



2025 Drinking Water Quality Report

CITY OF HIGHWOOD

Introduction

The City of Highwood is pleased to present its Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. This report, as required by Federal law, is designed to inform all water customers about the quality of water and services that are delivered each day by the City of Highwood. There were no water quality violations recorded during 2024 however, during this year's lead and copper testing **we received several lead samples that were above the "action level" for lead.** As a result of this the city is working with the ILEPA and an engineering firm to try to reduce these results to below the states action level. The City's continuing goal is to provide all of its consumers with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. As part of this process, the City wants all customers to understand the efforts that are continually being made to improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. In short, the City of Highwood is committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Important information about lead:

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 Highwood is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact The Lake County Health environmental lab at 847.377.8020. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or 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.

Source of Highwood's Drinking Water

The City of Highwood Water Plant uses surface water drawn from Lake Michigan through a 16" Intake Pipe located one half mile from shore in Lake Michigan. This Intake Pipe is situated at a depth of 25 feet below the lakes surface. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals. 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at the following number (1-800-426-4791).

Contaminants

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. Possible contaminants consist of:

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 organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic system

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

Turbidity, is a measure of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particulates and is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

Sodium, is not a federal or state MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If the level is greater than 20 ppm, and you are on a sodium restricted diet, you should consult a physician.

Lead and Copper, 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 Highwood is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact The Lake County Health environmental lab at 847.377.8020. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or 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.

Please contact Chris Cizek, Responsible operator in charge; at 847.432.3730 or 847.613.9122 should you have any questions regarding this report.

Definitions

In the table hereafter you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Unit Descriptions

mg/L - **milligrams per liter** or the number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water.

ppm - **Parts per million** or Milligrams per liter (mg/L).

ppb - **Parts per billion** or Micrograms per liter (µg/L).

NTU - **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit**, used to measure the cloudiness in drinking water.

NA - not applicable

ND - not detected

TT - **Treatment Technique** or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MCL - **Maximum Contaminant Level** or 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** or 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.

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

MRDLG - **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal** or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

MRDL - **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** or the highest level of a disinfectant allow in drinking water.

MPL - **Maximum Permissible Level** that is state assigned

Additional Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune or 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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Highwood 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

HIGHWOOD IL0970550

Highwood is Surface water

For more information regarding this report contact:

Chris Cizek, ROINC

Phone: 847.613.9122

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. This report WILL NOT be mailed to water consumers but will however be available by the city for review upon request.

Source of Drinking Water

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 organic chemicals, 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.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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/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).

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 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>.

Source Water Information

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Location
INTAKE 3 (20245) LAKE MICHIGAN	LAKE MICHIGAN WATER	SW
		3500 FEET NORTHEAST OF THE PLANT

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings at Highwood City Hall every Tuesday at 7:00p.m. Located at 17 Highwood Avenue, Highwood Illinois 60040. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 847)432-1924. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Source of Water: HIGHWOOD Susceptibility is defined as the likelihood for the source water(s) of a public water system to be contaminated at concentrations that would pose a concern. The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of a community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution, which is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. A workgroup from the Great Lakes States was organized to develop a protocol for assessing the Great Lakes. The mission of the Great Lakes Protocol was to develop a consistent procedure allowing the flexibility necessary to properly conduct source water assessments of the Great Lakes as a drinking water source. This flexibility takes into account the variability of these sources and site-specific concerns for determination of source sensitivity and susceptibility (Illinois EPA, 1999). Sensitivity is defined as the intrinsic ability of surface water to be isolated from contaminants by the physical attributes of the hydrologic or geologic setting. With this in mind, the degree of sensitivity becomes the prevailing factor in the susceptibility determination for intakes on the Great Lakes. Intakes located close to shore, or close to a major shipping lane will be more sensitive and thus more susceptible to potential contamination. Highwood's intake has a moderate sensitivity and therefore has greater protection from shoreline contaminants due to mixing and dilution. However, although there are no potential sources within Highwood's critical assessment zone, there are several within the immediate source water area. Shoreline contaminants in the vicinity of this intake such as the combination of the land use, the proximity of storm sewer outfalls and NSSD pumping stations are perceived as a threat and add to the susceptibility of this intake. However, it should be stressed that treatment employed by Highwood is protective of their consumers as noted by the facility's finished water history.

2024 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Turbidity

	Limit (treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.08NTU	N	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil runoff

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Copper Range: Our samples resulted in ranges of between .130ppm - .470ppm

Lead Range: Our samples resulted in ranges of between <1.0 ppb - 78ppb

To obtain a copy of the system's lead tap sampling data: Please contact City Hall at 847.432.1924

Our Community Water Supply has developed a service line material inventory.

To obtain a copy of the system's service line inventory: Please visit the city website or you can access the inventory directly at:

<https://highlandparkil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/930a8868cb0149418033073f3be77c15>

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	#Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2024	1.3	1.3	0.38	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2024	0	15	76	9	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or 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.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
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 our water system.
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 has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	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.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal Or MCLG:	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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:	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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:	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.
Mrem:	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
Treatment Technique or TT:	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2024	1.3	0.84 - 1.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	34	33 - 33.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHN)	2024	53	51.2 - 53.4	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2024	0.02	0.02 - 0.02	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2024	0.6	0.562 - 0.562	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	2024	0.047	0.047 - 0.047		1.0	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2024	0.32	0.32 - 0.32	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2024	8	8.4 - 8.4			ppb	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits, used in water softener regeneration.
Zinc	2024	0.023	0.023-0.023	5	5	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Naturally occurring; Discharge from metal.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2024	3.9	3.9 - 3.9	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Reducing Your Lead Exposure

Our Commitment and Your Role:

The City of Highwood is dedicated to ensuring the safety and dependability of your drinking water supply. We continuously work to improve water treatment processes and protect our water resources. We want to help all residents understand the importance of reducing lead exposure from drinking water and other potential sources.

You can take proactive steps to minimize exposure:

- **Flush Your Pipes:** Before using tap water for drinking or cooking, especially if it has been sitting for several hours, run the water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes. Running a shower, doing laundry, or washing dishes can also help flush pipes.
- **Consider Home Plumbing:** Identify and consider removing lead-containing materials in your home's plumbing.
- **Use Certified Filters:** Use water filters certified to reduce lead.
- **Test Your Water:** If you have concerns, you can have your water tested. Contact the Lake County Health environmental lab at 847.377.8020 for information.
- **View Service Line Inventory:** Access the city's service line material inventory online to understand the materials used in the service line connecting to your property.

Additional Resources:

For more detailed information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps to minimize exposure, please consult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** 1-800-426-4791
- **EPA Website:** <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

If you have questions about this report or your water quality, please contact Chris Cizek at 847.432.3730 or 847.613.9122.