



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Presented By
**City of Girard Water
Department**



PWS ID#: OH7801103



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in City of Girard Council meetings during public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 100 West Main Street.

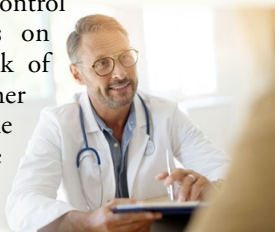
Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Girard Water Department is part of the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD). We are a satellite distribution system, meaning we do not treat our own water but instead purchase it from other public water sources. The City of Girard purchases water from Niles, Trumbull County, Youngstown, and McDonald. All these water systems are part of MVSD, which draws its water from the Meander Creek Reservoir.

Important Health Information

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

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. The U.S. 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 or water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



Lead in Home Plumbing

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 two 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. A list of laboratories certified in Ohio to test for lead may be found at epa.ohio.gov/ddagw or by calling (614) 644-2752. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.

PFAS Sampling Initiative

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of human-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial, and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), which is used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

During the reporting year, our public water system was sampled as part of Ohio's Drinking Water PFAS Sampling Initiative. Results from this sampling indicated PFAS were detected in our drinking water below the Action Level established by Ohio EPA. Follow-up monitoring is being conducted. For more information about PFAS, and to view our latest results, please visit pfas.ohio.gov.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Scoville, Water Department Superintendent, at (234) 600-0672.

Substances That Could Be in 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 dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases radioactive material, and 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.

Source Water Assessment

For the purposes of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are accessible and can be readily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens with relatively short travel times from source to the intake. Based on the information compiled for this assessment, the MVSD Meander Creek Reservoir protection area is susceptible to agricultural runoff from row crop agriculture and eight animal feedlots, oil and gas wells, failing home and commercial septic systems, new housing and commercial development that could increase runoff from roads and parking lots, and numerous road crossings over the Meander Creek Reservoir and its tributaries. While source water for MVSD is considered susceptible to contamination, historically, MVSD has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards. The potential for water quality impacts can further be decreased by implementing measures to protect Meander Creek Reservoir and its watershed. More detailed information is provided in MVSD's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, which can be obtained by calling Jonathan Jamison at (330) 652-3614. To view the approved MVSD Meander Creek Reservoir Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, visit meanderwater.org and select Public Records. For more information on the testing of lead and fracking wastes, visit meanderwater.org and select District Information and then Water Quality.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

The state recommends monitoring 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 (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Asbestos (MFL)	2022	7	7	AA < 0.062	NA	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	1.6775	1.57–1.88	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	1.02	0.87–1.29	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	29.4	18.4–41.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.32	0.20–0.47	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	58.4	39–72.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2023	TT ¹	NA	1.61	1.40–1.90	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.06	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppb)	2023	1350	1350	52.7900	ND–389.0	0/120	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	ND	ND–16.3	1/120	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	NA	1.02	0.87–1.29	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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): 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.

MFL (million fibers per liter): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromochloromethane (ppb)	2023	9.2	6.14–10.7	Disinfection by-product
Chloroform (ppb)	2023	44.4	27.6–60.0	Disinfection by-product
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2023	0.00648	0.00648–0.00648	Human-made chemical applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick; Cosmetics; Fast food packaging; Firefighting foam
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppb)	2023	0.00917	0.00917–0.00917	Human-made chemical applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick; Cosmetics; Fast food packaging; Firefighting foam
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2023	0.00284	0.00284–0.00284	Human-made chemical applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick; Cosmetics; Fast food packaging; Firefighting foam
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppb)	2023	0.0236	0.0236–0.0236	Human-made chemical applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick; Cosmetics; Fast food packaging; Firefighting foam

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

¹The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed and percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

²Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. All samples should be <1 NTU; 95% of them <0.3 NTU.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit <http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8>.

Violation Information

There was one exceedance of the action limit for lead in 2023. The result after resampling was below the laboratory detection limit. The problem was internal.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.