

# City of Plymouth

## 2021 Consumer Confidence Report & Annual Water Quality Report

Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The City of Plymouth and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are committed to meeting state and federal water quality standards including the Lead and Copper Rule. With the Great Lakes as our water source and proven treatment technologies, GLWA consistently delivers safe drinking water to our community. The City of Plymouth operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. This year's Water Quality Report highlights the performance of GLWA and the City of Plymouth water professionals in delivering some of the nation's best drinking water. Together, we remain committed to protecting public health and maintaining open communication with the public about our drinking water.

We hope this report addresses any drinking water quality concerns you might have. Additional information can be found on the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) website [www.glwater.org](http://www.glwater.org) and on the EPA's website; Water on Tap: Consumer's Guide to the Nation's Drinking Water at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### **Sources of your drinking water:**

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of GLWA's Detroit River source water for potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is based on a seven-tiered scale and ranges from very low to very high determined primarily using geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and potential contaminant sources. The report described GLWA's Detroit River intakes as highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four GLWA water treatment plants that service the City of Plymouth and draw water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment and meet drinking water standards.

GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. In 2021, the Michigan Department of Environmental, Great Lakes and Energy approved the GLWA's Updated Surface Water Intake Protection plan for the Belle Isle intake. The plan has seven elements that include: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection areas, identification of potential sources of contamination, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation, and public education activities. If you would like to know more information about the Source Water Assessment report, please, contact GLWA at (313 926-8102).

## **Contaminants and their presence in 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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.

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 organics, 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. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **Vulnerability of sub-populations:**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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/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 (800-426-4791).

## **Information about the presence of lead:**

Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in service pipes throughout the system including in your home or business. The City of Plymouth performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses and take steps to limit their exposure to 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. The City of Plymouth 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 have a service line that is lead, galvanized previously connected to lead, or unknown but likely to be lead, it is recommended that you run your water for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. 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 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

The City of Plymouth is in the process of performing a material inventory of water service lines. A service line includes any section of pipe, both public and private, from the water main to the building plumbing at the water meter or 18 inches inside the building, whichever is shorter. The city did not historically record the materials used on the service lines installed. The process of collecting data to update the service line material inventory is ongoing.

Our water supply has 34 lead service lines and 2,234 of unknown material out of a total of 3,319 service lines, as in accordance with EGLE guidelines for service line determination. The city is actively verifying service line material, identifying lead lines, and replacing all active lead lines in service.

**Important Information About Your Drinking Water:**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health Standards. During June 1 to September 30, 2021, we did not monitor correctly for lead and copper, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water at this time. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

**Monitoring Requirements Not Met for 2021 for the City of Plymouth**

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for these contaminants, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date we will collect follow-up samples.

Contaminants	Required sampling frequency	Number of sites sampled	When samples should have been collected	Date additional samples will be collected
Lead and Copper	20 sites	19	June 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021	June 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022

**What happened? What is being done?** We inadvertently missed taking a sufficient number of samples within this required sampling period. 20 samples were taken within the monitoring period, 1 sample did not meet the requirements for the sampling procedure, and was not accepted as a valid sample. We are making every effort to ensure this does not happen again.

For more information, please contact Adam Gerlach, Assistant Director of Municipal Services, Plymouth, Michigan 734-453-7737.

**Questions or Concerns:**

The City of Plymouth and the Great Lakes Water Authority are committed to safeguarding our water supply and delivering the highest quality drinking water to protect public health. Please contact us with any questions or concerns about your water.

**City of Plymouth**  
**Department of Municipal Services**  
**1231 Goldsmith, Plymouth, MI 48170**  
**Phone: 734-453-7737**  
**Fax: 734-455-1666**  
**Email: [dms@plymouthmi.gov](mailto:dms@plymouthmi.gov)**

**Water Quality Data:**

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants detected during calendar year 2021. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021.

## Key to the Detected Contaminants Table

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
>	Greater than	
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, Dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
Level 1	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 have been found in the water system.
Level 2	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 E. coli MCL violation occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four quarters.
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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of 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. MRLDG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
n/a	not applicable	
ND	Not Detected	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity
ppb	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
RAA	Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for all samples during the previous four quarters.
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level	An MCL which involves a biological, chemical, or physical characteristic of water that may adversely affect the taste, odor, color or appearance (aesthetics), which may thereby affect public confidence or acceptance of the drinking water.
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
μohms	Microohms	Measure of electrical conductance of water

# Springwells Water Treatment Plant

## 2021 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

### 2021 Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at the Plant Finished Water Tap

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal <b>MCLG</b>	Allowed Level <b>MCL</b>	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	4-13-2021	ppm	4	4	0.52	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	4-13-2021	ppm	10	10	0.34	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	5-16-2017	ppm	2	2	0.01	n/a	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

### 2021 Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System, Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal <b>MCLG</b>	Allowed Level <b>MCL</b>	Highest LRAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2021	ppb	n/a	80	30	27-30	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2021	ppb	n/a	60	19	15-19	no	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### 2021 Disinfectant Residuals – Monitoring in Distribution System by Treatment Plant

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal <b>MRDLG</b>	Allowed Level <b>MRDL</b>	Highest RAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	2021	ppm	4	4	0.69	0.59-0.76	no	Water additive used to control microbes

### 2021 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water

Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.20 NTU	100%	no	Soil Runoff

GLWA is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards. We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. We did not produce a filter profile for EGLE review within 7 days of an August 1, 2021, individual filter exceedance at GLWA Springwells Water Treatment Plant as required by law. A filter profile is a summary of the turbidity and flow through the filter and is used to identify any trends in filter performance.

\*Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do currently. This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water currently. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

**What happened? What is being done?** The filter profile has since been produced and submitted to EGLE and additional response actions have been implemented at the plant. We are making every effort to ensure this does not happen again.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This notice is being sent to you by GLWA.

For more information, please contact the Water Quality Manager at 313-926-8102

**2021 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap**

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples over AL	Range of Individual Results	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2021	ppb	0	15	3 ppb	0	0-3 ppb	no	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2021	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.1 ppm	0	0.0-0.2 ppm	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

\*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met. 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. City of Plymouth 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 the water for drinking or cooking. If you have a lead service line, it is recommended that you run your water for 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. 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 1-800-462-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique 2021	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each quarter and because the level was low, there is no TOC removal requirement	Erosion of natural deposits

2021 Special Monitoring						
Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Source of Contaminant
Sodium	4-13-2021	ppm	n/a	n/a	4.36	Erosion of natural deposits

*These tables are based on tests conducted by GLWA in the year 2021 or the most recent testing done within the last five calendar years. GLWA conducts tests throughout the year only tests that show the presence of a substance or require special monitoring are presented in these tables. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. The data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.*

**2021 GLWA Cryptosporidium – Giardia Statement:**

GLWA voluntarily monitors our source water for the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia In 2021. The presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia were detected in the source water at the Belle Isle Detroit River Intake serving Water Works Park, Springwells and the Northeast treatment plants. Cryptosporidium was detected once in March and Giardia once in April. All other samples monitored in 2021 were absent for the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Current test methods do not enable us to determine if these organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing sever, life threatening illness. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested for it to cause disease and may be passed through other means than drinking water. Surface water treatment systems like GLWA must provide treatment so that 99.9% Giardia is removed or inactivated.

## 2021 Springwells Mineral Analysis

Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.
Turbidity	NTU	0.12	0.03	<b>0.07</b>
Total Solids	ppm	174	94	<b>135</b>
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	146	75	<b>120</b>
Aluminum	ppm	0.082	0.012	<b>0.037</b>
Iron	ppm	0.3	0.1	<b>0.2</b>
Copper	ppm	0.003	ND	<b>0.000</b>
Magnesium	ppm	8.3	6.1	<b>7.3</b>
Calcium	ppm	29.1	21.3	<b>25.1</b>
Sodium	ppm	8.4	4.4	<b>5.3</b>
Potassium	ppm	1.3	0.8	<b>1.0</b>
Manganese	ppm	0.004	ND	<b>0.000</b>
Lead	ppm	ND	ND	<b>0.000</b>
Zinc	ppm	0.001	ND	<b>0.000</b>
Silica	ppm	2.8	1.8	<b>2.2</b>
Sulfate	ppm	32.0	22.6	<b>25.9</b>

Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.
Chloride	ppm	12.9	8.9	<b>10.4</b>
Phosphorus	ppm	0.67	0.37	<b>0.50</b>
Free Carbon Dioxide	ppm	12.1	8.8	<b>10.2</b>
Total Hardness	ppm	106	82	<b>99</b>
Total Alkalinity	ppm	76	64	<b>70</b>
Carbonate Alkalinity	ppm	0	0	<b>0</b>
Bi-Carbonate Alkalinity	ppm	76	64	<b>70</b>
Non-Carbonate Hardness	ppm	35	18	<b>29</b>
Chemical Oxygen Demand	ppm	3.3	ND	<b>1.5</b>
Dissolved Oxygen	ppm	13.4	8.9	<b>10.9</b>
Nitrite Nitrogen	ppm	ND	ND	<b>0.0</b>
Nitrate Nitrogen	ppm	0.45	0.23	<b>0.32</b>
Fluoride	ppm	0.71	0.38	<b>0.55</b>
pH		7.20	7.07	<b>6.54</b>
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C.	µohms	238	191	<b>224</b>
Temperature	°C	24.3	3.7	<b>14.5</b>