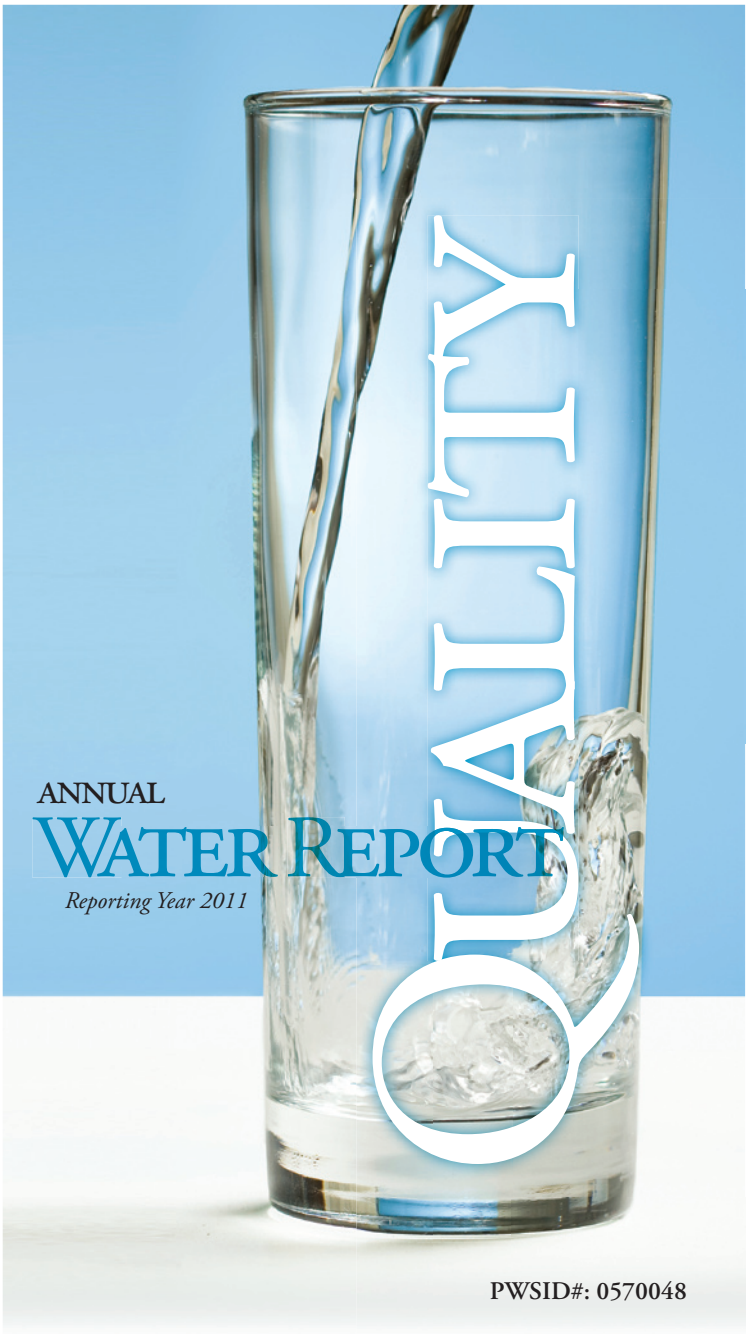

ANNUAL

WATER REPORT

Reporting Year 2011

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This report was prepared by:
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Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (972) 237-8055.

Our Drinking Water is Safe!

The City of Grand Prairie's goal is to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water. We are happy to report that our water supply meets the standards for drinking water quality as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This report is a summary of the quality of water we provide to you.

For more information about this report, contact Cindy Mendez at the Environmental Services Department at 972-237-8055. Additional copies of the Water Quality Report are available in the Environmental Services Departmentoffice at 206 W. Church St., 2nd Floor, or visit the City website at www.gptx.org.

Public Participation

To participate in decisions concerning water, attend Grand Prairie City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers located at City Hall, 317 W. College St. For more information about public participation at council meetings, call 972-237-8035.

Where Does Grand Prairie Water Come From?

Grand Prairie's drinking water is obtained from both surface and ground water sources and has maintained its "Superior" water quality rating.

Grand Prairie surface water supplies are purchased from the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. Dallas treats and uses surface water from six sources: the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, and lakes Grapevine, Lewisville, Ray Hubbard, Ray Roberts and Tawakoni.

Fort Worth's drinking water sources include: Lakes Benbrook, Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain and Worth, and the Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers Reservoirs.

Grand Prairie uses up to 10 ground water wells, mainly during the summer to meet demand. The wells each have an average depth of 2,000 feet and are pumped from the Trinity Aquifer.

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. This water supply 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Information on Sources of 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 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 which 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.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Arsenic in Water

While your drinking water meets U.S. EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. U.S. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Source Water Assessment

The TCEQ completed a source water assessment and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. The susceptibility of our purchase water sources is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessment and protection efforts, please contact us.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health.

Fact or Fiction

Tap water is cheaper than soda pop. *(Fact: You can refill an 8 oz. glass of tap water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda pop. And, water has no sugar or caffeine.)*

Methods for the treatment and filtration of drinking water were developed only recently. *(Fiction: Ancient Egyptians treated water by siphoning water out of the top of huge jars after allowing the muddy water from the Nile River to settle. And, Hippocrates, known as the father of medicine, directed people in Greece to boil and strain water before drinking it.)*

A typical shower with a non-low-flow showerhead uses more water than a bath. *(Fiction: A typical shower uses less water than a bath.)*

Water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. *(Fiction: You can actually chill very pure water past its freezing point (at standard pressure) without it ever becoming solid.)*

The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean on Earth. *(Fact: The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest and the Indian Ocean is the third largest.)*

A single tree will give off 70 gallons of water per day in evaporation. *(Fact)*

Q&A

Who uses the most water?

On a global average, most freshwater withdrawals—69 percent—are used for agriculture, while industry accounts for 23 percent and municipal use (drinking water, bathing and cleaning, and watering plants and grass) just 8 percent.

How much water does a person use every day?

The average person in the U.S. uses 80 to 100 gallons of water each day. During medieval times a person used only 5 gallons per day.

Should I be concerned about what I'm pouring down my drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 week without water.

Reviewing Table Information

All drinking water testing results are well below those established by the EPA to ensure that the water coming form your tap is safe to drink. 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 may be found in drinking water that can cause taste, color or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor or color of drinking water, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 972-237-8055.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	HIGHEST AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Antimony (ppb)	2011	6	6	0.30	0–0.30	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder
Arsenic (ppb)	2011	10	NA	9.21	0.86–9.21	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Atrazine (ppb)	2011	3	3	0.25	0–0.25	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2011	2	2	0.04	0.02–0.04	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2011	50	0	5	0–5	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2011	[4]	[4]	5.0	0.22–5.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2011	100	100	5.07	0.45–5.07	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2011	200	200	7.6	0–7.6	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2011	4	4	1.16	0.6–1.16	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2011	60	NA	27	3.8–27	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2011	10	10	0.60	0.23–0.60	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2011	1	1	0	0–0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2011	50	50	3.22	0–3.22	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Simazine (ppb)	2011	4	4	0.16	0–0.16	No	Herbicide runoff
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2011	80	NA	37.1	6.3–37.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples)	2011	More than 5% positive monthly samples	0	1.21	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

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%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2009	1.3	1.3	0.45	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2009	15	0	4.1	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	HIGHEST AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2011	23.12	1.71–23.12	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	2011	1.42	1.34–1.42	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2011	28.8	5.85–28.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2011	12.82	1.25–12.82	By-product of drinking water disinfection

The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Definitions

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.

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.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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).

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