

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019



*Presented By*

**OAK LODGE**  
WATER SERVICES

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to deliver the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Board of Directors holds regular public meetings on the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Oak Lodge Water Services office, 14496 SE River Road, Oak Grove. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend. Please call (503) 654-7765 or visit our website, [www.oaklodgewaterservices.org](http://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org), for further information.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Lead in Home Plumbing

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 are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Testing for Cryptosporidium

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100-percent removal. Monitoring of source and/or finished water did not indicate the presence of these organisms at this time. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Marty Guenther, Pollution Prevention Specialist, at (503) 753-9689.

# Bring Preparedness Home:

## What do you need for 2 hours 2 days and 2 weeks



A safer community starts with preparation at home. It only takes a few minutes to gather up items for your family and pets, starting with 1 gallon of water per person, per day for 14 days.

For more information visit the Oregon Office of Emergency Management at [www.oregon.gov/oem](http://www.oregon.gov/oem)

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## Where Does My Water Come From?

**O**ak Lodge Water Services withdraws water from Clackamas River. The Clackamas River is an extremely high-quality raw water source. The Clackamas River watershed covers almost 1,000 square miles, mostly located in Clackamas County. Timothy Lake and Ollalie Lake make up the headwaters of the Clackamas River, and many tributary streams contribute to the flow of the river.

Drinking water for Oak Lodge Water Services is produced by three treatment techniques: slow sand filtration, conventional filtration, and membrane filtration. The Allen F. Herr Water Treatment Facility began production in August 1999. Oak Lodge Water Services, Sunrise Water Authority, and the City of Gladstone - known as the North Clackamas County Water Commission (NCCWC) - jointly own the slow sand and membrane filtration systems. The South Fork Water Board's conventional treatment plant occasionally provides additional supply. This facility was constructed in 1958 and started providing water to Oak Lodge customers in 2002. The South Fork Water Board's plant is used primarily as a backup supply.

The commission added membrane filtration in 2005. Membrane filtration is a state-of-the-art treatment technique that filters water through a series of small tubes with openings one micron in size. This ultrafiltered water allows for a continuous supply even when raw water turbidity rises in the winter months.

Approximately 100 miles of water mains make up the distribution system that carries water to Oak Lodge customers. The district has four reservoirs with a combined storage of 15.6 million gallons.

## Source Water Assessment

**A** Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the SWAP, potential contaminants to our water system were identified and ranked by risks, which range from low to high depending on the category. If you would like to review the SWAP, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits 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. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

Oak Lodge Water Services customers receive their water from the North Clackamas County Water Commission (NCCWC). The South Fork Water Board, with its conventional water treatment, serves as a backup supply. The NCCWC began using slow sand filtration in August 1999 and added membrane filtration processes in 2005.

The slow sand filtration process operates as follows: Untreated water is pumped onto four half-acre beds. As the water is passed down through the filter media, the top six inches of sand at the surface provide an area where pathogenic organisms are trapped or ingested by nonpathogenic organisms. This treatment zone, known as the zoogeal mass, filters out particles and helps break down organic matter. Chlorine is added to the filtered water as a follow-up treatment measure to disinfect any pathogenic organisms that may have passed through the filter media. An adequate amount of chlorine is added to provide a detectable residual throughout the distribution system.

Membrane filtration processes operate as follows: Raw water flows from the river into a cell where the filters are submerged. Each filter cell has 288 membrane modules, and each module has 9,500 individual hollow fibers. The flow is drawn through the walls of the membrane fibers by vacuum to the inside of the fiber by a pump. After the membranes have filtered a predetermined flow, the water goes through a backwash procedure for cleaning. The backwash procedure is a process where water and air are used to scour the particles that have accumulated on the fibers. This water is then chlorinated and combined, at most times, with the water from the slow sand filters.

The water from South Fork Water Board is treated in the following conventional fashion: Raw water is pumped to a basin where alum and polymer are added as coagulants. The water then enters hydraulic flocculators and goes to a sedimentation basin, where the floc settles. The clear water is collected in weirs and sent to rapid filters.

The filtered water is then chlorinated and provided to the NCCWC on an as-needed basis.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Of course, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards based on the Safe Drinking Water Act. Here we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fourth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2019	2	2	0.00268	0.00268 – 0.00268	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	[4]	[4]	1.36	0.30–1.36	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i> (Positive samples)	2019	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive; one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive		0	ND	NA	Human and animal fecal waste
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2019	60	NA	51	18–51	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection, HAA5
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	2019	10	10	0.159	0.159–0.159	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	69	26–69	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria (Positive samples)	2019	TT	NA	ND	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2017	1.3	1.3	0.006	0/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2017	15	0	ND	0/60	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2019	250	NA	2.1	2.1–2.1	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE - PART 4 (UCMR4)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
HAA9 (ppb)	2019	33	22–33
Manganese (ppb)	2019	0.55	NA

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2019	5.9	5.9–5.9	Naturally occurring

## Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.

Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.



## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90 percent of our lead and copper detections.

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

**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.

**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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):**

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

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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

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