

Cottage Grove Water Quality Report 2020



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 for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019.

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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and local messages from the Cottage Grove Public Works Department.

We're happy to report that all testing performed in 2019 indicated that 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 2019, we operated twelve wells which range from 284 to 475 feet deep. Each well draws water from the Jordan Aquifer.

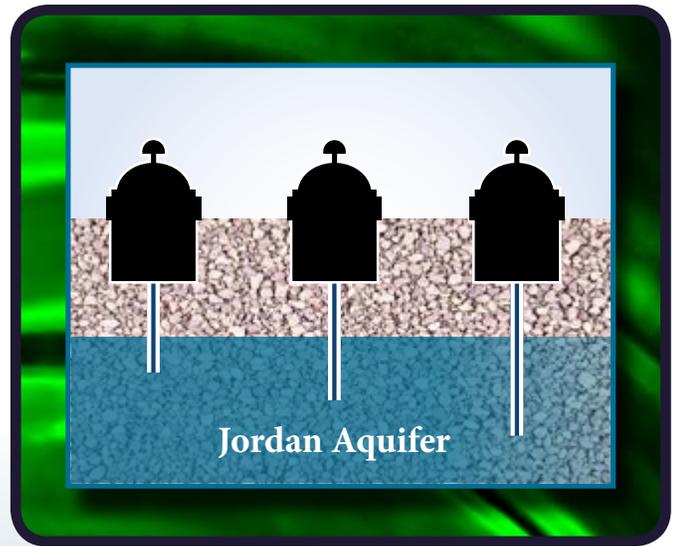
The MDH provides information about your drinking water source in a source water assessment that addresses:

- 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.



How Drinking Water is Regulated

The U.S. 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Results of 2019 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, 2019. It is normal to detect contaminants in trace amounts as no water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. However, our testing found no contaminants at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

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. They also show the levels of those contaminants and EPA limits. Substances are not included on the table where test results indicate the substance was not present.

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 the last times we sampled for them, we included them in the table along with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. 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.



Substance (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	5.4	0	3.6	2.8-4.3	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.79	0.67-0.92	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	15.4	0	9.8	5.5-14	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	10.4	10	0.34	nd-0.34	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	0.45	0.41-0.47	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 MRDL	N/A	6.6	1.1-6.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	0.28	nd-0.28	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.

Substance (units)	AL	MCLG	90% Level	Sites Over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	90% <1.3	0	0.11	0 of 30 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (ppb)	90% <15	0	2.7	0 of 30 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Terms and Abbreviations in the Table

Level Detected: This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is 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 requirement which a water system must follow.

***Highest quarterly average**
****Highest and lowest monthly average**

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.

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).

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 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 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. Two interim treatment plants with Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters were operated in 2019 to remove PFAS from the ground water. In 2020, construction began on a third interim treatment plant to ensure the City can continue to meet demands on usage, which will be operational by midsummer. The new treatment plant is fully funded by the State of Minnesota through the 3M Consent Order.

As part of this water treatment process, raw ground water is pumped from certain wells into GAC filters.

In these filters, the water seeps through activated carbon particle media. Undesirable substances (most notably PFAS) adhere to the carbon while the filtered water moves forward to the next stage of treatment.

Fluoride is then added for public dental health and chlorine is added to disinfect and keep water free of bacteria as it travels throughout the distribution system to customer taps.

Cottage Grove continues to participate in the 3M Settlement Agreement Working Groups to determine a long term solution to PFAS contamination in the East Metro. These Working Groups are made up of State, County, and Local Agencies, as well as local residents and businesses, and will determine how to use \$850 million in settlement funds from 3M to address PFAS contamination. This planning process will be finalized in December of 2020, and will identify projects to be implemented in the coming years. For more information on the 3M Settlement Agreement, visit:

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



In 2020 Cottage Grove will also be extending City water to two neighborhoods that have private wells contaminated with PFAS. The first area is along Ideal Ave, south of 100th Street, down to the River Acres neighborhood. The second area is along Granada Ave south of 70th Street. In total there are 161 properties in the two project areas that will now be served with City water, some of which have been dealing PFAS in their private wells for more than a decade. Once complete, all properties that are connected to City water will have their wells sealed at no cost to them to help prevent further spread of PFAS through our local aquifers. This work is fully funded by a grant that was awarded by the State as part of the 3M Settlement Agreement process.

In 2019, Cottage Grove pumped a total of 1,155,929,474 gallons of water. Our peak single-day usage was 8,057,166 gallons on August 9th.

COVID-19 FAQ

Can I catch COVID-19 from drinking water?

Our current practice of disinfection provides an effective barrier against COVID-19 according to the expert opinions of the EPA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.

Do I need to buy bottled water?

Safe, clean tap water will continue to be supplied so we do not anticipate any need to buy bottled water for drinking.

How does the City of Cottage Grove protect the water supply?

The City has stringent hygiene measures in place at its water treatment plants. In addition, there is almost no human contact in the process of treating water for drinking.

Existing water treatment and disinfection processes including the use of chlorine is effective in removing and inactivating viruses from water supplies.

We are in contact with key government agencies to monitor and understand the health impact of COVID-19 as it develops. We are also well connected internationally to stay updated on the latest information and data.

If workers are quarantined at home, will water still be supplied?

Water is an essential service and the City is well prepared to manage our response to COVID-19. We have emergency response plans and continue to update them in response to the most current available information.

Water treatment plants are secure with backup power and they require few staff to operate them. The City ensures that multiple staff are able to operate water treatment plants and water supply systems so if some employees are on leave for any reason, drinking water can still be safely and reliably supplied.

Water Conservation

Water is a valuable resource that we can't take for granted. It is important that each of us manage our water use to 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**
- **Purchase a Smart Irrigation Controller. The City has limited supplies of the controller. The cost is \$35.00**

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 (1000gal)
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