

# CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

## 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

### INTRODUCTION

The City of Highland Park is pleased to present its Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2014. This report, as required by Federal law, is designed to inform all customers about the quality of water and services that are delivered each day. The City of Highland Park is pleased to report that last year, as in years past, your tap water met or exceeded all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and state drinking water health standards. There were no water quality violations recorded during 2014, nor were there any samples over the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL). The City's continuing goal is to provide all of its consumers with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. As part of this process, the City wants all customers to understand the efforts that are continually being made to improve the water treatment process and to protect water resources. In short, the City of Highland Park is committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

### SOURCE OF HIGHLAND PARK'S DRINKING WATER

The City of Highland Park Water Plant uses surface water drawn from a 54" Intake Pipe located one mile from shore in Lake Michigan. This Intake Pipe is situated in 30 feet of water, adjacent to two smaller pipes that are 20 and 16 inches in diameter, which also feed water to the filtration plant.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man made. Those constituents can be microbes,

### EPA SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

In 2002 Illinois EPA (IEPA) conducted a federally mandated Source Water Assessment of Highland Park, and it is available to consumers by contacting the Water Plant at 847-433-4355. IEPA has determined that Lake Michigan has some of the best drinking water quality in the state. Also, IEPA has determined that sources of potential contaminants for Highland Park intakes include sediment, shoreline erosion, wet weather sewer overflows, wastewater treatment bypasses, stormwater runoff, and air deposition. Some of the potential contaminants are: inorganic compounds, synthetic organics, and volatile organics. (See: [http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl?rm=show\\_facility\\_detail&facility\\_number=0970500&cws=y](http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl?rm=show_facility_detail&facility_number=0970500&cws=y))

organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).





## SOURCES OF CONTAMINANTS

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 dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

**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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems;

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

## SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Help keep prescription drugs out of the water supply by participating in the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program of Highland Park. This program helps residents to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs and over the counter medications in an environmentally safe way. The public can drop off prescription drugs in a mail box shaped receptacle in the foyer of the Highland Park Police Department located at 1677 Old Deerfield Road, 24 hours a day. For more information please visit:  
<http://www.ci.highlandpark.il.us/index.aspx?NID=451>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## ABOUT THE DATA

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations that 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**. The **City of Highland Park Water Plant** routinely monitors drinking water for these constituents, in accordance with State and Federal laws. The following water quality table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we **detected** during the period between January 1 and December 31, **2014**. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed in the table were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Again, the presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Results may be obtained by calling the contact listed at the end of this report.



The “**Your Water**” column represents the highest sample result collected during the calendar year, unless otherwise noted. The “**Range**” column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the calendar year. The “**Sample Date**” column will show the year the sample was most recently analyzed. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The “**Violation**” column will indicate whether or not a violation occurred with each contaminant that was detected. The “**Typical Source**” information lists where contaminants may originate.

## 2014 WATER QUALITY DATA

Contaminant (units)	EPA MCLG	EPA MCL	Highland Park highest Level Found	Range of detection	Violation Yes/NO	Date of Sample (if not tested annually)	Typical Source of Contamination
<b>DISINFECTANTS &amp; DISINFECTANT BY-PRODUCTS</b> (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.03	0.02-1.98	NO	2014	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chloramines (as C12) (mg/l)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.04	0.04-0.04	NO	2009	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	n/a	TT	100	n/a	NO	2014	Naturally present in the environment.
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	n/a	80	27	13.56-40.17	NO	2014	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	n/a	60	8	0-14.6	NO	2014	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

*Note: The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.*

*Note: Some sample results for regulatory compliance are based on a running annual average of quarterly samples, therefore; the result is not the highest level detected. This is the case for CL2, TTHMs and HAA5*

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Barium (ppb)	2	2	0.021	n/a	NO	2014	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.09	n/a	NO	2014	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	NO	2014	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching; Used in water softener regeneration.
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	100	31	n/a	NO	2014	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Zinc (ppb)	5000	5000	7.4	n/a	NO	2014	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Naturally occurring; discharge from metal factories.

*Note: There is not a federal or state MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required for information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If the level is greater than 20 ppm, and you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician.*

## MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Turbidity (NTU)	n/a	0.3	100%	n/a	NO	2014	Soil runoff.
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100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.391. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.

*Note: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particulates and is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.*

Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	1	n/a	NO	2014	Naturally present in the environment
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## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - LEAD AND COPPER

Lead MCLG	Lead Action Level (AL)	Highland Park Water	# Sites Over Lead AL	Exceeds AL	Sample Date	Copper MCLG	Copper Action Level (AL)	Highland Park Water	# Sites Over Copper AL	Exceeds AL	Sample Date
0	15 ppb	10.2	3	NO	2014	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.311 ppm	0	NO	2014

**Likely Source of Contamination:** Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. To minimize contamination resulting from corrosion, Highland Park has implemented a corrosion control program. The EPA established a lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) and a copper action level of 1.3 ppm. The 90th percentile result of samples analyzed for lead and copper content in homes with lead pipes must be less than these action levels. In 2014, Highland Park sampled water from thirty homes with lead service lines and analyzed them for lead and copper content. All results, except for 3 lead samples were below the action levels. The 90th percentile level for lead was 10.2 ppb. The 90th percentile level for copper was 0.311 ppm as illustrated in the results table.

*Note: The City of Highland Park is in full compliance with all State and Federal regulations governing the control of lead and copper within public drinking water supplies. 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 Highland Park 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 drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the State Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.*



## ADDITIONAL CONTAMINANTS - UCMR3

Every five years, in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA identifies a new list of contaminants that are suspected to occur in public water systems. This list is referred to as the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for these contaminants have not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language been set. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Analyte	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	Units
Chromium	2014	SW 0.3 / DW 0.2	SW 0.3-0.3 / SW 0.2-0.2	NA	ppb
Molybdenum	2014	SW 1.1 / DW 1.1	SW 1.1-1.1 / SW 1.1-1.1	NA	ppb
Strontium	2014	SW 130 / DW 130	SW 120-130 / SW 130-130	NA	ppb
Chromium, Hexavalent	2014	SW 0.24 / DW 0.24	SW 0.23-0.24 / SW 0.1-0.24	NA	ppb
Chlorate	2014	SW 89 / DW 63	SW 89-89 / SW 63-63	NA	ppb
4-Androstene-3, 17-dione	2014	SW 0.0006 / DW NA	SW 0.0006-0.0006 / DW NA	NA	ppb
Testosterone	2014	SW 0.0001 / DW NA	SW 0.0001-0.0001 / DW NA	NA	ppb

SW= Source Water

DW= Distribution Water

## DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

In the water quality data table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

**MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level** or 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** or 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.

**AL - Action Level** or the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal** or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** or the highest level of a disinfectant allow in drinking water.

**MPL - Maximum Permissible Level** that is state assigned

### Unit Descriptions

**mg/L - milligrams per liter** or the number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water.

**ppm - Parts per million** or Milligrams per liter (mg/L).

**ppb - Parts per billion** or Micrograms per liter ( g/L).

**NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units**, used to measure the cloudiness in drinking water.

**NA - not applicable**



For more information about this report or your water utility in general, please contact:

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