



WESTFIELD DPW - WATER DIVISION

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWS ID# 1329000

Department of Public Works – Water Division

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WHAT IS THIS?

The Westfield Department of Public Works- Water Division (DPW-Water) is committed to supplying safe drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public drinking water systems. We treat and test all of our water in accordance with these EPA and DEP regulations. This water quality report is intended to share with you how well we are doing meeting our commitment. Food & Drug Administration regulations and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking Water Sources

Individual Westfield water customers' drinking water comes from a combination of the storage tanks and active sources closest to that individual's tap. Water from the Granville Reservoir, a man-made surface water source located in Granville, MA, is treated and filtered at our facility in Southwick, MA. The City also has eight groundwater wells which are located off East Mountain Road (Wells 7&8), Holyoke Road (Well 1), Union Street (Well 2), Northwest Road (Wells 5&6) and Shaker Road (Wells 3&4). The water from all sources is treated to reduce its corrosivity. Water from Wells 3&4 is treated to remove the fungicide Ethylene DiBromide (EDB). Water from Wells 1, 2, 3, 4, 7&8 is filtered to remove Per & Poly Fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS). Wells 1&2 were returned to service with the Fall 2024 completion of the new Dry Bridge Road Treatment Plant construction.

Interconnections to Other Water Systems

The City of Springfield Cobble Mountain Reservoir surface water source, treated at their West Parish Filter facility in Westfield, is interconnected with Westfield in several spots so we may purchase water from them. No connections were active and no water was purchased in 2024 or over the past decade. Shaker Road interconnect would pump water directly to Westfield's system through the plant, but Southwick Road and two more connections on Shaker Road would need to be physically reconnected to provide water to Westfield.

Board of Water Commissioners

Ronald J. Cole, John Niedzielski, and Joseph Popielarczyk
Generally meets the 1st Tuesday of each month,
5:30pm City Hall Room 201. Public attendance is welcomed.

HOW DID WE DO IN 2024?

DPW-Water met the challenges of 2024 by continuing to improve the system and taking concrete steps to correct any issues. The Dry Bridge Road facility construction was completed and brought online, and Provin Mountain tank construction is nearly complete. Over 21.5 million gallons of water were provided at no charge for city uses like spray parks, schools, and athletic fields. DPW-Water had an issue in the third quarter of 2024 when repeat bacterial sampling results were not reported on time to DEP by our lab. This is a reporting violation; therefore, we are required to tell you what happened, and how we resolved it. The samples were taken correctly and on time, and the results showed no bacteria present. However, the results should have been submitted to DEP at the same time Westfield received them in August. In November Westfield was notified that the repeat bacterial sampling results had not been submitted by the lab, so we followed up resulting in electronic submission of results on November 8 and acceptance of them by DEP. Because this has recently happened with multiple labs, Westfield is now monitoring these electronic submissions more closely to prevent it from happening in the future.

Source Water Protection

The DEP has completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for all DPW-Water sources. This SWAP identifies land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential sources of contamination. City groundwater sources were determined to be highly vulnerable due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration from activities on the land surface. The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for Westfield's sources is high due to the presence of high threat land uses such as auto repair/body shops, airport, railroads, machine shops, transportation corridors and illegal dumping. Copies of this report are available at the DPW-Water office located at 28 Sackett Street.

Educational Information

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. 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 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.*
- *Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.*

Vulnerability

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 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 effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. DPW-Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a

longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water, and wish to have your water tested, contact Westfield DPW-Water at 413-572-6226. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants Available

As required by EPA, our water system sampled for a series of Unregulated Contaminants (UC). UC are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these UC is to help EPA decide whether the UC should have a public health protection standard. As our customers you have a right to know these data are available. For information on the UC Monitoring Program, visit the DEP website mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-contaminants-information-for-water-suppliers#unregulated-contaminants. To discuss results, contact Systems Engineer Heather Stayton at h.stayton@cityofwestfield.org or 28 Sackett St.

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a contaminant or disinfectant residual in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs and MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety. These do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a contaminant or disinfectant residual that is allowed in drinking water. These are set as close to the goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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

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

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

Unregulated Contaminants: Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG): The concentration of a chemical in drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. Serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action if exceeded.

Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of 4 consecutive quarters of data.

Non-Detect (ND): Contaminant not detected above the level able to be confidently determined by the analytical method.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

PPM: parts per million or milligrams per liter

PPB: parts per billion or micrograms per liter

PPT: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)



Water Quality Data

The following tables list all the Drinking Water Contaminants (DWC) that were detected during calendar year 2024. Detection of these DWC in it does not necessarily mean the water poses a health risk. The data shown is from finished water testing January 1 - December 31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. The state requires DPW-Water to monitor certain DWC less than 1x/year because the concentrations of these DWC are not expected to vary significantly year to year. As a result, some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than a year old.

	As Set By DEP/EPA		As Found in Westfield Water			Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources	Date
	MCL	MCLG	Average Detected	Min Detected	Max Detected			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (PPB)	10	n/a	0.45	nd	3.3	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards and glass & electronics production wastes	Monthly
Barium (PPM)	2	2	0.119	0.007	0.230	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	12/11/24
Nitrate (PPM)	10	10	0.94	nd	2.3	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	12/11/24
Perchlorate (ppb)	2	n/a	0.123	0.04	0.27	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blast agents	8/19/24
PFAS6 (ppt)	20	n/a	ND	ND	ND	N	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams	Quarterly

Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	n/a	2.07	1.32	2.44	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits	8/19/24
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L)	5	n/a	1.37	0.91	1.81	N	Decay of natural and manmade deposits	8/19/24

Disinfection By-Products and Levels								
Total Trihalomethanes (PPB)(RAA)	80	n/a	21.2	0.17	62.8	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Quarterly
Total Haloacetic Acids (PPB)(RAA)	60	n/a	3.6	nd	25.3	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Quarterly

	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above the AL	Exceedance?	Possible Source of Contamination	Year Sampled
Lead and Copper								
Lead (PPB)	1.3	15	0	123	1	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	2024
Copper (PPM)	0.22	1.3	1.3	123	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	2024

Unregulated Contaminants					
	ORSG	Date	Range	Average	Possible Source of Contamination & Health Effects
Acetone (PPM)	6.3	8/19/24	nd-0.045	0.019	Discharge from industrial production & use, in automobile exhaust, from landfills, & natural sources. Some people who drink water containing acetone at high concentrations for many years could experience effects on the blood, kidney, liver, & reproductive system.
PFBA (PPT)	n/a	10/31/24	nd-3.26	0.65	Breakdown product of other PFAS that are used in stain-resistant fabrics, paper food packaging, & carpets; historically used for manufacturing photographic film. Based on studies of laboratory animals, people exposed to elevated levels of PFBA, depending on the level & length of exposure, could experience effects on the liver & thyroid. It may cause developmental effects. PFBA is cleared from the body faster than PFOS, PFOA & some other long-chain PFAS so may be less toxic than these compounds.
Sodium (PPM)	20	12/11/24	9-30	19.5	Discharge from the use & improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water softening agents. Some people who drink water containing sodium at high concentrations for many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.

Secondary Contaminants						
	SMCL	Average	Min	Max	Possible Sources	Date
Iron (PPB)	300	9.8	nd	39	Natural and industrial sources as well as aging and corroding distribution systems and household pipes	5/16/24
Manganese (PPB)	50	0.6	nd	2	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses	5/16/24
Chloride (PPM)	250	35	10	54	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	12/11/24
Sulfate (PPM)	250	9.9	3.4	15	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	12/11/24
Zinc (PPM)	5	0.31	nd	0.53	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	12/11/24

	TT	Lowest Monthly % of samples	Highest Detected Daily Value	Violation?	Possible Source of Contamination	Date
Turbidity						
Daily Compliance (NTU)	5	NA	0.29	N	Soil runoff	6x Daily
Monthly Compliance	At Least 95%	100%	NA	N	Soil runoff	Monthly



800-426-4790
 Contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline for more information about contaminants and potential health effects and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants.

If you are interested in knowing more about Water in Westfield and the Westfield Department of Public Works, Water Division, please call our office at 572-6226 or visit our web page at www.cityofwestfield.org/657/Water. Or plan to attend a meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners. Ronald J. Cole, John Niedzielski, and Joseph Popielarczyk make up the Water Commission. Meetings are typically the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, Room 201. These meetings are open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.