

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By
The City of Niles
Water Division



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

All the City of Niles drinking water comes from groundwater. Seven different wellheads take water from deep in the ground. Each is protected from surface contamination by designated wellhead protection.

Substances That Could Be in Water



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. 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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA 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.

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

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, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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) or epa.gov/safewater.

Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to an aeration tower, which allows for oxidation of high iron levels, and then it is held in a detention tank where it is filtered through layers of fine coal. Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Fluoride (to prevent tooth decay) and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized water towers and into your home or business.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, located within the Niles Fire Station Complex, 1345 East Main Street. You may also address your concerns at our Utilities Board Meeting, held the third Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the first floor City Hall Conference Room, 333 North Second Street. Please visit nilesmi.org for current meeting times and locations.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call James Pearman, Interim Water Superintendent, at (269) 684-3901, ext. 1310.

Test Results

The table lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done from January 1 through December 31, 2025.

The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some is more than one year old.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 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 to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is 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 Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
				District I		District II			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2020	15	0	1.4	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2020	10	0	2	ND–2	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2020	2	2	0.10	ND–0.10	NA	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2019	50	0	0.64	NA	NA	NA	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.74	1.44–1.74	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2025	5	0	1.12	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	0.92	0.24–0.92	1.00	0.52–1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid [HFPO-DA] (ppt)	2025	370	NA	<0.0050	NA	<0.0050	NA	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the GenX chemical process
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	1.0	NA	1.8	1.2-1.8	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2025	420	NA	<0.0030	NA	<0.0030	NA	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	2025	51	NA	<0.0030	NA	<0.0030	NA	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2025	400,000	NA	<0.0030	NA	<0.0030	NA	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic Acid [PFNA] (ppt)	2025	6	NA	<0.0040	NA	<0.0040	NA	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2025	16	NA	<0.0040	NA	<0.0040	NA	No	Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2025	8	NA	<0.0040	NA	<0.0040	NA	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community												
				District I			District II					
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.3	ND–0.55	0/30	2024	0.1	ND–0.2	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	12	0	2	ND–28	1/30	2024	2	ND–5	0/20	No	Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits

OTHER REGULATED SUBSTANCES												
						District I		District II				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]– Stage 1 (ppb)	2025	60	NA	3.2	3.2-12.8	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]– Stage 2 (ppb)	2025	60	NA	12.8	3.2-12.8	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2025	80	NA	27.10	27.10–59.10	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2025	80	NA	59.10	27.10-59.10	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES												
				District I		District II						
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Chloride (ppm)	2025	250	NA	40.2	22.2-40.2	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits			
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	250	NA	52	36–52	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes			

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% 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.

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

ppb (µg/L) (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (mg/L) (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (ng/L) (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES						
		District I		District II		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	2025	1.3	<0.07–1.3	NA	NA	Groundwater contamination from manufacturing processes and landfills
Bromide (ppb)	2019	38.3	24.7–38.3	NA	NA	Naturally occurring in groundwater
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	1.97	1.21–1.97	NA	NA	By-product of disinfection in drinking water
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	1.64	0.937–1.64	NA	NA	By-product of disinfection in drinking water
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	0.743	0.581–0.743	NA	NA	By-product of disinfection in drinking water
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2024	1.3	ND–1.3	NA	NA	By-product of disinfection in drinking water
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2025	6.6	1.3–6.6	NA	NA	Part of a group of haloacetic acids that are by-products of disinfection of drinking water
Manganese (ppb)	2019	212	0.9–212	NA	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Sodium (ppm)	2023	20	11–20	6.1	5.6–6.1	Erosion of natural deposits
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2025	5.2	1.9–5.2	NA	NA	Part of a group of haloacetic acids that are by-products of disinfection of drinking water
Lithium	2025	< 9.0	<9.0–<9.0	NA	NA	Unregulated contaminant found in ground water

The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 in home plumbing. The City of Niles 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 it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling 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, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for at least five minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact James Stevens, Operator-in-Charge, at (269) 684-3901, ext. 1310 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

The City of Niles has 448 known lead service lines. The number of service lines with unknown material is 782. The total number of service lines is 5,659.

Variances and Exemptions

The City of Niles was granted a variance by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to sample lead and copper on a triannual schedule. The variance was granted after the results of lead and copper samples fell below the action levels set by the U.S. EPA.

Source Water Assessment

The state performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tier scale from very low to very high based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry, and contamination sources.

The susceptibility of our source is:

- Airport Wells: Moderately low
- Western Well: Moderate
- Decker Well: Low
- Clay Well: Moderately low
- Parker Well: Moderately low
- Front Street Well: Moderate

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. If you would like to know more about this report, please contact James Pearman, City of Niles Interim Water Superintendent at: (269) 684-3901, ext. 1310