

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report – Highland, IL



Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025.

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



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. The source of drinking water used by HIGHLAND is Surface Water. For more information regarding this report contact: Gary Pugh at 618-654-9321 or Email: gpugh@highlandil.gov

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 EPA's 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).

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 Highland 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 City of Highland - Gary Pugh at 618-654-9321 or Email: gpugh@highlandil.gov. 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>.

Source Water Information

Source Water Name: INTAKE (60107) SILVER LAKE SILVER LAKE RESERVOIR - **Type of Water:** SW - **Location:** TOPO MAP219C

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 on the first and third Monday of the month at City Hall. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please call our water plant at 618-654-9321.

To view a summary version of:

- The Completed Source Water Assessments,
- Importance of Source Water,
- Susceptibility to Contamination Determination,
- Documentation/Recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts

You may access the Illinois EPA website at the direct link below:

<https://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx> (Under County: leave as defaulted, Under Facility Name: enter Highland, and Under Search Results: select Highland)

Source of Water: HIGHLAND, Illinois.

Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems; hence, the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Mandatory treatment includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection.

2025 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper

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

Copper Range: ND to .218

Lead Range: ND to 4.1

To obtain information on the system's lead tap sampling data you may view it online at the direct links below:

[Chem/Rad Samples](#)

[Lead & Copper Sample Summary Results](#)

<https://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp>

Or contact Gary Pugh at 618-654-9321 or Email: gpugh@highlandil.gov

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

To obtain information on the system's service line inventory you may view it on the City of Highland website at the direct link below:

http://www.highlandil.gov/departments/department_of_public_works/lead_service_line_information.php

<u>Lead and Copper</u>	<u>Date Sampled</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Action Level (AL)</u>	<u>90th Percentile</u>	<u># Sites Over AL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Copper	2025	1.3	1.3	0.142	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2025	0	15	1.7	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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

<u>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>Range of Levels Detected</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Chloramines	2025	2.4	1.6 - 3	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	40	26 – 46.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	51	39.9 – 66.4	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>Range of Levels Detected</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Barium	2025	0.0557	0.0557 - 0.0557	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2025	0.8	0.75 – 0.75	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2025	1	.088 – 0.88	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2025	20	19.5 – 19.5			ppb	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
<u>Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides And Herbicides</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>Range of Levels Detected</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
2, 4-D	2025	0.3	0.3 – 0.3	10	10	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Atrazine	2025	1	0 – 1	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

Turbidity

	<u>Limit (Treatment Technique)</u>	<u>Level Detected</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.13 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.15 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.

Violations Table

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]			
<p>Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.</p>			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	04/01/2025	06/30/2025	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

Samples were taken on March 4, 2025, which is not within the regulated timeframe of April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025. The City was notified on July 16, 2025, of the non-compliance advisory monitoring violation for nitrates. The samples taken on March 4, 2025, showed we are meeting drinking water standards. The violation is for samples taken outside of the monitoring period. We received a result of 0.8 mg/L for the sample taken on March 4, 2025 which is well within the drinking water standard.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

We collected Samples on April 9, 2026 and the result was 1.06 mg/l well within the drinking water limit of 10 mg/l. The MCL is 10 mg/l. A public notice was issued as required.