

2017 Consumer Confidence Report for Columbia Park

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Columbia Park MHP receives City of Cleveland water through two water mains. One is located at the front of the park on Columbia Road. The other is located towards the back of the park on Fitch Road.

About your drinking water:

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Columbia Park water system conducted sampling on the water inside of the park for bacteria, disinfectants & disinfection by-products. The City of Cleveland conducted additional sampling on the water before it enters the park. Cleveland Water's 2017 Water Quality Report is included in our report. Columbia Park samples were collected for a total of 5 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Columbia Park water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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 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 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.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information:

In 2017, Columbia Park had a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.

How can I get involved?

Public participation and comments are encouraged. To participate, the City of Cleveland Public Utilities Committee meetings are held every other Tuesday at 1:30 pm at Cleveland City Hall. Check the City of Cleveland website for meeting information. For more information on your drinking water, contact Columbia Park's office at (440) 235-5300 or Cleveland's Water Quality Line: (216) 664-2639

Source water assessment and its availability:

Cleveland Water draws source water from four intakes located far offshore in Lake Erie's Central Basin. These intakes are spread out over 15 miles and are 3 to 5 miles offshore where the water is cleaner and has been minimally impacted from tributary runoff and coastal activities. Lake Erie is considered to be a surface water source. Cleveland Water also has interconnections with other area water systems, but these are for emergency use only. These interconnections are designed to assist other water systems if needed, not for other systems to supply Cleveland Water. As a result, Cleveland Water received no emergency water in 2017.

Ohio's portion of the Lake Erie Watershed drains 11,649 square miles and is home to 4.65 million people. Ohio's 312-mile coast includes major cities and tourism attractions. Row crop agriculture accounts for 59 percent of the land use in Ohio's Lake Erie Watershed. About 90 percent of the water entering Lake Erie flows down the Detroit River from Lake St. Clair; another 4 percent drains from the Maumee River. Both flow into the lake's shallow Western Basin. The remaining water comes from over-lake precipitation and runoff that drains through many rivers and small streams into the lake.

The State of Ohio performed an assessment of Cleveland Water's source water in the late 1990s. For the purposes of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are accessible and can be easily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens from an upstream spill. Contaminants may rapidly arrive at our intakes with little warning or time to prepare. However, based on the information compiled for Cleveland Water's Source Water Assessment, the Cleveland Critical Assessment Zones (CAZ) are classified as low susceptibility due to the distance and depth of the intakes from potential contaminant sources. As a result, Cleveland Water's source water (Lake Erie) is considered to have a low susceptibility to contamination due to the location of our intakes. Cleveland Water effectively treats our source to meet drinking water quality standards by using a multiple barrier approach. Protection of source water is one of these barriers we use.

On-shore potential sources of contamination that impact the major streams in the Cleveland vicinity include point and nonpoint source discharges along the shore and along streams that empty into the lake. However, Cleveland Water has not documented any evidence that local shoreline and/or upstream potential contaminant sources influence water quality in the lake near our intakes. Lake Erie water in the vicinity of our intakes generally flows from west to east, although fluctuations can occur due to wind direction. Flows from the Cuyahoga River move into the harbor area and tend to hug the shoreline as they move eastward. Because Cleveland Water's intake structures are located a considerable distance offshore, potential contamination from the Cuyahoga River, Rocky River and nearshore sources is greatly minimized.

It is important to note that this assessment is based on available data, and therefore may not reflect current conditions in all cases. Water quality, land uses, and other activities that are potential sources of contamination may change with time. For more information about potential pollution sources or to get a copy of Cleveland Water's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, contact their Risk Management Section at 216-664-2444 x75838.

Source Water Protection Tips:

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Water Conservation Tips:

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey:

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Additional Information for Lead:

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. Columbia Park Water System PWS 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

*Columbia Park Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	.8	.2	.8	2017	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	15.282	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	40.43	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

*Cleveland Water's data table is included in their enclosed Water Quality Report

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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