Sulfate	mg/l	250	56.4	2.15 - 56.4	2012	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits

<sup>1</sup>**Iron:** This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA; however, the State has set an MCL for this contaminant for suppliers serving a population of 1,000 or more.

<sup>2</sup>**Sodium:** There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult your physician about this level of sodium in the water.

<sup>3</sup>**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.

<sup>4</sup>**Date of Sample:** The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

<sup>5</sup>**Fluoride:** Fluoride is added to the water supply to promote strong teeth. The City is required to maintain these optimal levels by state statute and levels are enforced by the IEPA. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal Fluoride range of 0.9mg/l to 1.2mg/l.

## Water Quality Test Result 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 no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

### 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile

90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the maximum contaminant level goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

### 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.

### mg/l

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

### pCi/l

PicoCuries per liter (measurement of radioactivity.)

### ug/l

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

NA - Not applicable

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

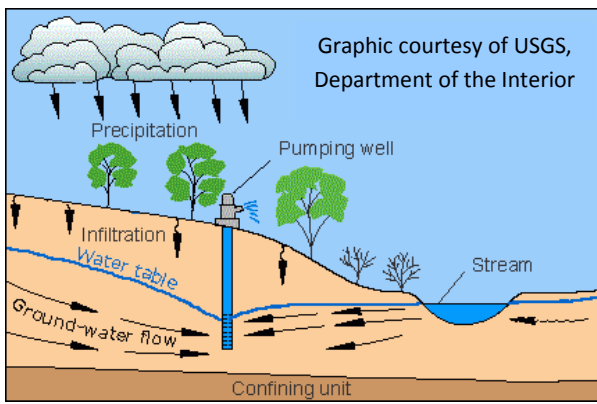
### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect benefits of use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

### Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)

The EPA does not enforce SMCL's. They are established only as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.





## Where Your Drinking Water Comes From

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

All of the water the City supplies to you comes from beneath the ground and is referred to as groundwater. This water originates as precipitation (such as rain or snow), which slowly travels down through the soil and into an aquifer. An aquifer is a geologic formation beneath the earth's surface where groundwater is stored.

The City's source water originates from "shallow" sand and gravel type aquifers which occur up to 400' below ground, and "deep" sandstone aquifers, which occur up to 1300' below ground. The groundwater in the aquifers is pumped to the surface, treated, fluoridated and distributed from the City's five water treatment facilities.

## YOU Can Help Protect Your Local Water Supply

The City of Crystal Lake works in conjunction with the McHenry County Water Resources Division to protect McHenry County's groundwater. For more information, visit their website:



Rain garden installed to catch run-off and increase filtration at the Municipal Complex

<https://www.co.mchenry.il.us/county-government/departments-i-z/planning-development/divisions/water-resources>

Residents of the City of Crystal Lake can play a role in preserving and protecting our water supplies. Here are some healthy habits for clean water:

- Never dump anything down a storm drain. Storm drains carry water directly to streams and lakes without being treated! If you are having trouble determining what to do with a particular hazardous substance, visit McHenry County's "Green Guide" at <http://www.mchenry.edu/recycling/greenguide.pdf>.
- Reduce the amount of paved area on your property and increase the amount of native vegetation (native plants will need less water during dry periods and absorb more water during wet periods.) Directing water onto grass instead of paved areas allows the water time to infiltrate the ground to be filtered and reduces polluted runoff.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly—if at all! Try searching for a natural, non-toxic alternative instead.
- If you wash your car at home, pick the least toxic cleaner you can find and wash your car on the lawn. This way, the soapy water will have a chance to soak into the ground and be filtered before it reaches a stream or lake.

*We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality! You are welcome to attend City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the City Council Chambers (100 West Woodstock Street). For more information visit the City's website at [www.crystallake.org](http://www.crystallake.org).*

## City of Crystal Lake Source Water Assessment

Amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1996 made it a requirement for states to develop and implement a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP.) A source water assessment has been completed for the City of Crystal Lake by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to assure clean and safe drinking water. The source water assessment includes information on the importance of source water, a susceptibility to contamination determination and documentation/recommendation of source water protection efforts. The City of Crystal Lake's source water assessment has been completed and is available for viewing at the Municipal Complex or on the IEPA's website at <http://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx>.

The Illinois EPA considers the City's source water to be susceptible to contamination based upon a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the wells, monitoring conducted at the entry points to the distribution system and the available hydrogeologic data on the wells. It is important to remember the assessments only indicate the **potential** for contamination and the **possibility** contaminants can enter down through the ground to the aquifer at the depth at which water is entering the well pump.

## Source Water Treatment Methods

Your water is treated by using oxidation, fluoridation, ion exchange softening, chlorination disinfection and filtration to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that can come from the source water. Below is a brief description of these treatment methods:

**Aeration & Air Stripping** – Removal of hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic contaminants and oxidation of iron.

**Fluoridation** – Controlled addition of fluoride to the source water to reduce tooth decay (optimal levels are enforced by the IEPA).

**Ion Exchange Softening** – Method to remove iron, barium, radium, manganese, calcium and magnesium in the source water by sending it through an ion exchange filter filled with "resin."

**Chlorination** – Introduction of chlorine to source and finished water, which destroys disease-causing bacteria possibly contained in water or its transport pipes.

**Filtration** – Source water is sent through a medium, such as sand, to remove iron before it is treated with an ion exchange softener.