

# WaterSmartTips

# 2020

# WATER QUALITY REPORT



PWS ID#: 0570048



No WATERING 10 AM TO 6 PM



No WATERING ON  
WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY  
OR SUNDAY



CONSIDER USING NATIVE  
TEXAS PLANTS



CHECK FOR WATER LEAKS  
AROUND YOUR HOME



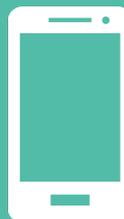
LEARN HOW TO MAKE A  
RAIN BARREL



LEARN ABOUT COMPOSTING AND  
HOW TO BECOME CERTIFIED



SELF AUDIT YOUR IRRIGATION  
SYSTEM INFO



PLEASE VISIT THE PUBLIC  
WORK'S WATERSMART  
WEBPAGE FOR THESE AND  
OTHER WATER CONSERVING  
TIPS AND INFO AT  
[WWW.GPTX.ORG/WATERSMART](http://WWW.GPTX.ORG/WATERSMART)

## REMEMBER:

ONE DROP PER SECOND =  
5 GALLONS PER DAY  
OR  
150 GALLONS PER MONTH

## QUESTIONS?

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 DEPARTMENT OFFICE AT CITY HALL EAST, 300 W. MAIN ST, 2ND FLOOR, OR VISIT THE CITY WEBSITE AT [WWW.GPTX.ORG](http://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, 300 W. Main St. For more information about public participation at council meetings, call (972) 237-8035.

## ONLINE INFORMATION

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)) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health.

ESTE REPORTE INCLUYE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE SOBRE EL AGUA POTABLE. PARA ASISTENCIA EN ESPANOL, FAVOR DE LLAMAR AL TELEFONO (972) 237-8055.

## INFORMATION ON

# WATER SOURCES

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 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.

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 the system's business office. Call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## 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.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or 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.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESMENT

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 at (972) 237-8055.

## GRAND PRAIRIE WATER ORIGIN

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

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

Fort Worth's drinking water sources include: Lake Benbrook, Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Lake Worth, Cedar Creek and Richland Chambers Reservoirs, and the Clear Fork Trinity River.

Midlothian's drinking water sources include: Joe Pool Lake, Richland Chambers and the Cedar Creek Reservoirs.

Grand Prairie can utilize up to 4 ground water wells, if demand requires their usage. The wells 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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. You can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry. This is important if the water has been sitting in the pipes for more than 6 hours. Only drink or cook with water that comes out of the tap cold. It is also recommended to regularly clean the aerators on your faucets.

The city will be conducting its required lead and copper sampling in summer of 2021. 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>.



# PROTECTING OUR WATERSHED MEANS PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER SOURCES

## TABLE INFORMATION

All drinking water testing results are below those established by the EPA to ensure that the water coming from 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.

## REGULATED SUBSTANCES

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS	YEAR SAMPLED	MCLG	MCL	NUMBER E. COLI POSITIVE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Coliform Bacteria	2020	0	TT	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MRDL	MRDLG	AVG	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloramines (ppm)	2020	4	4	3.08	0.04 - 5.14	No	Water additive used to control microbes
*Some people who use water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose, stomach discomfort or anemia.							
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2018	0	50*	5.6	5.6 - 5.6	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	2018	0	5	1.5	1.5 - 1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles although MCL is 4 mrem/year.							
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2020	2	2	0.034	0.034 - 0.034	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	4	4	0.56	0.56 - 0.56	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.887	0.303 - 0.887	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Atrazine (ppb)	2020	3	3	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	No	Runoff from herbicide used in row crops
Simazine (ppb)	2020	4	4	0.08	0.08 - 0.08	No	Herbicide runoff

# REGULATED SUBSTANCES

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST ANNUAL AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2020	NA	60	21.875	5.0 - 29	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2020	NA	80	25.4	11.1 - 34.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

LEAD & COPPER (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCLG	AL	# OF SITES OVER AL	90th PERCENTILE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	1.3	0	0.307	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	2018	0	15	0	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

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

# UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AVERAGE AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloroform (ppb)	2020	4.58	4.58 - 4.58	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2020	4.8	4.8 - 4.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2020	3.58	3.58 - 3.58	By-product of drinking water disinfection

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2020, our system lost an estimated 51.29 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (972) 237-8055.

## DEFINITIONS

**AL (ACTION LEVEL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENT:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria were found.

**LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an Escherichia coli (E. coli) maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria were found on multiple occasions.

**MCL (MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL):** The highest level of a contaminant 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 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.

**MREM/YEAR (MILLI-ROENTGEN EQUIVALENT MAN PER YEAR):** A measure of radioactivity.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**PCI/L (PICOCURIES PER LITER):** A measure of radioactivity.

**PPM (PARTS PER MILLION):** One part substance per million parts of water (or milligrams per liter).

**PPB (PARTS PER BILLION):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**TT (TREATMENT TECHNIQUE):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

# COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WATER

## HOW HARD IS MY WATER?

GrandPrairie's water hardness averages 132 parts per million or 7.7 grains per gallon. This is considered "hard water". When using hard water, soaps may perform poorly creating a "scum" which floats on the surface of the water, but does not foam. Hard water requires more soap or detergent to clean your hands, hair or laundry. Hard water can also, cause a scaling from naturally occurring minerals onto your fixtures. While hardness can be a nuisance, it is not a health concern.

## WHY IS MY WATER MILKY WHITE?

Many times this is caused by the presence of tiny air bubbles in the water. Fill a glass with water and place it on your counter. If the water starts to clear immediately from the bottom up, the cause was entrapped air bubbles. These air bubbles are harmless.

## WHY IS THE FIRE HYDRANT RUNNING?

When you see a fire hydrant flowing water, the City of Grand Prairie is "flushing" the water lines in that area. This process moves water through the pipelines at a fast rate to clean the lines, clear stagnant water, and ensure the water delivered to your home is of the highest quality. While flushing may be perceived as "wasting the water", rest assured that the City only flushes the lines when necessary.

