

2021 Cottage Grove



Water Quality Report

2021

Dear Resident,

Cottage Grove is working hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets all Federal and State water quality requirements. We work with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. This report shares the results of monitoring done on Cottage Grove drinking water in 2020.



In this report, you'll find information from MDH about drinking water safety and ways to protect our precious water resources as well as public health information from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and local messages from the Cottage Grove Public Works Department.

We're happy to report that all testing performed in 2020 indicates our water was in compliance with all state and federal drinking water standards.

If you have questions about Cottage Grove's drinking water after reading this report, contact Rick Alt, Utilities Superintendent, at 651-458-2842. You can also ask for information about ways you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

Hardness <i>ppm</i>	298 (or 17 grains/gallon)
Alkalinity <i>ppm</i>	236
pH	7.6

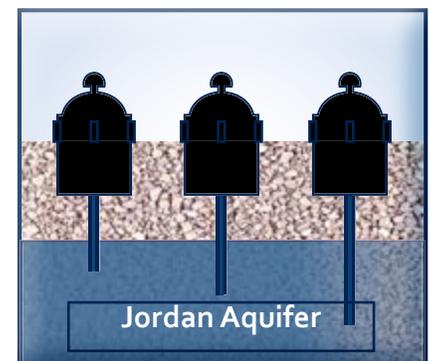
Cottage Grove's Water Source

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water and all of the water distributed by Cottage Grove. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities.

The City of Cottage Grove provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source. In 2020, the Utility Department operated twelve wells ranging from 284 to 475 feet deep. Each well draws water from the Jordan Aquifer.

The MDH provides information about your drinking water source in a source water assessment that addresses:

- Ways Cottage Grove is protecting your drinking water source
- Nearby threats to your drinking water source
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources based on natural geology and methods of well construction



Find your source water assessment at:

www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa

or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Who Regulates Drinking Water?

The EPA sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

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. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.



Results of 2020 Monitoring

We work with MDH to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants.

The table that follows contains the results of our monitoring from January 1 to December 31, 2020. It is normal to detect contaminants in trace amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health. Test results in 2020 found all substances were within the allowable levels in Cottage Grove.

Learn more about Monitoring Drinking Water in Minnesota:

www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html

The table that follows shows the contaminants we found last year or the last time we sampled for that contaminant.

For **regulated** contaminants, it also shows the levels of those contaminants and EPA limits. Substances are not included on the table where test results indicate the substance was not present.

For **unregulated** contaminants, the table also shows human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. These comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions - like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity - may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

More information is available on:

MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>

Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4)

www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants in previous sample studies, we included them in the table along with the detection date.

Some contaminants are monitored regularly throughout the year, and rolling (or moving) annual averages are used to manage compliance. Because of this averaging, there are times where the Range of Detected Test Results for the calendar year is lower than the Highest Average or Highest Single Test result, because it occurred in the previous calendar year.

We may have conducted additional monitoring for contaminants not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the MDH at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Regulated Substance (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene (ppb)	70	70	0.23	nd-0.23	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	5.4	0	2.3	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.78	0.56-0.85	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	15.4	0	14.8	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60 MRDL	0 MRDLG	1.1	nd-1.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Mercury (ppb)	2	2	0.04	0.034- 0.041	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.
Nitrate (ppm)	10.4	10	0.36	nd-0.36	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Thallium (ppb)	2	0.5	1.46	nd-1.46	Leaching from ore-processing sites, Discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories; ;
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	0.44	0.41-0.45	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 MRDL	N/A	4.1	nd-4.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	0.27	nd-0.27	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Uranium (pCi/l)	21	0	1.2	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Substance (units) date	AL	MCLG	90% Level	Sites Over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) 8/1/2019	90% <1.3	0	0.11	0 of 30 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (ppb) 8/1/2019	90% <15	0	2.7	0 of 30 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Contaminants Which May be Present in Source Water

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



Unregulated Substance (units)	Comparison Value	Level Detected	Range
HAA6Br (ppb)	N/A	0.97	nd-2.08
HAA9 (ppb)	N/A	1.21	nd-2.77
Manganese (ppb)	100	58.7	19.1-58.8
Nickel (ppb)	100	22.8	11.1-22.8
Sodium (ppm)	20	18.4	10.8-18.4
Sulfate (ppm)	500	53.4	48.1-53.4

Terms and Abbreviations in the Table

ppm: Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

pCi/l: PicoCuries per liter. A measure of radioactivity.

nd: No detection.

N/A: Not Applicable. Does not apply.

Level Detected: This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. Sometimes it's the highest value detected and sometimes it's an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

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.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

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

90% Level: This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.

Lead

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years of age, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system.

Cottage Grove is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

There are no lead service lines in Cottage Grove's public water system.

To limit exposure to lead in drinking water, run your water for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking when the water has not been used in more than 6 hours.

Use cold water for drinking, making food and making baby formula, as hot water releases more lead from plumbing than cold water.

In most cases, these actions should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, you may make arrangements with a laboratory to test your tap water.

A lab test is the only way to know if the lead concentration is reduced.

Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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. Impacted individuals 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MDH can help you understand your test results. If your test results show your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run, treat your water.

To Learn More About Water Treatment Units:

www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html

To Learn More About Reducing Contact With Lead From Sources Other Than Drinking Water:

www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html

To Find an MDH Accredited Laboratory For Testing:

www.health.state.mn.us/accreditation

To Learn More About Lead In Drinking Water:

www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html

www.epa.gov/safewater/lead or call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

Fluoride

Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.



PFAS Update

The City of Cottage Grove continues to provide the safe, high quality water our customers depend on. The two interim treatment plants with Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) built in 2017 continue to operate to remove PFAS from the ground water, and a third interim treatment plant was completed in 2020. This new treatment plant is helping to ensure that the water needs of the City are met. The new plant was fully funded by the State of Minnesota through the 3M Consent Order. The Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan (CDWSP) currently being completed by the

State, will include the projects and funding that will be implemented as a result of the 3M Settlement Agreement. This plan is anticipated to be released in late summer 2021. Once the plan is approved and released, funding will be available to implement the projects. The City has participated in the 3M Settlement Working Groups over the past three years to determine the long-term solutions to the PFAS contamination in the East Metro. The City has been an active partner with the State and the other communities impacted by PFAS, in identifying how to best utilize the \$850 million in settlement funds. For more information on the 3M Settlement Agreement, visit:

<https://3msettlement.state.mn.us>

Cottage Grove's anticipated projects to be funded by the 3M Settlement Agreement will include two permanent treatment plants, construction of raw water transmission lines (to convey the water from the wells directly to the treatment plant), a new City well, connection

of rural residential homes to the City's water system and the sealing of those contaminated wells, among other items that support this significant effort. All of these projects will be funded through the 3M Settlement Agreement.

In 2021, the City has started planning for the two permanent water treatment plants. One will be located on the property by the water towers behind the Central Fire Station on 80th Street. A site survey and geotechnical investigation have been completed for this site. Site planning for the building will be starting soon. Planning is also in the beginning

stages for the raw water transmission lines that will bring the water from the wells to the treatment plant.

The second treatment plant will be located in the southwest area of the City, south of 100th Street. This site will also feature the new well that will be constructed to replace two existing City wells that are contaminated with PFAS.

In 2020, Cottage Grove pumped a total of 1,339,972,289 gallons of water, an increase of 184,042,815 gallons over 2019. Our peak single day usage was 8,303,032 gallons on July 17, 2020.

Water Conservation

Water is a valuable resource we can't take for granted. It is important for each of us to manage our water use and conserve this resource.

Remember that the City of Cottage Grove observes an odd/even watering restriction all year. Outdoor watering is prohibited daily between the hours of 12pm (noon)-4pm.

Here are some simple tips you can apply to help conserve:

- **Water lawns before 8am or after 9pm, and only water as needed**
- **Do not irrigate during periods of sufficient rainfall**
- **Make sure your sprinkler heads are spraying the grass and not the driveway, sidewalks or street**
- **Check for leaks throughout the house by viewing the low-flow indicator on your water meter**
- **Do not leave the faucet running while shaving and brushing teeth**

Good watering habits will reduce wasted water more than any other effort we can make. Your efforts to conserve are greatly appreciated! Call Joe Fox, Project Engineer, at 651-458-2826 for more information on water conservation programs.



Monthly Rate Schedule

Cottage Grove applies tiered water rates to reward good habits and provide incentive for customers to implement conservation techniques.

Usage	Rate (100gal)
single family base charge	\$3.00
multi-family base charge	\$2.25
0-6,000 gallons/month	\$1.05
6,001-9,000 gallons/month	\$1.58
9,001-12,000 gallons/month	\$2.36
12,001 or more gallons/month	\$3.54