



**Forest Lake**

AS GOOD AS IT SOUNDS

# Drinking Water Report 2015

Your drinking water is monitored throughout the year for the presence of over 50 possible contaminants. To see how Forest Lake water compares to federal regulations, please review the data in this report. If you have questions about the City of Forest Lake drinking water or want information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect water quality, please contact City of Forest Lake staff:  
telephone 651-464-3550  
fax 651-464-4968

To keep up with local news and events, please visit our website.

[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)



## Our Water Source

The City of Forest Lake provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: three wells ranging from 610 to 630 feet deep that draw water from the Wonewoc-Mt. Simon aquifer.

## Compliance With National Drinking Water Regulations

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.

The City of Forest Lake is unique in that it filters and utilizes a water softening that improves the hardness of the water from 7.5-8 grains/gallon to 3.5-4 grains/gallon. Softened water is advantageous because it causes an increase in soap suds, (meaning you use less soap overall), appliances that use water last longer (because there is less build-up) and the water generally tastes better.

The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our system's source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it online at:

[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa)

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

The City of Forest Lake is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2015. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

**No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards.** However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2015. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

## 2015 Test Results

**Average/Result:** This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

**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.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

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

**90% Level:** The value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.

**ppm:** Parts per million. **ppb:** Parts per billion. **N/A:** Does not apply.

\*Highest quarterly avg

\*\*Lowest and highest monthly avg

### Fluoride

On April 27, 2015, the United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) finalized new guidance which recommends a single national fluoride level of 0.7 mg/L at community public water supplies.

The recommendation was based on recent scientific assessments to balance the benefits of preventing tooth decay while limiting any potential negative health effects of high fluoride consumption.

In light of the new optimal fluoride concentration in drinking water recently proposed by the HHS and CDC, Forest Lake has transitioned from the former recommended level (1.2 ppm) to a goal of .7 ppm.

### Lead

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. The City of Forest Lake 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. 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 1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)

*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 at 1-800-426-4791.*

Contaminant units	MCL	MCLG	Average/Result	Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium ppm	2	2	0.02	N/A	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine ppm	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	0.71*	0.02-1.55**	Water additive used to control microbes.
Fluoride ppm	4	4	0.94	0.6-0.99	State of MN requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ppb	60	0	15.8	14.8-15.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) ppm	10.4	10.4	0.48	0.3-0.48	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes ppb	80	0	57.2	36-57.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Contaminant units (test date)	AL	MCLG	90% Level	Sites Over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper ppm (6/24/2013)	1.3	1.3	0.43	0 of 30 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead ppb (6/24/2013)	15	0	0.5	0 of 30 sites	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.