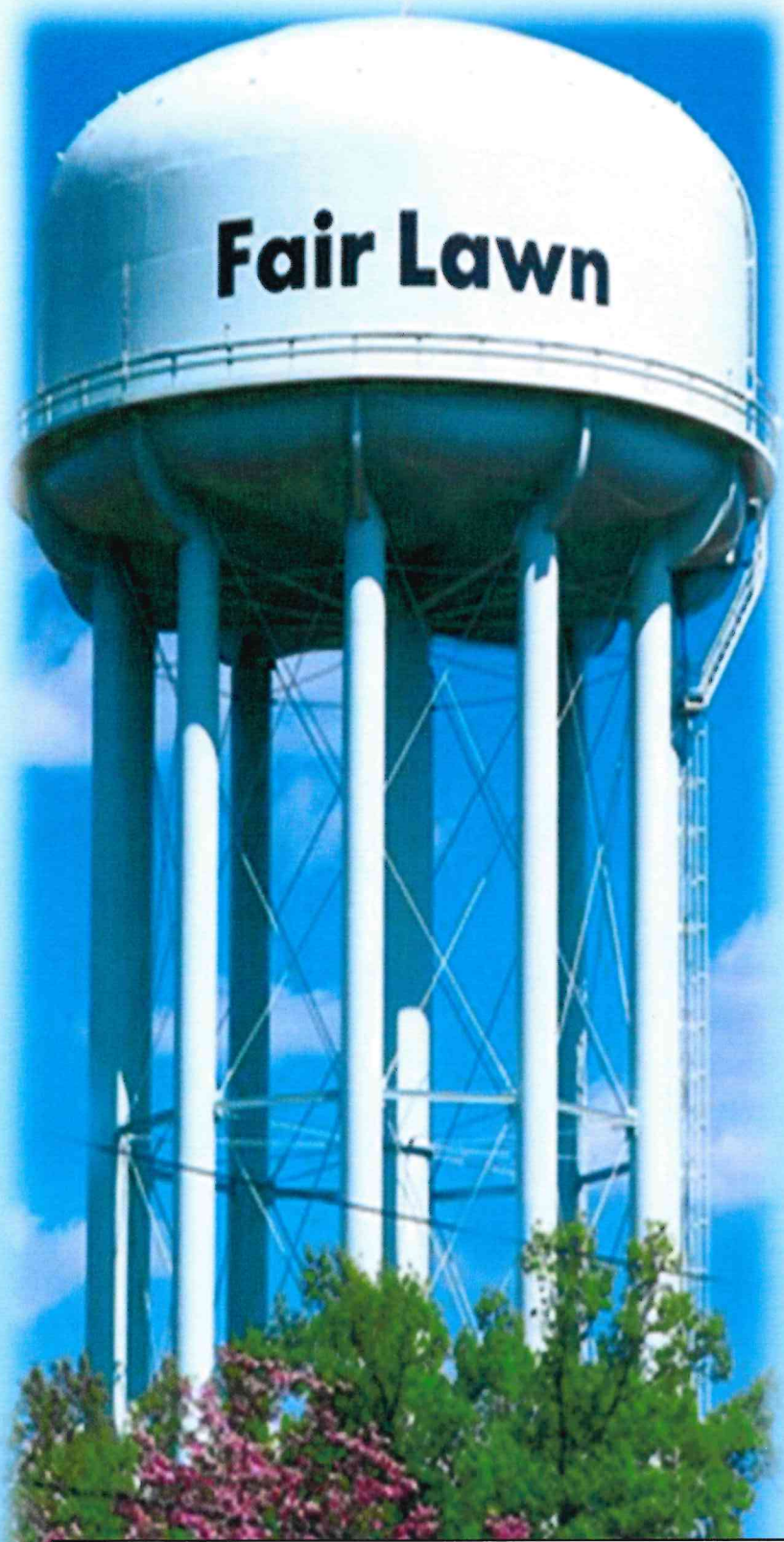


3/17/26



Borough of Fair Lawn

2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT



Conserve water; it's our most precious resource!



BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN

Mayor: Cristina Cutrone

Deputy Mayor: Josh Reinitz

Council Member: Kris Krause

Council Member: Nathalie Salinas

Council Member: Joseph Baldofsky

www.fairlawn.org



You might ask...

What is this?

This is Fair Lawn's annual water quality report. 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 is my water quality monitored?

Samples, samples, samples. In 2025 alone we collected 1,573 samples.

Where is my water sourced?

Wells – We have 16 wells, sunk about 400 feet into the New Brunswick Aquifer. In 2025, they provided 35% of your water.

Surface sources - We supplement the wells with the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) and Veolia interconnections. PVWC and Veolia provided 43% and 22% 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 does the Water Department operate?

- 4 pumping stations with a combined capacity of 17.6 million gallons per day (mgd)
- 4 chlorination facilities
- 1 packed column VOC treatment facility
- 1 GAC facility
- 4 mgd treatment capacities
- 105 miles of distribution pipe
- 1,200 hydrants
- 4 storage tanks with a combined capacity of 4,500,000 gallons

How much water did the Water Department provide in 2025?

- 3.533 mgd average daily
- 5.885 mgd peak daily

What did the Water Department accomplish in 2025?

- Replaced a pump at our Passaic Valley Water interconnection
- Continued upgrading our Veolia Water interconnection
- Rehabilitated 2 wells
- Repaired 80 main breaks
- Replaced 5 valves
- Replaced 15 hydrants
- Flushed 1,200 hydrants
- Installed 4 sample stations

What will the Water Department accomplish in future years?

- Install treatment facilities at our inactive wells
- Full inventory of all service pipes

What was unusual in 2025?

- In July we mailed a notification to all customers, which explained a violation of the Lead and Copper Rule. Specifically, some water failed to meet Optimal Parameters. We duly increased our lead and copper sampling, and subsequent results proved the water is safe.
- In August Passaic Valley had a main break in Paterson. During this time they were unable to supply us with water; which led to a water outage on August 24. Our neighboring systems Ridgewood, Saddle Brook, and Hawthorne restored our supply. Still, a precautionary Boil Water Advisory was issued. We collected samples, which proved the water to be safe. With that, the BWA was lifted.

The incident prompted us to improve our contingencies. We did so by acquiring temporary connections, which will enable quicker supply in a repeat situation. The goal for next time is reliable water, with less inconvenience to you.

- In November we mailed another notification to all customers, which explained a violation of the Surface Water Treatment Rule. Specifically, a non-detectable chlorine residual was found in more than 5% of monthly coliform samples. This is considered a risk for coliform growth. However, coliform samples were compliant.

Which water should I drink - Bottled or Tap?

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.

Which contaminants might be present in source water? (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 industry, petroleum production, gas stations, runoff, and septic systems
- Radioactives: from industry, oil and gas production, and mining

What are PFAS?

PFAS are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are man-made chemicals and are 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 granular activated carbon filter system which removes PFAS from our wells. Thus, the water provided by the Borough sources meet the standards established by USEPA and NJDEP.

Are any samples omitted?

The SDWA allows monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received waivers for asbestos and SOC. They were issued after a vulnerability analysis.

Water Quality Data Table

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)

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	0.7	ND	1.8	ND-1.8	Erosion of natural deposits
	Antimony (ug/L)	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.7	ND	1.2	ND-1.2	Erosion of natural deposits
	Barium (mg/L)	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0-0.1	Erosion of natural deposits
	Chromium (ug/L)	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.1	ND	8.0	ND-8.0	natural or industrial
	Fluoride (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	4.0	ND	0.1	ND	ND-0.1	Erosion of natural deposits
	Lead (ug/L)				NA	NA	116.0	ND-116.0	household plumbing
	Qty exceeding action level 90th percentile	0.0	15.0	15.0	NA	NA	1 1.2		
	Copper (mg/L)				NA	NA	0.4	0.0-0.4	
	Qty exceeding action level 90th percentile	0.0	1.3	1.3	NA	NA	0 0.1		
	Nickel (ug/L)	NA	100.0	100.0	0.6	3.5	3.4	0.5-3.5	Erosion of natural deposits
	Nitrate (ug/L)	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.7	3.4	3.0	0.7-3.4	Fertilizers, natural deposits
physical	Turbidity (ntu), TT	NA	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.1	NA	0.0-0.3	natural silt
microbial	Coliform, TT	0% monthly samples (TT)	5% monthly samples (TT)	5% monthly samples (TT)	NA	NA	3 %	0 - 3 %	intestinal tracts of animals
radionuclides²	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	1.1	ND	ND	ND-1.1	industrial
Disinfection byproducts¹	Haloacetic acids (ug/L) LRAA	NA	60.0 60.0	60.0 60.0	NA	NA	38.4 22.0	4.8-38.4	organic precursors
	Trihalomethanes (ug/L) LRAA	NA	80.0 80.0	80.0 80.0	NA	NA	78.5 54.0	16.8-78.5	
PFAS	PFOS (ng/L)	0.0	NA	13.0	4.0	5.9	4.9	ND-5.9	manufacturing
	PFOA (ng/L)	0.0	NA	14.0	12.8	11.0	10.9	ND-12.8	
	PFNA (ng/L)	0.0	NA	13.0	ND	ND	2.7	ND-2.7	
Chlorine	Chlorine/Chloramines as Cl ₂ (mg/L), MRDL, MRDLG	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 were collected in 2023, which is most recent and compliant with Radionuclides Rule.

Water Quality Data Tables

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)

Secondary (aesthetic-only) contaminants detected:

	EPA or NJ Guideline	Veolia highest	PV highest	FL range	Combined range	Typical source
Aluminum, mg/L	0.20	0.10	0.04	ND - 0.38	ND - 0.38	treatment process
Chloride, mg/L	250	272	185	79 - 259	79 - 272	natural mineral, road salt
Color, CU	10	3	ND	ND - ND	ND - 3	natural mineral
Hardness, mg/L	250	210	242	108 - 367	106 - 367	natural mineral
Hardness, gpg	15	12	14	6 - 21	6 - 21	natural mineral
Iron, mg/L	0.3	0.0	ND	ND - 0.3	ND - 0.3	natural mineral
Manganese, ug/L	50	ND	38	ND - 20	ND - 38	natural mineral
Odor, TON	3	ND	80	ND - ND	ND - 80	natural characteristics
pH	6.5-8.5	8.2	8.4	7.2 - 8.6	7.2 - 8.6	treatment process
Sodium, mg/L	50	149	139	42 - 121	42 - 149	natural mineral
Sulfate, mg/L	250	20	92	11 - 76	11 - 92	natural mineral
Zinc, mg/L	5.0	0.6	0.0	0.0 - 2.2	0.0 - 2.2	natural mineral

Unregulated contaminants detected via UCMRS:

	Min	Max	Average
Li, ug/L	ND	10.6	1.8
PFBA, ng/L	3.2	8.6	4.8
PFBS, ng/L	1.7	3.4	2.4
PFHpA, ng/L	ND	3.0	1.4
PFHxA, ng/L	3.6	5.1	4.4
PFHxS, ng/L	ND	2.4	1.9
PFNA, ng/L	ND	1.7	0.6
PFPeA, ng/L	3.8	9.4	5.4

How do I read the Water Quality Table? What do the terms mean?

Maximum Contaminate Level Goal (MCLG) – 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.

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 (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL) – 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 to control microbial contaminants.

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.

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 - Threshold odor number

ND – not detected

NA – not applicable

What do these terms mean?

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.

What are some relevant 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. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.

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, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium-restricted diet.

How can I get involved in Fair Lawn's water program?

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

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.