

Where does the Village of Park Forest get its water?

The Village is supplied by ground water pumped from six wells drilled approximately 340 feet deep into a dolomite limestone aquifer. The wells are all located within a one-mile radius of the Village's Drinking Water Treatment Plant. Ground water is pumped from the wells to the plant where it is treated using a lime and soda ash softening process. The treated water is also filtered using anthracite and sand. Chlorine is added as a disinfectant, fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay, and phosphates are added to help inhibit corrosion. Drinking water is then pumped from the plant to the consumer through 72 miles of underground drinking water mains.

How likely are Park Forest residents to be at risk from lead in their drinking water?

Park Forest was generally built in the 1950's and 1960's when lead piping was more prevalent. While most of the water system was not built using lead, it is still encountered from time to time, most frequently is lead solder joints. Chemical testing indicates Park Forest homes do not have lead levels approaching amounts that are a cause for concern under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. However, it still is possible for some homes to have small traceable amounts of lead in their tap water under the right conditions. Lead piping was not outlawed until 1986, and homes built as recently as 2011 could contain brass fixtures made with lead.

How does lead get into drinking water?

Corrosion or wearing away of lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, especially if water sits for a long time in the pipes before use. Lead can also enter tap water if the service line that connects a home to the municipal water main is made of lead. Furthermore, lead can get into tap water from lead pipes in a home, or if a home has lead solder pipe joints or brass fixtures.

Does the Village of Park Forest test for lead?

Yes. The Village is required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to test for lead every three years from IEPA-approved sites. The Village does not have laboratory facilities to test for lead in drinking water, but contracts with a lab certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The most recent sampling period was July/August of 2014. The results are posted on the Village's web site at www.vopfwaterreport.com. The Village complies with all IEPA testing requirements and had met those requirements every year since testing began in 1997.

What does the Village of Park Forest do to prevent elevated lead levels?

Starting in February 2015, the Village adds chemicals at its Drinking Water Treatment Plant that coat the inside of the pipes to inhibit corrosion and lead from leaching which are the two main causes of lead in a drinking water supply. While it is possible that some homes may still have lead services lines or lead solder pipe joints, the Village's corrosion control methods reduce the amount of lead leaching into the drinking water from these sources as well. These anti-leaching, anti-corrosion additives are safe for consumers.

How susceptible is Park Forest to a public health crisis similar to Flint, Michigan?

Park Forest's drinking water is treated with consumption-safe chemicals that inhibit lead from leaching into the drinking water supply and pipe corrosion, the primary sources of the high lead content found in Flint's municipal water supply. For budgetary reasons, these chemicals were not used in Flint's drinking water supply, a local government administrative decision that would never be made in Park Forest.

What are the chances the Village's old water mains are adding lead to the drinking water supply?

The 72 miles of municipal water mains are mostly cast iron. Some lead solder joints still remain, but the drinking water mains are coated by the additives the Village of Park Forest uses to inhibit corrosion and lead leaching. In addition, unlike the drinking water in one's home, the drinking water in the Village's mains flows constantly. The leaching of anything into the drinking water occurs from standing water. That's why experts recommend that homeowners run their tap water for at least three minutes before use if it has not been used in the previous six hours.

What would be the most likely source of lead in my home's tap water?

If you have lead in your home's tap water, the source most likely is the service line pipe connecting your home to the municipal water main, lead solder joints in your home's own plumbing, or brass fixtures manufactured prior to 2011.

If my home has a lead service line, can it be replaced?

Yes. A property owner can change the water service line from lead to copper. Property owners are responsible for the cost of replacing the service line from the shutoff valve in the parkway to the house.

Should I test my drinking water for lead?

If you are concerned about the possibility of lead in your home's drinking water, you can have your drinking water tested by a certified laboratory. If you have difficulty finding a certified laboratory for testing, contact the Public Works department at 708-503-7702.

What are the health effects of lead in drinking water?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to young children, pregnant women, and infants-particularly if they drink formula prepared with tap water containing elevated levels of lead.

What measures can I take to reduce the lead in my home's drinking water?

The U.S. EPA recommends the following steps:

- Flush your pipes before drinking - The more time the water sits in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Anytime water in a particular faucet had not used for six hours or longer, flush the cold water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get. This could take as little as 30 seconds or up to three minutes. To save water, use the water you flush out for watering plants.
- Use cold water for eating and drinking - Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. Run cold water until it becomes as cold as it will get. Boiling water will not get rid of lead contamination.
- Use water filters or treatment devices - Many water filters and water treatment devices are certified by independent organizations for effective lead reduction. Devices that are not designed to remove lead will not work. Verify the claims of manufactures by contacting NSF International (National Sanitation Foundation) at 800-NSF-8010 or visiting www.nsf.org. Some water filters that remove lead also fluoride. Residents with children may wish to discuss fluoride replacement with a dentist.

Where can I find more information?

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or by visiting www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. You also can review the Village's Annual Water Report posted at www.vopfwaterreport.com. If you would like to discuss the issue with a local contact, call village of Park Forest Public Works department at 708-503-7702.



Park Forest
Live Grow Discover

Annual Water Quality Report 2017

Our Mission:

Our mission is to provide you with high-quality, safe drinking water that meets or surpasses every federal and state standard.

Contact us at:

**Village of Park Forest
Department of Public Works
Phone: 708-503-7702**

Web Site:

www.vopf.com

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:

1-800-426-4791

Village of Park Forest Annual Water-Quality Report

The Village of Park Forest is proud of the drinking water it provides. Our mission is to provide you with high-quality, safe drinking water that meets or surpasses every Federal and State standard. In 2016, the Village of Park Forest distributed more than 480 million gallons of water to our customers. As mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), this Water Quality Report details Park Forest's water sources, the results of water tests, and other information. The information in this report covers the Village's water operations, January 1, through December 31, 2016.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. **Regular meetings of the Village of Park Forest Board of Trustees are held monthly at Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive.** Meeting schedules can be found at www.vopf.com or call 708-748-1112. Public comments are welcomed at these meetings. For questions on this report, contact David A. Vavrek, Chief Water Plant Operator, 708-503-7702, visit www.epa.gov/safewater or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) information web site.

Water Source

The Village of Park Forest is supplied by groundwater pumped from six wells drilled approximately 340 feet deep into a dolomite limestone aquifer. The wells are all located within a one-mile radius of the Water Plant. Water is pumped from the wells to the plant where it is softened using a lime and soda ash softening process. The water is also filtered through sand filters. Chlorine is added as a disinfectant and fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay. Water is then pumped from the plant to the consumer through miles of underground water mains.

Other Monitoring

Our water system tests for hundreds of additional substances to make certain our water is safe and of high quality. If you are interested in a summary of all tests, contact the Public Works Department at 708-503-7702, or visit Drinking Water Watch at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency web site <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/>.

Completed Source Water Assessment

Based on information obtained in a Well Site Survey, published in 1992 by the Illinois EPA, twenty-four possible problem sites were identified within the survey area of Park Forest. The Illinois EPA has determined that the source water obtained from Park Forest Wells #1 through #6 is susceptible to contamination. This means, if a source of contamination is present near a well, the aquifer could be affected. This determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the wells; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and the available hydrogeologic data on the wells. The Illinois Environmental Protection Act provides a minimum protection zone of 400 feet for Park Forest's wells. These minimum protection zones are regulated by the Illinois EPA.

Water Quality Report

The sources of drinking water (*both tap water and bottled water*) include rivers lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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 pickup substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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.

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.

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).

Regulated Contaminants

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. 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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	July/August 2014	1.3	1.3	0.37	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits, Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	July/August 2014	0	15	10	2	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results

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 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 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.

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.

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

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

na: not applicable.

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

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

2016 Regulated Contaminants Detected

	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS								
Chlorine	12/31/2016	0.5	0.3 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2016	5	4.9 - 4.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)	2016	18	15.4 - 18.1	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Chromium	2015	3.4	3.4 - 3.4	100	100	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2015	0.0064	0.0064 - 0.0064	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion or natural deposits
Fluoride	2015	0.76	0.76 - 0.76	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)	2015	0.01	0.01 - 0.01	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	06/20/2015	120	120 - 120			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits; Uses in water softener regeneration.
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Beta/photon emitters	01/13/2014	5.8	5.8 - 5.8	0	50	mrem/yr	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

2016 Violation Summary Table for Park Forest

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The following table(s) lists all violations that occurred during 2016.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total Number of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	0	0	0	0	None	

NO VIOLATIONS FOR 2016