


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Presented By
Plainville Water Department

PWS ID#: 4238000



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

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 it 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 U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. 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.

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”

—Benjamin Franklin

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (800) 426-4791 or water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



How Is My Water Treated?

To maintain compliance with federal and state drinking water standards, Plainville well water must be treated before it reaches consumers' taps. The Turnpike Lake treatment plant treats water from Wells 1, 2, and 5 at 171 East Bacon Street. Water from these wells is filtered for iron and manganese removal, pH is adjusted for corrosion control, and it is disinfected with chlorine and ultraviolet light.

The wells at the Mirimichi pump station are treated with an air stripper and chlorinated, and pH is adjusted using the appropriate treatment techniques. These wells are currently offline for normal supply.

We regularly receive water from the Town of North Attleboro. This is groundwater treated with chlorine, adjusted for pH, and fluoridated. Iron and manganese are removed by pressure filtration. This treated water is in exchange for the same volume of untreated groundwater we pump from our well at the rear of the Highway Department off West Bacon Street, which is treated at the joint drinking water treatment plant located on Whiting Street in North Attleboro.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Plainville's water is provided by groundwater sources. Water from three wells near Lake Mirimichi is treated at the Turnpike Lake water treatment facility. Groundwater from wells at our Highway Department location is sent to North Attleboro for treatment and returned to us through an interconnection with North Attleboro.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Dennis Marcure, Water Department Supervisor, at (508) 695-6871.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. EPA prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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. 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. Although *E. coli* was detected in a raw water sample, our system is not in violation of the *E. coli* MCL.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES													
				Lake Michigan Finished 4238000-06G-08G		Turnpike Lake Treatment Plant Finished 4238000- 01G, 02G, 05G		South Street Market 004		Heather Hills Clubhouse 10025		Multiple Wells 1A-2-5 10005	
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]—Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	10–33	17	13–19	NA	NA
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	1.33	NA	0.84	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Perchlorate (ppb)	2023	2	NA	0.13	NA	0.35	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]— Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	80 ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	71	61–70	73	60–84	NA	NA
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community													
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE						
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.15	0/40	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits						
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	0.003	0/40	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits						



SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	Lake Mirimichi Finished 4238000-06G-08G		Turnpike Lake Treatment Plant Finished 4238000- 01G, 02G, 05G		South Street Market 004		Heather Hills Clubhouse 10025		Multiple Wells 1A-2-5 10005	
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Manganese (ppb)	2023	50	NA	0.25	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ³

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	Lake Mirimichi Finished 4238000-06G-08G		Turnpike Lake Treatment Plant Finished 4238000-01G, 02G, 05G		South St Market 004		Heather Hills Clubhouse 10025		Multiple Wells 1A-2-5 10005	
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2023			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	NA
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2023			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.1	NA

Violation Information

From April through September 2023, our system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs). An engineering firm is looking into the cause. With the construction of a new water treatment plant, this issue should be resolved. We increased flushing in the area and are no longer in violation.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Source Water Assessment

DEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply serving our system. The purpose of the report was to assess the susceptibility of our drinking water sources to contamination. The results of the assessment are available at the Plainville Water Department office and at mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/my/4238000.pdf.

Some of the land uses that exist within groundwater recharge areas include gas stations, auto repair shops, electrical manufacturers, and underground storage tanks. The Plainville water system was assigned a high susceptibility ranking in the SWAP Report. We have established protective land use restrictions to reduce exposure to certain contaminants, including bylaws to protect Zone II drinking water well recharge areas. For more information, call Dennis Marcure, Superintendent, at (508) 695-6871.

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance.
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days.
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use.

Definitions

90th %ile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the Action Level to determine lead and copper compliance.

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

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): 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 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.