Fair Lawn Water Department

Report 2024

Above: Fair Lawn testing a new well in 1930

BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN

Mayor: Cristina Cutrone

Deputy Mayor: Gail Rottenstrich

Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs: Josh Reinitz

Council Member: Kris Krause

Council Member: Nathalie Salinas

www.fairlawn.org

Message from the Water Operator:

Dear Customer:

We are pleased to provide your 2024 Water Quality Report. If you have any questions, call anytime.

Yours truly,

4/25/25

John Williams

Licensed Water Operator of Record

201-794-5374

What is this document?

This is the annual water quality report from the Fair Lawn Water Dept. Its purpose is to share how well we are doing. Below you will find sample results, completed work, and planned improvements.

All water systems are required to issue it per the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The SDWA is a federal and state law which ensures public health and safety in drinking water. It is written by the US Environmental Protection Agency and enforced by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

Landlords must distribute this report to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

You can also view this report on Fair Lawn's website: https://q5.qscendcms.com/p/water

If you have any questions about your water, please call us at (201) 794-5374.

You may also call the EPA safe drinking water hotline at (800) 426-4791 or find it on EPA's website: www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts

How was your water quality monitored?

We gathered 1,243 samples in 2024. These included our raw and finished water. The results met the safety standards required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Where is your water sourced?

Wells – We have 16 wells, sunk about 400 feet into the New Brunswick Aquifer. In 2024, they provided 41% of your water.

Surface sources - We supplement the wells with the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) and Veolia interconnections. PVWC and Veolia provided 46% and 13% of your water, respectively. PVWC's sources are the Pompton and Passaic Rivers. Veolia's sources are the Oradell and Woodcliff Lake reservoirs in New Jersey and Lake Tappan and Lake Deforest reservoirs in New York. Through a network of interconnected pipelines, we receive water from Wanaque, Monksville and Boonton reservoirs.

What do we operate?

- 4 pumping stations with combined capacity 17.6 million gallons per day (mgd)
- 4 chlorination facilities,
- 2 packed column VOC treatment facilities, and
- 1 GAC facility.
- Combined treatment capacity 4 mgd
- 105 miles distribution pipe
- 1,200 hydrants
- 4 storage tanks with combined capacity 4,500,000 gallons
- Average daily consumption 3.497 mgd
- Peak daily consumption 5.995 mgd

How did we improve last year?

We replaced a pump at the Cadmus station. We also rehabilitated Tank #2 and improved our sequestrant injection.

We rehabilitated four wells.

In our distribution system, we repaired 31 main breaks, and replaced 9 valves. We flushed all 1,200 hydrants. We replaced 852 meters.

Looking ahead, we will install treatment facilities at our inactive wells. Once their safety is established, we will reactivate them.

Bottled water or tap?

Both are safe to drink. Still, let's compare and contrast.

To compare, both use rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs and wells as their sources. They have impurities such as minerals, salts, metals, viruses, bacteria, organics, and other material. These impurities originate from natural, animal, or human activity. Their presence, if not removed, might create a health risk. Thus, they must be removed from both bottled water and tap. Simply, both bottled water and tap are safe.

To contrast, they are regulated differently. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water, while the USEPA and NJDEP regulate tap water.

These contaminants might be present in source water:

(Be assured we do not supply source water.)

- Microbials; from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock, and wildlife
- Inorganics; from natural sources, runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater, oil and gas production, mining, and farming
- Pesticides and herbicides; from agriculture, runoff, and residences
- Organics; from industrial processes, petroleum production, gas stations, runoff, and septic systems
- Radioactives; from natural origins, oil and gas production, and mining

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 (1-800-426-4791)

PFOA and PFAS explained:

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products.

Fair Lawn operates and maintains a granular activated carbon (GAC) filter system which removes these contaminants from our wells. Thus, the water provided by the Borough sources meets the standards established by the USEPA and the NJDEP.

Additional Info:

The Safe Water Drinking Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals (SOC). Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and SOC. The NJDEP issued the waivers after we conducted a vulnerability analyses. **Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradŭzcalo o hable con alguine que lo entienda bien.**

Water quality table, explained:

Maximum Contaminate Level Goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Treatment Technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant.

Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Primary Standards – Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health-related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.

Secondary Standards – Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor, and appearance. Secondary Standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) - A contaminant with no set standards. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – 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 contaminates.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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 contamination

Key to Tables:

mg/l - milligrams per liter or parts per million

ug/l - micrograms per liter or parts per billion

ng/L – nanograms per liter or parts per trillion

TU - Turbidity Units

pCi/l - Picocuries per liter.

CU - Color Unit

TON - Threshhold odor number

ND – not detected

NA – not applicable

Water Quality Data Table

Primary (health-related) contaminants detected in your drinking water:

		EPA MCLG	EPA MCL	NJ MCL	Veolia highest	PV highest	FL highest	Range	Typical source
	Arsenic (ug/L)	0.0	6.0	5.0	ND	ND	1.8	ND - 1.8	Erosion of natural deposits
	Barium (mg/L)	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0 - 0.2	Erosion of natural deposits
	Chromium (ug/L)	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.6	ND	1.2	ND - 1.6	natural or industrial
	Fluoride (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	4.0	ND	0.1	ND	ND - 0.1	
	Mercury (ug/L)	2.0	2.0	2.0	ND	ND	ND	ND - ND	natural or industrial
	Lead (ug/L)				NA	NA	3.4	ND - 3.4	household plumbing
	Qty exceeding action level						0		
	90th percentile	0.0	15.0	15.0	NA	NA	0.0		
	Copper (mg/L)				NA	NA	0.1	ND - 0.1	
	Qty exceeding action level						0		
	90th percentile	0.0	1.3	1.3	NA	NA	0.1		
	Nickel (ug/L)	NA	100.0	100.0	ND	2.8	0.7	ND - 2.8	Erosion of natural deposits
	Nitrate (ug/L)	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.7	2.9	3.6	0.7 - 3.6	Fertilizers, natural deposits
physical	Turbidity (ntu)	NA	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.1	NA	0.1 - 0.3	natural silt
microbial	Coliform	0% monthly samples (TT)	5% monthly samples (TT)	5% monthly samples (TT)	NA	NA	3% May	0 - 3%	intestinal tracts of animals
radionuclides[2]	Gross alpha (pCi/l)	0.0	15.0	15.0	ND	ND	2.3	ND-2.3	Erosion of natural deposits
	Uranium (30 ug/L)	0.0	30.0	30.0	ND	ND	1.3	ND-1.3	
	Radium 226/228 (pCi/l)	0.0	5.0	5.0	ND	ND	0.4	ND-0.4	
VOC	Toulene (ug/L)	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	0.9	ND	ND	ND - 0.9	industrial
Disinfection byproducts[1]	Haloacetic acids (ug/L)	NA	60.0	60.0	NA	NA	30.1	ND - 30.1	organic precursors
	LRAA		60.0	60.0			19.3		
	Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	NA	80.0	80.0	NA	NA	69.5	6.9 - 69.5	
	LRAA		80.0	80.0			60.2		
PFAS	PFOS (ng/L)	0.0	NA	13.0	8.1	ND	ND	ND - 8.1	manufacturing
	PFOA (ng/L)	0.0	NA	14.0	14.0	6.3	ND	ND - 14	
Chlorine	Chlorine/Chloramines as Cl_2 (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	4.0	NA	NA	2.9	0.0 - 2.9	Water disinfection.

Footnotes:

1. Compliance is based on locational running annual average. Health effects include cancer, anemia, and kidney/liver/nervous system problems.
2. Samples collected 2023.

Water Quality Data Tables

Secondary (aesthetic-only) contaminants detected:

	EPA or NJ Guideline	Veolia highest	PV highest	FL range	Combined range	Typical source
Aluminum, mg/L	0.2	0.1	0.0	ND - 0.2	ND - 0.2	treatment process
Chloride, mg/L	250	146	138	45 - 131	44 - 146	natural mineral, road salt
Color, CU	10	3	ND	ND - ND	ND- 3	natural mineral
Hardness, mg/L	250	136	154	75 - 392	66 - 392	natural mineral
Hardness, gpg	15	8	9	4 - 23	4 - 23	natural mineral
Manganese, ug/L	50	ND	14	ND - 46	ND - 46	natural mineral
Odor, TON	3	ND	25	ND - ND	ND - 25	natural characteristics
pH	6.5-8.5	8.2	8.5	6.7 - 9.0	6.7 - 9.0	treatment process
Sodium, mg/L	50	86	104	12 - 98	12 - 104	natural mineral
Sulfate, mg/L	250	10	84	9 - 82	9 - 84	natural mineral
Zinc, mg/L	5.0	0.6	3.6	ND - 0.7	ND - 3.6	natural mineral

Unregulated contaminants detected via UCMR5:

	Min	Max	Average
Li, ug/L	ND	9.9	2.0
PFBA, ng/L	ND	4.6	3.4
PFBS, ng/L	ND	3.1	2.2
PFHpA, ng/L	ND	3.0	2.0
PFHxA, ng/L	ND	8.3	5.0
PFHxS, ng/L	ND	2.8	1.8
PFNA, ng/L	ND	1.7	0.3
PFOA, ng/L	ND	12.0	8.6
PFOS, ng/L	ND	5.5	2.8
PFPeA, ng/L	ND	11.0	6.1
PFPeS, ng/L	ND	1.4	0.3

Source Assessment:

The NJDEP has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment report and summary for this public water system, which is available at www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. The Borough also augments our water supply from two other sources as defined on page one of this report. Additional information on these contributory suppliers can be found at the same NJDEP web page.

Susceptibility of Sources:

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens; therefore, all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			VOC			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			DBP precursors		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Sources																								
Wells - 16		12	4	4	12			4	12	16			14	2		12	4		16				16	
GUDI - 0																								
Surface - 0																								

Terms:

Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

Pesticides: Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

Inorganics: Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

Radionuclides: Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm or call (800) 648-0394.

Disinfection Byproduct Precursors: A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

Health Facts:

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm are a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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. Fair Lawn Water Dept is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, call Fair Lawn Water Dept at 201-794-5374. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Fair Lawn maintains an inventory of its lead service lines, which can be found here: https://q5.qscendcms.com/p/water

We exceeded the recommended upper limit for sodium. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important. Their dietary sodium is far more. However, individuals on a low-sodium diet should consult their doctor.

To participate:

View the council meeting calendar here: https://fairlawn.org/p/agendas

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Fair Lawn Water Dept.

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact John Williams at 201-794-5374 or jwilliams@fairlawn.org.

This notice is being sent to you by Fair Lawn Water Dept. State Water System ID#: NJ0217001

Date distributed: 4/29/25