

## Working Hard For You

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the U.S. EPA is responsible for setting national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water and also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. Each system continually monitors for these substances and reports to the Illinois EPA if the substances were detected in the drinking water. The Illinois EPA uses this data to ensure that consumers are receiving clean water.



This publication conforms to regulations under the SDWA requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. We are committed to providing you with this information about your water supply because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

## Community Participation

Village Board Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, Madison Street and Lombard Avenue. For information on board agendas, call the Village Manager's Office at (708) 358-5770, or visit our Web page at <http://www.vil.oak-park.il.us>.

### Got Questions?

Call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791

 **Oak Park**  
Village of Oak Park  
Village Hall  
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Oak Park, IL 60302 - 4209



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# 2001 WATER QUALITY REPORT



## Village of Oak Park

PWS ID#: IL0312250

## What Is The Source Of My Water?

Lake Michigan is a surface water supply. It is the sole source of surface water used for drinking in the City of Chicago and 123 suburban communities—including ours. The U.S. EPA has found that the quality of Lake Michigan has improved dramatically over the past 20 years. Lake Michigan, by volume, is the second largest Great Lake and the only one located totally within the United States. It serves as a source of drinking water, as a place for swimming and fishing, and as a scenic wonderland.

Sources of drinking water can pick up contaminants as water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground. The drinking water source is vulnerable to industrial waste and runoff from surrounding lands. Possible contaminants include pesticides, herbicides, radioactive materials, and organic and inorganic petroleum and gas production by-products. We do not have indications of the presence of these contaminants at this time, mainly because of restrictions that prohibit industrial effluents from entering Lake Michigan. Sewage treatment plant effluents are not discharged into the lake, thereby reducing the threat of microbial contamination. All 63 miles of shoreline within Illinois are now considered to be in good condition.

The Illinois EPA Office of Groundwater will be doing a source water assessment throughout the state in the next few years. When the assessment is completed for Lake Michigan, all sources of pollutants into the watershed will be identified. There will be information regarding the source water's susceptibility to contaminants based on the findings of the assessment. Since the quality of the raw water source is good, conventional treatment methods of disinfection, coagulation and sedimentation, and sand filtration are adequate for producing water that is free of harmful contaminants. As of the date of this report, this summary has not been completed. The Illinois EPA must complete all source water assessments by May 2003. As this assessment becomes available, our supply will summarize the results and incorporate the information into this report, as required. Further information on our community water supply's source water assessment is available on the USGS Web site at <http://il.water.usgs.gov>, or by calling the Groundwater Section of the Illinois EPA at (217) 785-4787.



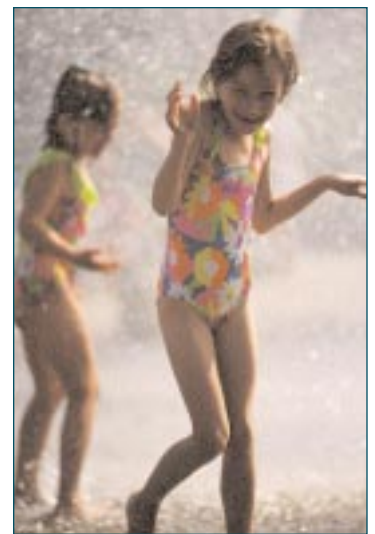
## Keeping Your Water Flowing

The Water Division of the Public Works Department operates three pumping facilities each linked to a separate underground reservoir. The Village currently stores 10 million gallons of water in the three reservoirs, but has plans to build a fourth underground facility that would add two and a half million gallons in storage capacity. Water is pumped from the reservoirs into the Village's distribution system of 105 miles of water mains ranging in size from six

inches to 16 inches in diameter. More than two billion gallons of water are pumped through the Village in a year, or nearly six million gallons each day. The average daily per capita consumption is about 105 gallons. The Water Division also maintains more than 13,500 water service connections and meters, as well as more than 1,200 fire hydrants.

## About This Report

The Village of Oak Park is proud to provide residents with this annual water quality report. A snapshot of last year's water quality, this report explains the source of our water, what it contains and the treatment process. As the report indicates, Oak Park's water quality has remained well within the U.S.



Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) guidelines for municipal water quality. For more information on this report, or for answers to any questions concerning the Village's drinking water, call Gil Lubuguin, Senior Operator, at (708) 358-5700 or email [publicworks@vil.oak-park.il.us](mailto:publicworks@vil.oak-park.il.us).

## Ensuring Quality Drinking Water

Lake Michigan is Oak Park's sole source of drinking water. Our water arrives pre-treated via a pipeline from the City of Chicago. Only a small amount of chlorine needs to be added here before pumping it in to our system. To ensure purity, water samples are routinely gathered along the entire route of the water, from its source right into your home. A state-certified lab tests the samples using equipment that can measure substances down to one part in a billion. In addition, the Village's treatment facility is constantly maintained, evaluated and upgraded to incorporate the latest advancements in technology, health sciences and environmental regulations.

## What's In My Water?

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or did better than, all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in our drinking water during 2001. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. EPA, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less 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.



### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	Village of Oak Park		City of Chicago		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE (LOW-HIGH)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE (LOW-HIGH)		
Barium (ppm)	2001	2	2	NA	NA	0.018	0.018-0.018	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2001	4	4	NA	NA	0.81	0.81-0.81	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2001	10	10	NA	NA	0.3	0.3-0.3	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2001	100	0	26.3	12-38	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>1</sup>	2001	TT	NA	NA	NA	0.34	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from 30 homes throughout Oak Park. Copper was not detected in any of the samples.

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90th %tile)	HOMES ABOVE AL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lead (ppb)	2000	15	0	7	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### STATE REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE (LOW-HIGH)	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm) <sup>2</sup>	2000	7	7-7	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener

<sup>1</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. City of Chicago monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be below 0.5 NTU. During the reporting year, 100% of all samples taken by the City of Chicago to measure turbidity met water quality standards.

<sup>2</sup>Data as reported by the City of Chicago.

## Substances Expected to be in Drinking 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, which 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 can pick up 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.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

**Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:**

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

**You can conserve outdoors as well:**

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

## Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791.



## Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhme](http://www.epa.gov/watrhme)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))

Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Illinois EPA hosts a Web site ([www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us)) that has complete and current information on water in our own state.