Borough of Fair Lawn

2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWS ID: NJ0217001

Conserve Water; it is our most precious resource!

To Our Valued Customers:

We are pleased to share with you the 2022 Water Quality Report. The Borough of Fair Lawn prides itself in providing this comprehensive and accessible report.

Your drinking water is delivered to your tap through an extensive distribution system. This is made possible by the dedicated and certified staff that manage and maintain this system to preserve the drinking water quality.

We hope you find this report informative and that the information provides you with a better understanding of what is involved in the production of your drinking water.

Please see the last page of this report for children to read and color.

Proud to be Your Water Service Provider,

Borough of Fair Lawn
Water Department Employees

BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN
Mayor Kurt Peluso
Deputy Mayor Cristina Cutrone
Deputy Mayor Kris Krause
Councilmember Gail Rottenstrich
Councilmember Josh Reinitz
www.fairlawn.org

Monitoring Your Water

In 2022, we collected 1000 samples and gathered approximately 5000 analyses. These included our “raw”, or *untreated*, water and “finished”, or *treated*, water. The purpose was to meet safety standards required by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Your water complied with these standards and is safe to drink.

We have provided you with safe drinking water since the 1920’s and will continue to do so.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) has been the primary regulation to ensure that public health and safety is protected in drinking water supplies. SDWA requires all water suppliers to issue an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to customers. This water quality report is intended to share with you how well we are doing. If you have any questions about your water or your water service please call us at (201) 794-5374. You may also call the EPA safe drinking water hotline at (800) 426-4791 or find it on EPA’s web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.

This report, as well as other information concerning our water supply, may be viewed on the Fair Lawn web site at www.fairlawn.org.

Where Does it Come From?

The Fair Lawn Water Department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide a reliable supply of quality drinking water, as well as to ensure sufficient water quantity. Out of the approximately 600 public community water systems in the State of New Jersey, the Borough's water system ranks as the 50th largest. The distribution system consists of approximately 105 miles of distribution main, 1200 fire hydrants; 4 storage tanks. The combined capacity is 4.5 million gallons. There are also 4 pumping stations, having a total firm pumping capacity of 17.6 million gallons per day. The treatment system consists of 4 chlorination facilities and 2 packed column VOC treatment facilities, having a capacity of 4 million gallons per day. Average daily water consumption is 4.0 million gallons per day, with peak day demands as high as 10 million gallons per day.

The NJDEP permits the Borough to operate 16 production wells, sunk about 400 feet into an underground source of water called the New Brunswick Aquifer. On average, the production wells provide fifty-five percent of the Borough's water. These wells are located throughout the Borough. After the water is pumped from the wells, we treat it to remove several contaminants.

The Borough augments its well water supply with the bulk purchase of treated water from the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) and Veolia. About thirty-five percent of our water comes from the PVWC, which sources are the Pompton and Passaic Rivers. About ten percent of our water comes from Veolia, which sources are the Oradell and Woodcliff Lake reservoirs in New Jersey and Lake Tappan and Lake Deforest reservoirs in New York. Through a vast regional network of interconnected pipelines, we may receive other treated water supplies from the Wanaque, Monksville and Boonton reservoirs.

Capital Improvements

In 2022, the Borough of Fair Lawn replaced all our filter valves and built sheds to protect them. We redeveloped three wells to extract more water. We started our lead service line program. Looking ahead, the Borough and local industries are collaborating in the restoration of Westmoreland well field. A new treatment plant is designed, and construction will begin 2023. Once operating, its water will fully comply with the USEPA and NJDEP standards.

Bottled Water or Tap Water?

Rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs and wells are sources for both tap water and bottled water. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. In some cases this includes radioactive material. The water can also pick up others substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Examples of these include salts, metals, viruses, bacteria or organic chemicals.

In order to ensure that the water is safe to drink, the federal government sets regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water. The EPA prescribes regulations for contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prescribes regulations 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. However, the presence of a contaminant does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 a result of 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 volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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.

An Explanation of the Water Quality-Data Table

The following definitions and terms will assist you in reading the table:

Maximum Contaminate Level Goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Treatment Technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

Primary Standards – Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health-related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.

Secondary Standards – Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor, and appearance. Secondary Standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) - A contaminant with no set standards. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 contaminates.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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 contamination

Key to Tables

mg/l - milligrams per liter or parts per million.	**ND** - Not detected	**TU** - Turbidity Units
ug/l - micrograms per liter or parts per billion.	**NA** - Not Applicable	**MFL** – Million fibers per liter
pCi/l - Picocuries per liter.	**CU** - Color Unit	TON Threshhold odor number

What are PFOA and PFOS?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products.

Fair Lawn operates and maintains a granular activated carbon (GAC) filter system which removes these contaminants from our wells. Thus, the water provided by the Borough sources meets or exceeds the standards established by the USEPA and the NJDEP.

Additional Customer Information

The Safe Water Drinking Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for two of these types of contaminants, asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals. The Borough of Fair Lawn received these waivers from the NJDEP after conducting vulnerability analyses on our water system. **Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradŭzcalo o hable con alguine que lo entienda bien.**

Source Water Assessment

The NJDEP has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment report and summary for this public water system, which is available at www.nj.gov/dep/swap/reports/swar_0217001.pdf contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. The Borough also augments our water supply from two other sources as defined

on page one of this report. Additional information on these contributory suppliers can be found at the same NJDEP web page.

Susceptibility Ratings for Fair Lawn Water Department Sources The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens; therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

	Pathogens			**Nutrients**			**Pesticides**			**Volatile Organic Compounds**			**Inorganics**			**Radionuclides**			**Radon**			**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors**		
Sources	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 16		**12**	**4**	**4**	**12**			**4**	**12**	**16**			**14**	**2**		**12**	**4**		**16**				**16**	
GUDI - 0																								
Surface water intakes - 0																								

Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

Pesticides: Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

Inorganics: Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

Radionuclides: Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm or call (800) 648-0394.

Disinfection Byproduct Precursors: A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

Health Facts

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 (1-800-426-4791)

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

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. Fair Lawn 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 are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Call us at 201-794-5374 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in your drinking water. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

The Fair Lawn Water Department exceeded the recommended upper limit for sodium. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the RUL may be a concern to individuals on sodium restricted diet.

Water Quality Data Table

These primary (health-related) contaminants were detected in your drinking water:

		EPA MCLG	EPA MCL	NJ MCL	Veolia highest	PV highest	FL highest	Range	Typical source
inorganic	Antimony (ug/L)	0	6	6	ND	ND	0.6	ND-0.6	household plumbing
	Arsenic (ug/L)	0	6	5	ND	ND	1	ND-1	Eronsion of natural deposits
	Barium (ug/L)	2	2	2	0.08	0.03	0.35	0.01-0.35	Eronsion of natural deposits
	Chromium (ug/L)	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.6	ND	1.1	ND-1.1	natural or industrial
	Lead (ug/L) 90th percentile	0	15	15	NA	NA	3 0	0 of 30 samples < AL	household plumbing
	Copper (mg/L) 90th percentile	0	1.3	1.3	NA	NA	0.3 0.1	0 of 30 samples < AL	
	Nickel (ug/L)	NA	100	100	1	3	3	0-3	Eronsion of natural deposits
	Nitrate (ug/L)	10	10	10	1	3	4	ND-4	Fertilizers, natural deposits
physical	Turbidity (ntu)	NA	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.4	ND	0.0-0.4	natural silt
radionuclides[2]	Gross alpha (pCi/l)	0	15	15	ND	ND	2.11	ND-2.11	Eronsion of natural deposits
	Uranium (30 ug/L)	0	30	30	1.87	ND	3.85	ND-3.85	
	Radium 226/228 (pCi/l)	0	5	5	ND	ND	0.73	ND-0.73	
VOC	Toulene (ug/L)	1000	1000	1000	2	ND	ND	ND-2	industrial
Disinfection byproducts[1]	Haloacetic acids (ug/L)	NA	60	60	NA	NA	37	9-37	organic precursors
	Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	NA	80	80	NA	NA	72	7-72	
PFAS	PFOS (ng/L)	0	NA	13	4	9	ND	ND-9	manufacturing
	PFOA (ng/L)	0	NA	14	14	13	ND	ND-14	
Chlorine	Chlorine/Chloramines as Cl_2 (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	4.0	NA	NA	0.8 avg for 48 samples/mo.	0.0-2.0	Water disinfection.

Footnotes:

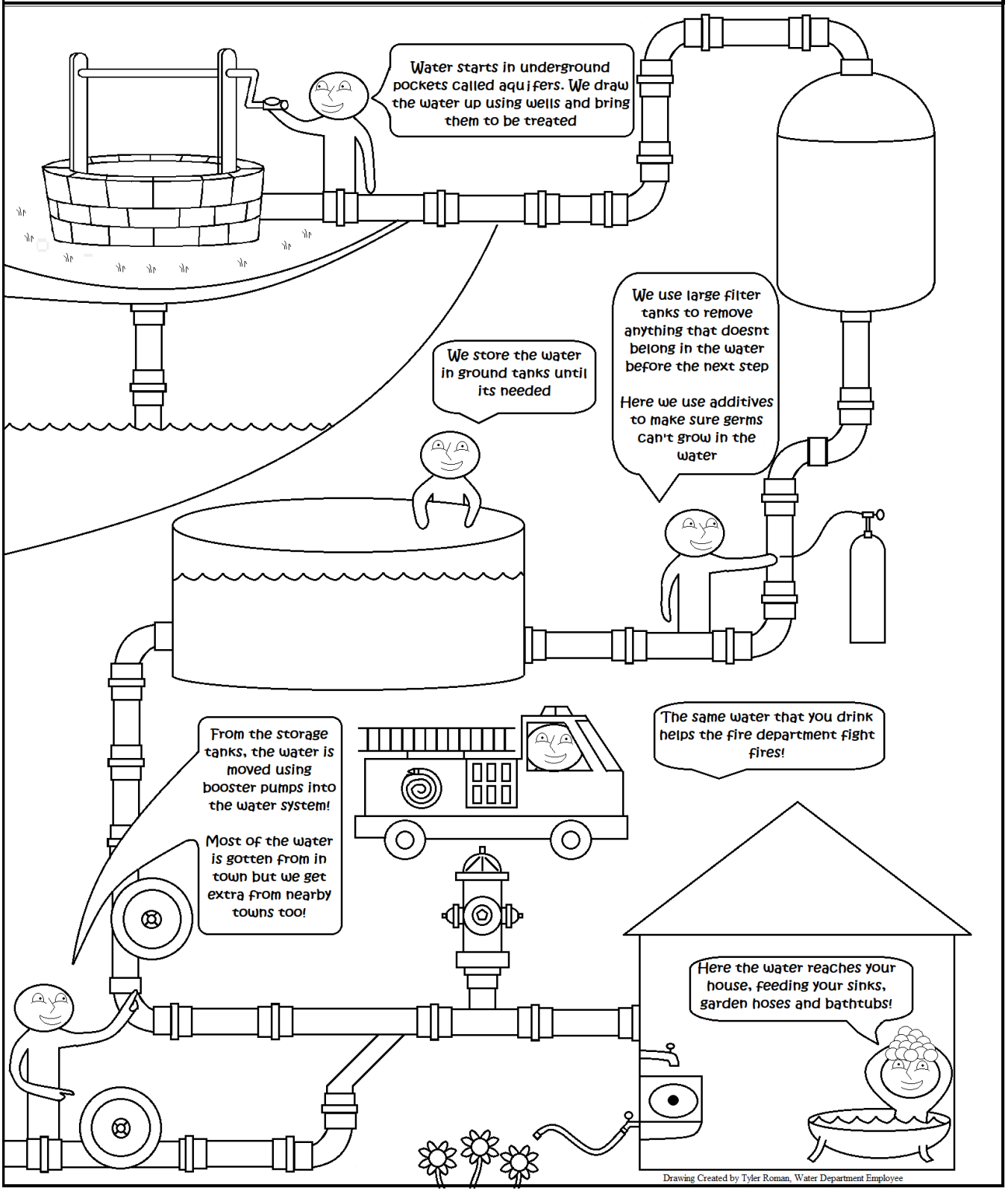
1. THM and HAA MCL is based on locational running annual average. It reflects the results of our blended supplies.
2. This data is from 2014-2017. These are the most recent samples, complying with the regulation

Water Quality Data Table

These secondary (aesthetic-only) contaminants were detected in your drinking water:

	EPA or NJ Guideline	Veolia range	PV range	FL range	Combined range	Typical source
Aluminum, mg/L	0.2	ND-0.08	0.02-0.03	ND-0.09	ND-0.09	treatment process
Chloride, mg/L	250	73-216	43-158	71-173	43-216	natural mineral, road salt
Color, CU	10 CU	ND-3	ND-5	ND-40	ND-40	natural mineral
Hardness, mg/L	250	75-154	49-168	81-396	49-396	natural mineral
Hardness, gpg	15	4-9	3-10	5-23	3-23	natural mineral
Iron, mg/L	0.3	ND-0.0	ND-ND	ND-ND	ND-0.0	natural mineral
Manganese, ug/L	50	ND-ND	3-19	ND-207	ND-207	natural mineral
Odor, TON	3	ND-ND	6-80	ND-ND	ND-80	natural characteristics
pH	6.5-8.5	7.3-8.1	7.8-8.2	6.9-8.4	6.9-8.4	treatment process
Sodium, mg/L	50	44-121	29-136	51-104	29-136	natural mineral
Sulfate, mg/L	250	14-14	6-89	8-83	6-89	natural mineral
Zinc, mg/L	5.0	0.0-0.5	ND-26.0	ND-0.4	ND-26.0	natural mineral

How Your Water Gets To You!



Drawing Created by Tyler Roman, Water Department Employee