ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023

Presented By

North Springs Improvement District

PWS ID#: 4064390

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, 2023. Included are details about your sources 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.

Community Participation

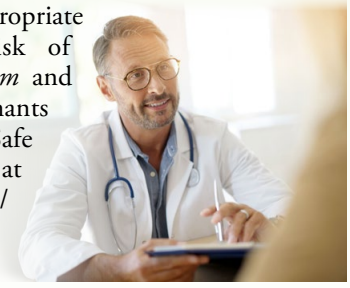
The Board of Supervisors of the North Springs Improvement District (NSID) will hold its meetings for the fiscal year 2024 on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the district office at 9700 Northwest 52nd Street, Coral Springs.

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.

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. Environmental Protection Agency (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 at (800) 426-4791 or http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



WaterSense

The average family can save nearly 38,000 gallons of water per year by retrofitting its home with WaterSense-labeled fixtures and qualified Energy Star appliances. If every home in the United States upgraded to WaterSense-labeled fixtures and Energy Star appliances, we could save nearly four trillion gallons of water and $40 billion in water costs across the country annually.

NSID is proud to be a WaterSense partner. We look forward to working with our customers to improve water efficiency awareness and promote WaterSense products and water-saving practices inside and outside the home. Product categories eligible for the WaterSense label include toilets, bathroom faucets and accessories, showerheads, flushing urinals, weather-based irrigation controllers, and spray sprinkler bodies.

WaterSense also offers a label for single-family homes and multifamily units that use less water and programs that certify landscape irrigation professionals who have demonstrated their knowledge of water-efficient practices. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

Source Water Assessment

In 2023 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a source water assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. Three potential sources of contamination were identified for this system, all with low susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or by calling the NSID laboratory at (954) 752-0400.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Water Department at (954) 752-0400 or email rodc@nsidfl.gov. Visit us online at www.nsidfl.gov.

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 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 be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and reduced water flow. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher quality product.

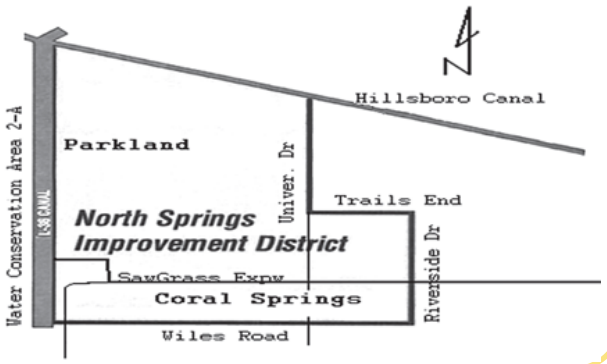
White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

Where Does My Water Come From?

In 2023 1.6 billion gallons of water were distributed to the customers of NSID. The water sources for the district are the Biscayne and Floridan aquifers, an underground geological formation. The Biscayne aquifer has been a reliable source of high-quality water since the early 1920s. Water from the aquifer is withdrawn and pumped to the water treatment plant by 11 raw water wells located within the district. It is treated by our new reverse osmosis water treatment plant, which improves the taste, odor, and appearance of water by removing contaminants that cause taste and odor problems. The water is then disinfected with chlorine and ammonia for bacteria removal. Fluoride is added as an aid in preventing tooth decay.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. 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.

In 2023 we sampled for the first and second part of the UCMR5 monitoring as prescribed by the EPA. No detectable levels of PFAs or lithium were found in the laboratory results for our water. PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications including non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, electroplating, and products that resist grease, water, and oil. PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals and water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the United States and the world.

PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Inorganic Contaminants

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Barium (ppm)	04/25/2023	No	0.00270	NA	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	04/25/2023	No	0.638	NA	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	04/25/2023	No	16.8	NA	NA	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chloramines (ppm)	01/23-12/23	No	3.62	1.0–4.0	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Haloacetic Acids (five) [HAA5]–Stage 2 (ppb)	06/21/2023	No	8.4	6.9–8.4	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	06/21/2023	No	0.99	0.97–0.99	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)[1]

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	AL EXCEEDANCE (YES/NO)	90TH-PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	09/14/2023	No	0.08030	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	09/14/2023	No	2.51	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

[1] A total of 30 samples were collected in 2023 from the distribution system based on a monitoring plan. Results are reported as the 90th-percentile value of the most recent round of sampling. Following the addition of the reverse osmosis water treatment system in November 2017, our public water system was required to return to annual monitoring for lead and copper and water quality parameters.

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.

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).

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced the public that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. According to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), however, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The FDA is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to $1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, visit https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use four to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Even a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day! Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

NSID Partners with U.S. EPA's WaterSense Program to Promote Water Efficiency

NSID has teamed with the U.S. EPA's WaterSense program to help consumers and businesses save water for future generations and reduce costs on their utility bills. WaterSense aims to decrease indoor and outdoor water use through water-efficient products and water-saving practices.

The program encourages customers to look for products labeled WaterSense, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models. WaterSense also promotes water-saving techniques and practices that reduce stress on water supplies. Since the program's inception in 2006, WaterSense has helped consumers save trillions of gallons of water and billions in water and energy bills. You can read more about water-saving measures and the program's goals at www.epa.gov/watersense or on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/nsid_district/.

EPA WaterSense PARTNER