

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



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, 2025. Included are details about your source 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.

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.



Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. 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 epa.gov/safewater.



Source Water Assessment

For the purpose 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 agriculture 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. The source water assessment was originally performed in 2009 and was last reviewed in 2025.



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 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 Water Quality under the District Info tab. Information on the testing of lead and fracking wastes is also available under Water Quality.

Community Participation

While we do not hold regular meetings open to the public, customers are encouraged to participate in discussions about our drinking water at Girard City Council meetings during our public forum. These are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Girard Court Chambers, located at 100 West Main Street.

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

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 and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the U.S. EPA by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria such as coliforms ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.



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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have it 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 at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, public water systems were required to develop and maintain a service line inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the service line inventory, which lists the material type for your location, visit cityofgirardoh.gov and click the Water & Sewer Department tab, then click Drinking Water Service Line Inventory, or contact Michael Scoville at (234) 600-0672 or mscoville@cityofgirardoh.gov.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:



- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and 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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023 and 2024, the City of Girard participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). For a copy of the results, please call Michael Scoville at (234) 600-0672.

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	<0.062	NA	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	2.16	1.77–2.99	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	1.00	0.85–1.10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	27.775	16.8–39.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.33	ND–0.56	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2025	TT ¹	NA	1.79	1.40–2.10	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	68.975	42.7–77.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.03	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	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	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.0558	ND–0.0839	0/120	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	ND	ND–19.3	2/122	No	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)	2025	2.0	NA	1.0	0.85–1.10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromochloromethane (ppb)	2025	8.2	5.1–11.5	Individual chemical found in disinfection by-products
Chloroform (ppb)	2025	55.4	43.9–85.9	Individual chemical found in disinfection by-products

UCMR5

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lithium (ppm)	2024	0.00570	0.00500–0.00500	A naturally occurring element and may be found at higher concentrations in certain parts of the country, particularly groundwater sources in arid locations in the western U.S. where geological formations contain lithium salts
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2024	0.00748	NA	Human-made chemicals applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick; In cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppb)	2024	0.004535	0.0031–0.00606	Human-made chemicals applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick; In cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2023	0.00284	NA	Human-made chemicals applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick; In cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppb)	2024	0.009155	0.00791–0.0104	Human-made chemicals applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick; In cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam

¹The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the 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.

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 that a water system must follow.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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

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.

