



**2016 Annual
Drinking Water
Quality Report
Honeysuckle
Water System**

A New Report for You!

For the first time, City Utilities is sending you an annual Consumer Confidence Report – a report on the quality of the drinking water you receive from City Utilities as a customer of the Honeysuckle Water System. Because the system is relatively new, this report has not been required in the past. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) now requires that City Utilities provide this annual water quality report to you prior to July 1st of each year. In this report you will find information about the source of your water, how the water is treated, results of water quality tests performed during the period from January 1 through December 31, 2015, and information about ways you can be involved in protecting your water quality.

Although this summary is sent only one time per year, you can find out more about your water system at any time by calling City Utilities at (260) 427-8311 or visiting our website at www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities/drinking-water/226-honeysuckle.

City Utilities is committed to providing you with great value -- the best water at the best possible price. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about your drinking water and how City Utilities is working every day to protect public health and safety. We welcome your feedback. If you have comments about the quality of the drinking water or services you receive from City Utilities, please let us know by calling (260) 427-8311 or emailing waterquality@cityoffortwayne.org.

Where does your water come from?

Fort Wayne City Utilities owns and operates two ground water wells near Spencerville, Indiana, that provide drinking water for approximately 20 homes in the Honeysuckle subdivision. The wells draw water from the Hometown Aquifer System, Western Part. An average of less than 100,000 gallons of water per day is withdrawn from the wells. The water is treated and tested at the Honeysuckle water treatment plant located on Twin Fawn Trail.

CITY UTILITIES' MISSION

To support public safety and public health and enhance regional economic development by delivering high quality, affordable water in ways that protect the environment.



Protecting water at the source

As owner and operator of the Honeysuckle Water System wells and as your drinking water provider, City Utilities has developed and implemented a Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP) to protect the quality of the ground water in your area. The area covered by the WHPP includes every property within a 3,000 foot radius around the wells and the Honeysuckle water treatment plant.

The best way to maintain high quality drinking water is to prevent contaminants from reaching drinking water sources. The wellhead protection plan strives to protect the Honeysuckle water source and includes the following:

- Establishment of a local planning team to assist with the protection of the Honeysuckle water wells;
- Identification of existing and potential sources of contamination; and
- Development of a contingency plan to prepare for emergencies and plan for future water supply needs.

To keep you up-to-date with information about the Honeysuckle Water System and the associated wellhead protection area, City Utilities has created a page on its website specifically for Honeysuckle customers and neighbors. It may be found at: www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities/drinking-water/226-honeysuckle or by searching the internet for "Fort Wayne Honeysuckle Water System."

Aviso Importante
Este reporte contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca pra usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda. En español: 311.

Keeping your drinking water safe

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) sets regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water coming from public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. The US EPA also requires that public water systems make an annual report, such as this one, to all of their customers. However, bottled water producers don't face the same reporting requirement.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, spring, 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. It can also 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 land 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Treatment technologies used in the Honeysuckle Water System remove or significantly reduce these contaminants, making the water safe to drink in compliance with regulatory standards. However, there are things residents can do to help protect drinking water quality. One of the potential sources of ground water contamination – and thus a potential contaminant of the Honeysuckle Water System – is household hazardous waste.

The key to reducing the potential for groundwater contamination from household chemicals is using as little as possible and properly disposing of unwanted amounts of these chemicals and their containers. Many more ideas may be found on City Utilities' website at www.cityoffoftwayne.org/utilities.

Another way you can help protect groundwater quality is by reporting any fuel and/or chemical spills or leaks. If the leak or spill poses an imminent threat to public health or safety, please dial 911 immediately. Please also report the spill to City Utilities by calling (260) 427-6054.

City Utilities would also appreciate receiving notification if you add or remove any potential sources of contamination that may be used or stored on your property, or if you make any changes to the activities taking place on your property that could affect ground water quality. Please contact City Utilities by calling (260) 427-8311.

Testing for water quality

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants in drinking water – below the limits set by regulatory agencies – does not indicate that the water poses a health risk. The US EPA and the State of Indiana require City Utilities to regularly test the drinking water we produce and distribute to make sure that it remains safe.

City Utilities currently conducts monitoring of the Honeysuckle Water System for the following contaminants on a schedule as required by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM):

Bacteria – monthly

Nitrate – annually

Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) – one test in 2015, quarterly testing may be required in 2018

Inorganic Compounds (IOCs) and Sodium – one test in 2014, next annual test required in 2017

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) – tested in 2014, quarterly testing required in 2017

Lead & Copper – 5 samples between June & September in 2015*

Disinfection By-Products (TTHM & HAA5) – two samples in peak historical month

Sampling for the Honeysuckle Water System is done in accordance with City Utilities' sampling protocol. If a sample analysis result indicates the presence of any of the contaminants being monitored as required by IDEM, the Honeysuckle contingency plan – as approved by IDEM -- will be followed.

* Samples were collected during the January 1 – June 30, 2015 and July 1 – December 31, 2015 monitoring periods. Pursuant to 327IAC8-2-7(d)(4)(E), the system can reduce monitoring frequency from biannual to once every three years. City Utilities will be required to collect five lead and copper samples in the Honeysuckle distribution system next between June 1 and September 30, 2018.

Water Quality Test Results for 2015

The table below shows substances that are regulated by the US EPA that were detected in finished drinking water distributed by City Utilities through the Honeysuckle Water System between January 1 and December 31, 2015. **Results of all tests performed on water from the Honeysuckle Water System in 2015 met or were better than federal and state standards require.** Some tests are required only once per year because the US EPA and State of Indiana have determined that the concentration of these substances does not change frequently. For tests required only once a year there is no range of results in the table.

Contaminants	Units	MCLG	MCL	Compliance Achieved	Highest Level Detected	Range	Typical Sources
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products							
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	Yes	1.02	0.049—1.02	Additive used in water treatment process to control bacteria
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	Yes	27	26—27	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	NA	80	Yes	30.9	30.5—30.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Compounds							
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	Yes	0.463	NA	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic systems; sewage discharge; erosion of natural deposits
Microbial Contaminants							
Total Coliform	% of positive samples monthly	0	5	Yes	0	0—0	Naturally present in the environment
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)							
Testing not required in 2015							
Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs)							
Tested but not detected in 2015				Yes			
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (Last testing period was in 2014)	ppm	1.3	90% of samples taken below AL = 1.3	Yes	0.093	Samples taken = 10 Exceeding AL = 0	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (Last testing period was in 2014)	ppb	0	90% of samples taken below AL = 15	Yes	3.2	Samples taken = 10 Exceeding AL = 0	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems

How to read the water quality table

MCLG — Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: established by the US EPA, 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.

MCL — Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water per regulations set by the US EPA. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as is feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL — Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers implementation of a required type of treatment or other requirements that the water system must follow.

Highest Detected Level: The highest level of a contaminant detected and used for comparison against the acceptable or required level. The detected level may be the highest single measurement or it may be an average depending on the prescribed testing protocol.

Range: The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each contaminant. If only one sample/test is required, no range is shown.

NA: Not applicable

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

%: percentage of monthly or annual samples that tested positive or that exceeded a certain level

How is your water treated?

Water is pumped from one of two groundwater wells owned and operated by City Utilities. After the water is pumped out of the well, it is aerated by a fan to increase the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water.

Iron and manganese occur naturally in ground water and can stain laundry, give a rusty taste and look to the water, and can contribute to the growth of bacteria. Chlorine is added to oxidize these metals, creating particles that can then be removed by filtration.

The water is filtered through a Greensand filter where oxidized iron and manganese are removed. The Greensand filters use a specially designed filter material that has a coating of manganese oxide. The filter material traps the iron and manganese particles that were previously dissolved in the water. Filtration is followed by the addition of free chlorine to maintain disinfection in the distribution system. This finished water is sent to a storage tank then pumped out to the Honeysuckle water distribution mains as needed.

Drinking water and your health

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants, can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen that may be found in surface water such as rivers, lakes and streams throughout the U.S. Typically *Cryptosporidium* is not found in water coming from wells. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection with symptoms including nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immune-compromised people, infants, small children and the elderly are at greater risk for developing life-threatening illness.

Guidelines from the US EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

A word about lead

Fort Wayne City Utilities regularly tests water from a number of homes in the community to determine lead levels. Water that comes out of the Honeysuckle water treatment plant meets all state and federal requirements for lead. However, in some buildings and homes lead levels in water may go up because of the types of pipes and plumbing fixtures used in those structures.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with water service lines and home plumbing. Fort Wayne City Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components that bring water from our main lines into your house or those within individual buildings.

When water has been sitting in home plumbing for several hours, lead may enter the water from plumbing fixtures. You can minimize your potential for lead exposure by letting the water run before using it. Turn on the cold water and let it run at least until you feel the water get noticeably cooler before you use the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about the level of lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested by a private laboratory. 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 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. You may also contact Fort Wayne City Utilities at (260) 427-8311 or visit our website at www.cityoffortwayne.com/utilities or contact the Indiana State Department of Health at (317) 233-1250 or the Fort Wayne- Allen County Department of Health at (260) 449-8600 for more information on health risks and on reducing lead exposure.

Keeping you up-to-date

In addition to this annual report, City Utilities will, from time to time, send customers of the Honeysuckle Water System information about actions you can take to help protect ground water quality. In January of each year, you will receive a notice inviting you to participate in the water quality testing program. Each year in the fall, you will also receive an invitation to participate in an annual open house or other events where you can learn more about the Honeysuckle Water System and how you can help protect your drinking water quality. City Utilities hopes you will participate in these events or you may contact us with questions or concerns at any time by calling (260) 427-8311.

Important Information Sources

Honeysuckle Water System
Vicky Zehr – Water Quality Manager
(260) 427-1254 or
(260) 427-8311
www.cityoffortwayne.org

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/drink/