City of Highland Park Water Department

Annual Water Quality Report for 2025

PWS ID: MI-0003140

En español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, contáctenos por correo electrónico a hpwaterdepartment@metroca.net o por teléfono al 313-865-1876.

Highland Park's Annual Report

This is your annual report about your drinking water quality, also called a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Having clean, safe water is one of the most important services we provide, and we want you to be as informed as possible about it. This report is intended to inform you about the quality of your drinking water and help you make informed decisions about the water you drink. Throughout this report, we will explain where your water comes from, the results of the sampling that we performed, and the efforts to protect your water. If, upon reading this report, you have any questions, please contact the Highland Park Water Department at 313.865.1876 or hpwaterdepartment@metroca.net.

About Your Drinking Water

Where Your Drinking Water Comes From

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, and Ecorse River watersheds (U.S.), and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek, and Sydenham watersheds (Canada). This water is treated by the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) at the Water Works Park and Springwells Treatment Plants in Detroit and then pumped to the City of Highland Park.

A 2004 source water assessment rated GLWA's Detroit River source water intake as highly susceptible to potential contamination. In response, GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. GLWA has a Surface Water Intake protection plan for Belle Isle Intake. The plan has seven elements that include: the roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection areas, identification of potential sources of contamination, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation, and public education activities. For more information about the Source Water Assessment report, please contact GLWA at 313-926-8127.

What is in Your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water— rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells—can pick up contaminants as water moves across land or through the ground.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants,** such as salts and metals, may 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, can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants,** which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates contaminants in tap water, while the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates contaminants in bottled water, which both provide 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 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 (800) 426-4791.

Look Out for Special Populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, including people undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control (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 (800) 426-4791.

Definitions

These definitions help explain terms used in the data tables that follow.

SYMBOL	ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION/EXPLANATION
>	Greater than	
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is total bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four quarters.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	The highest level of a contaminant 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.
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 the control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	The level of 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.
n/a	Not applicable	
ND	Not detected	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
ppb	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligrams.
ppm	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 grams.
RAA	Running Annual Average	The average analytical results for all samples during the previous four quarters.
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
µomhs	Microohms	Measure of electrical conductance of water.

Highland Park Water Data for 2025

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in Highland Park during the 2025 calendar year. More information about these sampling programs can be found on page 10. The section presents data collected at the water treatment plants.

Chlorine Residual

Regulated Contaminant	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) Allowed	Health Goal Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Running Annual Average (RAA)	Range of Results	Violation	Source
Chlorine Residual	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.86 ppm	0.29 –1.36 ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Disinfection Byproducts

Regulated Contaminant	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Allowed One-Year Average	Health Goal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)	Range of Results	Violation	Source
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80 ppb	n/a	32.0 ppb	12.3– 46 ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ppb	n/a	21.3 ppb	8.5 – 23 ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

The Highland Park Water Department collects water samples from June 1st to September 30th at 20 homes in our system every year to test them for lead and copper. More information about lead and copper can be found on page 5.

Lead and Copper – Monitoring at the Customer's Tap

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Action Level (AL)	Health Goal (MCLG)	90% of customers' homes were less than*	Range of Results	Number of Samples Over AL	Source
Lead (ppb)	June 1 – September 30, 2025	12 ppb	0 ppb	2 ppb	0– 3 ppb	0	Lead services lines; corrosion of household plumbing, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	June 1 – September 30, 2025	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.1 ppm	0 – 0.1 ppm	0	Corrosion of household plumbing system, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives

** The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL, additional requirements must be met.*

Lead and Copper

2025 Lead Service Line Inventory		
Number of Lead Service Lines	**Number of Non-lead Service Lines**	**Total Number of Service Lines**
1,795	**1,292**	**3,087**

In 2025 Highland Park replaced 412 lead service lines. You can access Highland Park's complete service line inventory at https://lead-service-line-inventory-metroca.hub.arcgis.com/.

Information about lead

Lead can cause serious health effects for ages, especially pregnant people, infants, and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. Highland Park 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 reduce lead exposure at home by **using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier.** Follow the instructions and use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or washing a load of dishes.

If you have a lead service line or a galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Highland Park Water Department at 313.865.1876. 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.

2025 GLWA Water Works Park Regulated Detected Contaminants

These tables are based on tests conducted by GLWA in the year 2025. GLWA conducts tests throughout the year; only tests that show the presence of a substance or require special monitoring are presented in these tables.

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Allowed	Health Goal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Violation	Source
Fluoride	2/11/2025	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.56 ppm	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	02/11/2025	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.29 ppm	N/A	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium[1]	2/11/2025	N/A	N/A	5.3 ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate	2025	10 ppb	0 ppb	0.9 ppb	ND – 2.3 ppb	No	By-product of drinking water ozonation

[1] Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

Total Organic Carbon – Tested at Water Works Park Plant

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC is measured each quarter, and because the level is low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.	Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity – Monitored Every 4 Hours at the Plant Finished Water Tap

Highest Single Measurement Cannot Exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.09 NTU	100%	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.			

2025 GLWA Springwells Regulated Detected Contaminants

These tables are based on tests conducted by GLWA in the year 2025. GLWA conducts tests throughout the year; only tests that show the presence of a substance or require special monitoring are presented in these tables.

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Allowed	Health Goal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Violation	Source
Fluoride	2/11/2025	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.48 ppm	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	02/11/2025	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.31 ppm	N/A	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium[1]	2/11/2025	N/A	N/A	5.4 ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

[1] Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

Total Organic Carbon – Tested at Springwells Plant

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC is measured each quarter, and because the level is low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.	Erosion of natural deposits

2025 Turbidity – Monitored Every 4 Hours at the Plant Finished Water Tap

Highest Single Measurement Cannot Exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.21 NTU	100%	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.			

Cryptosporidium and Giardia

GLWA voluntarily monitors Cryptosporidium and Giardia in our source water monthly. ***The untreated water samples collected from our Belle Isle Intake indicated the presence of one Giardia cyst in February 2025.*** All other samples collected from the Bell Isle Intake in 2025 were absent for the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Systems using surface water like GLWA must provide treatment so that 99.9 percent of Giardia lamblia and Cryptosporidium is removed or inactivated. GLWA's drinking water treatment process is designed to remove and inactivate these protozoans.

2025 Water Works Park and Springwells Tap Water Mineral Analysis

Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Average
Turbidity	NTU	0.16	0.02	**0.08**
Total Solids	mg/L	172	41	**130**
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	145	75	**117**
Aluminum	mg/L	0.122	0.019	**0.054**
Iron	mg/L	0.3	ND	**0.2**
Copper	mg/L	0.001	ND	**0.000**
Magnesium	mg/L	8.6	6.9	**7.6**
Calcium	mg/L	28.5	24.3	**26.4**
Sodium	mg/L	6.1	0.4	**3.4**
Potassium	mg/L	1.2	0.9	**1.0**
Manganese	mg/L	ND	ND	**0.000**
Lead	mg/L	ND	ND	**0.000**
Zinc	mg/L	ND	ND	**0.000**
Silica	mg/L	2.6	1.3	**1.8**
Sulfate	mg/L	29.5	21.7	**25.7**
Chloride	mg/L	12.1	9.5	**11.0**
Phosphorus	mg/L	1.07	0.77	**0.89**
Free Carbon Dioxide	mg/L	12.5	1.7	**9.6**
Total Hardness	mg/L	130	97	**106**
Total Alkalinity	mg/L	76	66	**71**
Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	0	0	**0**
Bi-Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	76	66	**71**
Non-Carbonate Hardness	mg/L	58	27	**34**
Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	9.3	ND	**2.6**
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	13.0	7.0	**10.1**
Nitrite Nitrogen	mg/L	ND	ND	**0.0**
Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/L	0.47	0.22	**0.30**
Fluoride	mg/L	0.78	0.48	**0.61**
pH		7.92	7.05	**7.21**
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C.	µmhos	232	135	**211**
Temperature	°C	26.1	2.5	**13.6**

Significant Deficiencies

Highland Park Significant Deficiencies

Michigan water utilities are required to notify water users of any unresolved significant deficiencies identified by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Significant deficiencies are serious sanitary deficiencies which include defects in design, operation, maintenance, or a failure or malfunction of the sources, treatment, storage, or distribution system that has potential to cause contamination in the water delivered to consumers.

EGLE identified several multiyear requirements in its 2017 Administrative Compliance Order that were repeated in Highland Park's 2024 Administrative Compliance Agreement (ACA) with EGLE. A summary of the Administrative Compliance Agreement can be found here. The complete ACA can be found here on pages 15 through 36. The following table summarizes the 2025 status of these annual requirements.

Summary Table of ACA Requirements and Status

ACA Item	Plain Language Description	Status	Date Current Report Completed	Date Next Report Due
3.1	Annual valve & hydrant inspections and reporting	Ongoing	3/31/26	3/31/27
3.2	Annual leak survey and repair schedule	Ongoing	12/31/25	12/31/26
3.3	Updated planning documents (Reliability, General Plan, CIP, Asset Management)	Ongoing	12/29/25	12/31/26
3.4	Operation by EGLE-approved entity	Ongoing	In Progress	In Progress
3.5	Annual independent rate analysis and confirmation of adopted rates	Ongoing	7/18/25	9/1/26
3.6	GLWA Payment Requirements	Ongoing	5/15/26	11/26/2026
3.7-3.8	Water master meter installation and reporting	Complete	10/17/25	Complete
3.9	Annual proposal for water main and LSL replacement	Ongoing	11/26/25	11/30/26

GLWA Significant Deficiencies

Below is the status of significant deficiencies in the GLWA water system identified by EGLE:

Date Identified by EGLE	Description	Compliance Agreement Deadline	Status
05-25-2022	Inoperable rapid mixing equipment at the Springwells 1930's water plant	12-31-2023	Completed in December 2023.
05-25-2022	Inoperable flocculation equipment at the 1958 Springwells water plant	11-11-2027	Phase I construction is completed as of December 2024. Phase II is under construction. On track to meet the deadline.

Highland Park Violations in 2025

The Highland Park Water Department received two violations in 2025.

The first violation was for a failure to conduct follow-up monitoring after a partial lead service line replacement. In August of 2025, a lead service line replacement contractor damaged a lead service line during a water main replacement project. An emergency repair was conducted, and only part of the lead service line was replaced resulting in a partial lead service line replacement. This happened because safe access to the building could not be secured during the repair. Partial lead service line replacements increase the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water and are only allowed in Michigan under emergency conditions. Strict procedures must be followed if the entire lead service line is not removed at the same time.

The Michigan Lead and Copper Rule requires a water utility to collect lead and copper samples within 72 hours (3 days) of a partial lead service line replacement. In this case, lead and copper samples were not collected until 8 days after the replacement, resulting in a violation. A lead reducing filter was provided to the residents along with educational materials to mitigate exposure to lead. The sample results were provided to the residents 21 days after the partial replacement, and the full replacement was completed 49 days after the partial replacement. Highland Park returned to compliance when all required steps for the emergency repair were completed on September 3, 2025. The violation lasted for 21 days.

The second violation was due to missing content in the 2024 Consumer Confidence (Water Quality) Report. The original 2024 Water Quality Report, which was published online in June of 2025, did not include a special notice about significant deficiencies issued by EGLE. The Highland Park Water Department revised the report to include the special notice and republished the report on December 19, 2025. The updated report is available here.

Highland Park Boil Water Advisories in 2025

The Highland Park Water Department issued two Boil Water Advisories in 2025. Boil Water Advisories are issued after a drop in pressure in the water supply because the loss of pressure may allow bacterial contamination to get into the water system.

The first Boil Water Advisory was issued on March 4, 2025, after a loss of pressure was detected in the water distribution system. It remained in effect for three days and was lifted on March 7, 2025. A second Boil Water Advisory was issued on March 29, 2025, and remained in effect for 10 days, until it was lifted on April 7, 2025.

During both advisories, the Highland Park Water Department and the GLWA worked to restore system pressure, flush the distribution system to remove potential contaminants, and collect bacteriological samples throughout the system to confirm that the water met state drinking water standards. The pressure losses were traced to a water main leak that required valve closures during repairs, which reduced water flow across the system. Multiple water main breaks also occurred, possibly because frost heaving affected the ground. At the same time, water master meters were being installed at the GLWA connections, which at certain times further reduced flow during construction.

More information about your drinking water

Your Water Quality

Highland Park distributes drinking water that is treated by the GLWA at its Water Works Park and Springwells Treatment Plants. Most regulated drinking water contaminants and treatment processes are monitored at these facilities. In addition, Highland Park conducts local monitoring within the community for bacteria, chlorine, disinfection byproducts, and lead and copper.

Bacteria

We collect monthly water samples at 10 locations throughout Highland Park to analyze for bacteria (total coliforms and e. coli) as required by regulations. We did not detect any bacteria in any of the 120 samples we collected in 2025. If bacteria had been detected, more thorough testing, evaluation, and action would have been required.

Chlorine

We analyze samples for chlorine every time we collect a sample to analyze for bacteria. Chlorine should be present in every sample to protect the water traveling in our pipes from potential contamination, but it shouldn't be so high that it creates excess disinfection byproducts. All chlorine samples collected met these requirements.

Disinfection byproducts (Trihalomethane (TTHM) or Haloacetic Acids (HAA5))

Four times each year, we test for disinfection byproducts. These compounds can form when chlorine, which we use to protect drinking water from bacteria and viruses, reacts with naturally occurring substances in the water. Two common disinfection byproduct groups are total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). At elevated levels over time, these compounds may increase the risk of cancer. The drinking water standards for these contaminants are 80 parts per billion for TTHM and 60 parts per billion for HAA5. In 2025, we tested for these compounds at two locations in the water system: 17050 Hamilton Road and 14400 Oakland Avenue.

Plumbing Tips

- Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves leach lead into drinking water. **Drinking water plumbing products sold after January 4, 2014, must, by law, contain very low levels of lead.**
- Corrosion may be greater if grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. **DO NOT** attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.
- Drain and flush your hot water heater annually.
- Another factor that can influence water quality in your home is connection to the water outside your home. The outdoor spigot connection to a hose provides a potential way for pollutants to enter your plumbing. Be sure backflow protection devices are installed properly.

Update on the Highland Park Water Department Projects

Highland Park is replacing water mains and lead service lines

The City of Highland Park is replacing outdated water mains, hydrants, and valves across its distribution system. From 2018 to 2021, your City of Highland Park Water Department replaced about 13.55 miles of new water main pipe, and an additional 11.36 miles of new water main pipe was replaced during the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons. Construction projects are still ongoing. Infrastructure breaks may continue to be elevated until aging system components are fully replaced and pressure issues become fully resolved.

Master Meter Installation Project is complete

In 2025, three new master meters were installed to monitor our connections to the Great Lakes Water Authority, marking a significant improvement in the city's water system capabilities. With these sites now operational, the City of Highland Park can actively monitor the water that flows into Highland Park. These meters also monitor water pressure in real time, ensuring faster response during emergency situations. The new, more precise measurements of water usage will reduce our reliance on estimated readings and improve overall accuracy for GLWA billing, system management, and planning.

Hydrant Flushing will improve water quality in your neighborhood

Think of the water pipes in your neighborhood like roads. Over time, dirt, rust, and tiny particles can settle in those pipes, especially in areas where water doesn't move frequently. Hydrant flushing is like doing a deep clean of those "roads." We open fire hydrants and let water rush through the pipes at high speeds. That strong flow washes out all the built-up particles. Highland Park is launching a new hydrant flushing program during summer 2026. You may see Water Department personnel opening and running fire hydrants. This is part of our routine maintenance program to improve your water quality.

For you as a resident, that means:

- Cleaner, clearer water coming from your tap
- Less chance of water looking rusty or discolored
- Better taste and smell of drinking water
- A more reliable drinking water system overall

It's basically routine maintenance to keep your drinking water fresh and safe.

This is what your City of Highland Park Water Department is doing for you.

The Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) is available to Highland Park Residents

If you are having difficulty paying your water bill, please contact Wayne Metro to see if you qualify for the WRAP program. For more information go to: https://www.waynemetro.org/wrap/ or call (313) 386-9727.