



# 2023 Annual Water Quality Report

Muskegon County Regional Water System

Northside Water System – WSSN 4577

Serving Muskegon, Laketon, Dalton and Fruitland Townships

231.724.6411 [publicworks@co.muskegon.mi.us](mailto:publicworks@co.muskegon.mi.us)

## System Overview

Source water for the Muskegon County Regional Water System is from the City of Muskegon Water Filtration Plant on Lake Michigan. Filtration plant takes water from Lake Michigan and filters and treats water with a capacity of 40 million gallons per day. Water quality from the filtration plant is excellent and this report includes the results of many of the extensive amount testing regularly to assure that the water being delivered exceeds all standards for drinking water.

This report covers the drinking water quality for The Muskegon County Regional Water System – Northside for the 2023 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2023. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and state standards.

**Contaminants and their presence in water:** 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Vulnerability of sub-populations:** 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 systems 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. USEPA/Center for Disease Control 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).

**Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from 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 and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2023 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 January 1 through December 31, 2023. 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 are more than one year old.

### Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **Maximum Contaminant 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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.
- **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 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 contaminants.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **N/A:** Not applicable
- **ND:** not detectable at testing limit
- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A study of the water supply to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.66	.25-.62	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.69	.55-.81	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	N/A	N/A	13	11-16	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	40	31-43	2023	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Halo acetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	25.3	21.1-30.1	2023	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	4	4	1.16	.06-1.53	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Coliform (total number or % of positive samples/month)	TT	N/A	0	N/A	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
<i>E. coli</i> in the distribution system (positive samples)	See <i>E. coli</i> note <sup>3</sup>	0	0	N/A	2023	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.02	N/A	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries and erosion
Turbidity (ntu) <sup>4</sup>	1 (TT)	N/A	0.08	N/A	2023	No	Soil Runoff
Perfluoro octane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	n/a	2.3	2.0-2.4	2023	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge from electroplating facilities; Discharge and waste from industrial waste

<sup>1</sup> Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

<sup>2</sup> The chlorine “Level Detected” was calculated using a running annual average (RAA) for 2023.

<sup>3</sup> *E. coli* MCL violation occurs if: (1) routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive, or (2) the supply fails to take all required repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample, or (3) the supply fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

<sup>4</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Turbidity must also be at or below 0.3 ntu for 95% or more of measurements each month. 100% of samples met that standard.

1 Monitoring Data for Regulated Contaminants

Inorganic Contaminant Subject to ALs	AL	MCLG	Your Water <sup>4</sup>	Range of Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) <sup>5</sup>	15	0	2	0-6	2023	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) <sup>5</sup>	1.3	1.3	0.2	0-0.4	2023	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>5</sup> Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

**Information about lead:** 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. Muskegon County Regional Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you have a lead service line, it is recommended that you run your water for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year as they happen. Copies are available at <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/906/Water-Quality-Reports>. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Water System Policy Board meets monthly. For schedule, contact Muskegon County Department of Public Works at 231.724.6411. For more information about your water or the contents of this report, contact Muskegon County Department of Public Works at 231.724.641. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the USEPA at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.