



Cottage Grove Water Quality Report

Dear resident,

Cottage Grove provides safe and reliable drinking water that meets all federal and state water quality requirements.

The city works with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. Testing in 2021 again found Cottage Grove treated water met all federal and state standards. This report contains monitoring results from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021.

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

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



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 2021, the Utility Department operated 12 wells ranging from 284 to 475 feet deep, which draw 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:

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

or call 651-201-4700 or 800-818-9318 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.



Cottage Grove's Aesthetic Water Properties

Hardness	298 ppm or 17 grains
Alkalinity	236
pH	7.6

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.



Contaminants That 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.

Monitoring Cottage Grove Water

All year, the city works with MDH to test the water for more than 100 potential contaminants. It is expected to detect trace amounts of contaminants as no water supply is ever completely free of contaminants.

Detection alone of any contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. The city is often still learning about the health effects, so this information can be adjusted over time.

Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

How to Read the Tables

The tables that follow show the contaminants the city found last year or the last time the city sampled for each contaminant.

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

The **Regulated Contaminants Table** itemizes all the regulated contaminants found in 2021, the levels of each, and EPA limits. Contaminants are not included on the table where test results indicate the contaminant was not present.

The city sometimes also tests for contaminants that are not regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The **Unregulated Contaminants Table** itemizes all the unregulated contaminants found in 2021, the levels of each, and 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).



Monitoring Drinking Water in Minnesota:

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

MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water:

health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html

Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4):

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

Web Resources

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. The city is notifying you of the unregulated contaminants the city has detected as a public education opportunity.

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 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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.

'Lead' continues on next page...

Usage	Rate (1000 gal)
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

2022 Water Rates

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

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.

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: 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.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

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.

TT: Treatment technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

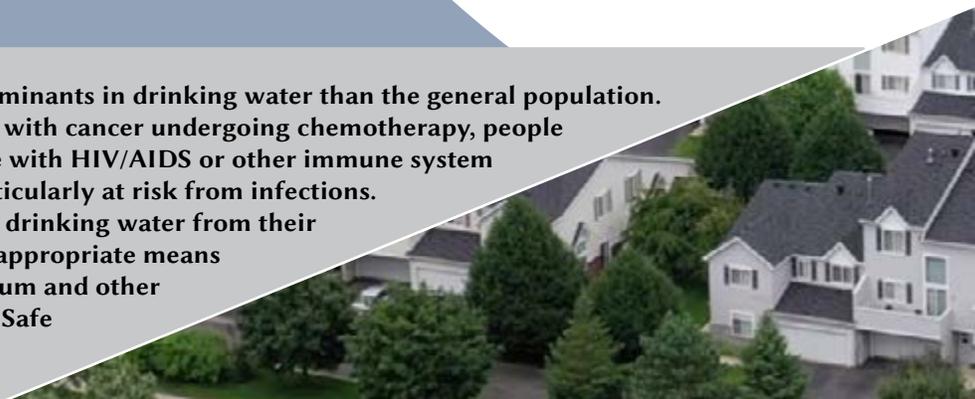
ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

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

nd: No detection.

N/A: Not Applicable.

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.



Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units) date	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene (ppb)	70	70	0.27	nd-0.27	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	5.4	0	1.9	1.4-1.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
E. coli (positive samples)	*	0	1	0 TT exceedances	Human and animal fecal waste.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.73	0.57-1	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	15.4	0	8.6	5.8-8.6	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	10.4	10	0.66	0.06-0.66	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	0.42	0.41-0.44	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60 MRDL	N/A	1.2	nd-1.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 MRDL	N/A	5.3	nd-5.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	0.21	nd-0.21	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Uranium (pCi/l) 2020	21	0	1.2	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Contaminant (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.

Unregulated Contaminants

* Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli-positive routine

sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli.

Contaminant (units)	Comparison Value	Level Detected	Range
Nickel (ppb)	100	16.7	nd-16.7
Sodium (ppm)	20	11.6	4.25-11.6
Sulfate (ppm)	500	35.3	31-35.3

Cottage Grove

...‘Lead’ continued

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 six 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.



Your Water is Safe

The City of Cottage Grove continues to provide safe, high-quality water. Three interim water treatment plants with Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) built in 2017 and 2020 continue to operate to remove PFAS from the ground water. These three interim treatment plants are helping ensure the city’s water needs are met. These treatment plants were, and continue to be, fully funded by the state of Minnesota through the 3M Settlement Agreement.

A Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan (CDWSP), which includes projects and funding to be implemented by way of the 3M Settlement Agreement, has been approved and released by the state in August of 2021. With this approval and release, funding is now available to implement these projects. For the past several years, our city has worked along with the State and other communities impacted by PFAS to determine long-term solutions. For more information on the 3M Consent Order and the CDWSP, please visit:

3msettlement.state.mn.us

Cottage Grove’s projects funded by the 3M Settlement Agreement include:

- Two permanent treatment plants
- Construction of raw water transmission lines (to convey untreated water from the wells directly to the treatment plants)
- A new city well
- Connection of rural residential homes to the City’s water system and the sealing of those contaminated wells

The city continues planning for two permanent water treatment plants. One will be located on the property by the water towers behind the Central Fire Station on 80th Street. The second treatment plant will be at the northeast corner of Ideal Avenue South and 110th Street South. This site will also feature a new well (Well #13) that will replace two existing contaminated city wells. Planning for this new well is underway.



The city has taken bids for two projects that will start construction this summer:

1. The Goodview Avenue Water Main Extension Project will provide water services to Goodview Avenue neighborhood.
2. The Low Zone Raw Water Main project is a section of the water mains that will ultimately convey untreated water from Well #10 (located just north of 95th Street, west of Jamaica Avenue), to the future water treatment plant that will be on the property at the northeast corner of Ideal Avenue South and 110th Street South. These raw water mains are being constructed now, prior to the treatment plant being completed, to coordinate with development in the area and minimize future construction disruption in newly constructed areas.

For more information with a map of project locations, visit the city's Clean Water for Cottage Grove interactive website:

CottageGroveMN.gov/CleanWater

Cottage Grove pumped a total of 1,602,239,329 gallons of water in 2021, an increase of 262,267,040 gallons over 2020. The city's peak single day usage was June 16 with 11,610,632 gallons.

Water Conservation

Water is a valuable resource that can't be taken for granted. It is important to manage water usage 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 noon to 4 p.m.

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

- Water lawns before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m., 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 Project Engineer Joe Fox at 651-458-2826 for more information on water conservation programs.





Your Drinking Water is Safe



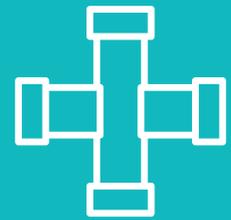
The Plan to Protect the City's Water



Water treatment plants



New public wells



New water mains

What You Need to Know

Work on these projects is underway now. No tax dollars are being used.

Your water is safe thanks to three temporary water treatment plants.

The Clean Water for Cottage Grove plan was finalized in August 2021 after extensive research.



The Clean Water for Cottage Grove Plan

- The city began working in 2017 with experts and the Minnesota Department of Health to determine the best solutions to ensure clean water for Cottage Grove.
- These partnerships leveraged some of the brightest minds in the industry to provide solutions about PFAS and their treatment.
- The plan is thoroughly researched and will serve Cottage Grove for many generations to come.
- The clean-water projects in the plan are entirely funded by a grant awarded to the state as part of an \$850 million settlement with 3M.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are substances that don't break down in nature and have been linked to cancer and fertility issues.

These “forever chemicals,” which 3M used decades ago in products like non-stick pans, contaminated groundwater in Cottage Grove and other parts of southern Washington County.



Scan the QR code for more from Mayor Myron Bailey