



OLATHE
1857-2007

community • diversity • heritage

Olathe Link

Special Edition
Spring 2007
Water Quality Report

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (913) 971-9311.



Celebrating 123 Years of Drinking Water Treatment

The City of Olathe has been providing water to our residents and businesses for 123 of Olathe's 150 years. The first City of Olathe water was delivered to customers in 1884 with water drawn from Lake Mahaffie, which is now called Frisco Lake. In 1914, the City's first water plant was built to serve 1,200 customers and was operated by one employee. Over the years the City of Olathe has expanded its water treatment system as the community has grown. Today, the City of Olathe has almost 34,000 water customers.

Protecting Olathe's Source Water

Protecting our water resources is important to the quality of life of Olathe citizens, and the quality of our source water has a direct impact on the treatment costs for providing safe, quality drinking water. The City of Olathe, in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), has completed a source water assessment for our water supplies. The assessment results are available at www.kdheks.gov/nps. Visit the City's website (www.olatheks.org) to learn more about ongoing source water protection efforts in the Lake Olathe Watershed.

Olathe's Water Is Safe!

This annual drinking water quality report demonstrates the City's ongoing commitment to providing safe, high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. Included are details about where our water comes from, what it contains, and how it measures up to state and federal standards.



Testing for Your Safety

The quality of Olathe's drinking water is our number one priority. We run hundreds of tests daily – throughout the treatment process, the distribution system, and in our customers' homes – to ensure that we consistently produce water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards for safe drinking water.



Inside This Issue

Mayor's Message.....	p2
Ensuring Safe Drinking Water.....	p3
FAQs.....	p3
Olathe Earth News.....	p4-5
Summary of Water Quality Data.....	p6-7
AquaFest	p8



Mayor's Message

Providing Safe, High Quality Drinking Water

The City of Olathe is pleased to present our water customers with our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The mailing of this report fulfills a requirement by the EPA and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that all water utilities produce an annual

report to inform their water customers about the quality of their drinking water. On this note, we once again report that Olathe's drinking water quality meets or exceeds all of the State and Federal requirements for safe drinking water. But we see this document as more than a requirement. In addition to providing you with the results of our water quality testing, we see this as an opportunity to share with you information about the investments we're making in your drinking water. We have several capital improvements projects underway to continue to improve our water system to keep up with Olathe's growing water demands and future regulations, including the construction of a 42-inch transmission main from Water Plant No. 2 to Olathe.

Water quality is an important aspect of any community. The City of Olathe takes pride in being a full-service city and providing Olathe residents and businesses with a reliable supply of safe, quality drinking water everyday. We've made it a top priority for the past 123 years, and we look forward to continuing this commitment to our customers.

I invite you to learn more about our daily work to fulfill this commitment – whether through attending a City Council meeting, enrolling in the Civic Academy, or scheduling a tour of our recently renovated Water Plant No. 2.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the City's Municipal Services Department at (913) 971-9311.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor

Olathe City Council

Michael Copeland, Mayor
913-971-8500 (city office)
mcopeland@olatheks.org

Larry Campbell
Ward 1
913-971-8789
lcampbell@olatheks.org

Jim Randall
Ward 2
and Mayor Pro Tem
913-522-2729
jrandall@olatheks.org

Kathleen Huttman
Ward 3
913-269-6360
khuttman@olatheks.org

Marge Vogt
Ward 4
913-269-0625
mvogt@olatheks.org

Bob Montgomery
At Large
913-980-8278
bmontgomery@olatheks.org

John Bacon
At Large
913-269-6305
jbacon@olatheks.org

City of Olathe Municipal Services Department

Mission

The City of Olathe Municipal Services Department is committed to serving the citizens of our community by providing our customers with the very best municipal services through a continuing partnership of residents and employees that promotes public health while protecting and conserving our environmental resources for current and future generations.



How to Contact Us

Municipal Services Center (913) 971-9311
1385 S. Robinson St. / P.O. Box 768, Olathe, Kansas 66061
8 am – 5 pm, Monday thru Friday

Customer Service

To start, stop, or transfer water service (913) 971-9311
Account information (bill payment) (913) 971-9311
For water quality information (913) 971-5122
To report a waterline break or other emergency (913) 971-9311
After hours emergency (evenings/weekends) (913) 971-5151
For more information, visit www.olatheks.org/residents/services.

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

Sources of Drinking Water

Across the nation, the sources of drinking 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.

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Contaminants in bottled water are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA sets limits that protect the public in the same manner as tap water regulations. 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water prior to treatment 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 agricultural 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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791 www.epa.gov/safewater.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where does Olathe's water come from?

The City obtains untreated "raw water" from two sources. The City's primary source of water is from wells along the Kansas River alluvial aquifer, which is pumped to Water Plant No. 2 for processing. Lake Olathe serves as a supplemental source of water, to meet high demands and is treated at Water Plant No. 1. **In 2006, the City delivered approximately 4.97 billion gallons of drinking water to Olathe residents, businesses, and visitors, all of which was treated at Water Plant No. 2.**

What is a backflow preventer?

A backflow preventer is a device that prevents pollutants or contaminants from entering the City's water distribution system through a cross-connection during a drop in water pressure. In Olathe, all in-ground lawn irrigation systems and fire sprinkler systems are required to be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device that is tested and certified annually.

What is meant by "water hardness"?

Water hardness is a measure of the calcium and magnesium salts in the water, and is usually expressed in parts per million (ppm) of dissolved calcium and magnesium carbonate. The term "hardness" comes from the fact that it is hard to lather soap in hard water. The City's water hardness averages 150-170 ppm, or 9-10 grains per gallon (gpg).

If I have concerns about my water quality, who do I call?

If you have concerns about the quality, taste, or odor of your drinking water, please call the City's Water & Wastewater Laboratory at (913) 971-5122 so that we may promptly address the concern.

Why did the City turn my water off without notifying me?

Unless the water was turned off due to a main break or other emergency, you should have been notified by either a door hanger 24 hours in advance or by an employee from the City's Utilities Line Maintenance Division knocking on your door. In an emergency situation, the City cannot notify each affected customer, but you can call Customer Service at (913) 971-9311 to check the current status of the repair work.

I have a water leak – is it my responsibility or the City's to fix it?

Where the leak occurs determines the responsibility for fixing it. The City is responsible from the water main up to and including the meter. The property owner is responsible from the water meter to the house. There are a few exceptions with older homes and businesses where the meter is located inside the house or building.



Olathe Earth News

Storm Sewers ... the rivers beneath our feet

In Olathe, as in most cities, we have two types of sewers: a sanitary sewer system (also called a “wastewater collection system”) that carries wastewater to a treatment plant and a storm sewer system that carries rain and other runoff directly into our streams, without treatment.

The storm sewer system, which includes the storm drains located along streets and in parking lots, is designed to help prevent flooding during storms. The storm drains collect the rainwater that runs off of the yards, streets, parking lots, rooftops and driveways, and carry it through storm sewers into the nearest lake or stream. Unfortunately, as the rainwater falls on the ground and runs (downhill) over the land, it picks up pollutants. This contaminated stormwater runoff, called “non-point source pollution,” can be a major source of pollution in Olathe’s waterways. So while storm sewers are important to help protect our property and prevent flooding, it’s up to each of us to make sure that the water that is carried through them and back into our streams is kept clean and free of pollutants.

We all 10 things you ~~can~~ can do to

1. **Read the product label.** If you use lawn & garden chemicals, apply as sparingly as possible – using extra product does not provide extra benefit.
2. **Watch the weather.** If the forecast calls for heavy rain, hold off applying fertilizers or other lawn chemicals. Allowing excess product to run off your lawn is like throwing money down the drain – and in this case, it’s a storm drain!
3. **Establish a chemical-free zone.** When lawn chemicals are applied on slopes and lawn edges, they run off into streams, harming fish and other animals and contaminating our drinking water.
4. **Try non-toxic alternatives.** A healthy lawn needs bugs. Visit the Johnson County Extension Office (11811 S. Sunset, Ste #2700, Olathe, Kansas or 913-715-6900) to learn more about integrated pest management.
5. **Soak it up!** Take steps around the home to increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground, reducing the amount of water that runs off into the street.

AquaFest





prevent stormwater pollution

6. **Dispose of wastes properly** – Bring your used motor oil, leftover lawn chemicals and other household hazardous wastes to the City's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program for safe and proper handling.
7. **Report stormwater pollution** – The storm sewer is for stormwater only. If you see anything other than stormwater being disposed in the storm sewer, report it.
8. **Organize a Community Cleanup ... or better yet, Adopt-a-Street!** Help keep Olathe picked up and litter-free by signing up for the City's Adopt-a-Street or Adopt-a-Stream Programs.
9. **Celebrate! Make plans to attend Olathe's annual AquaFest,** and learn what you can do at home to help protect our community's local water resources (details on page 8).
10. **Take a hike!** Grow your appreciation for our natural environment by taking time to enjoy a streamside walk in Olathe's parks.

Healthy Lawn, Less Water

All of the water that arrives at your home through City of Olathe pipes is treated drinking water. In the summer months, more than half of that water is used for watering lawns. Fortunately, there are a number of things you can do to reduce your monthly water bill and still maintain a healthy and attractive lawn.

- Keep your garden free of water-consuming weeds.
- Mulch your gardens and flower beds to cut back on evaporation.
- If you do water, apply the water at a slow enough rate to avoid runoff.
- Heat and wind cause water to evaporate, so postpone watering on windy days, and water in the cool of the morning to avoid excess evaporation.
- Aerate your lawn to help allow the water to infiltrate rather than run off.
- Let the grass grow taller in the summertime to help it survive the hot, dry weather.
- Mow tall and let the clippings fall – grass clippings are mostly water and will decompose quickly, adding a little extra fertilizer back into your soil.



Summary of Water Quality

The EPA requires monitoring of over 100 drinking water contaminants. Listed below are only certain contaminants, many of which were undetected in Olathe's drinking water. The summary shows monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2006.

Key to abbreviations

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.

WP1: Water Plant No. 1

WP2: Water Plant No. 2

DS: Distribution System

ppb: Parts per billion

ppm: Parts per million

ND (Not Detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

N/A: Not applicable

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

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):

A measure of the clarity of water.

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity of water.

MFL: Million fibers per liter

µMHOS/cm (micromhos per centimeter):

A measure of conductivity.

Regulated Parameters

Parameter (units)	MCL	MCLG	City of Olathe Value			City of Olathe Range	Meets Standard	Possible Sources
			WP1	WP2	DS			
Inorganic Compounds								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	N/A	1.1	N/A	1.1	✓	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	N/A	0.12	N/A	0.12	✓	Discharge of drilling waters; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; metal refineries discharge; waste batteries and paint runoff.
Chloramines (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	N/A	N/A	1.96	1.78-2.28	✓	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	N/A	N/A	0.07	N/A	✓	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosions of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	N/A	0.93	N/A	0.77-1.1	✓	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	✓	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Mercury (ppb)	2	2	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and cropland.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	N/A	0.51	N/A	0.51	✓	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	N/A	3.0	N/A	3.0	✓	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Leaching from ore processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories.
Asbestos (MFL)	7	0	N/A	N/A	ND	ND	✓	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (removal ratio)	>1.0	TT	N/A	2.57	N/A	2.31-2.8	✓	Naturally present in the environment.
Synthetic Organic Chemicals								
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	N/A	1.1	N/A	1.1	✓	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Alachlor (ppb)	2	0	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Volatile Organic Chemicals								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	37.8	21-69	✓	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	76.5	52-110	✓	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliforms (in % of monthly samples)	< 5	0	N/A	N/A	0.99	0-0.99	✓	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	N/A	N/A	0.15	N/A	99.2%-99.8% below 0.3 NTU	✓	Soil runoff.
Radiological Contaminants								
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	N/A	N/A	ND	N/A	✓	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

The City of Olathe's water consistently meets state and federal standards for safe drinking water.

Unregulated Parameters*

Parameter (units)	Federal Level Recommended	City of Olathe Value		DS
		WP1	WP2	
Alkalinity (ppm)	N/A	N/A	102	N/A
Aluminum (ppb)	200	N/A	ND	N/A
Calcium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	52	N/A
Chloride (ppm)	250	N/A	84	N/A
Deethylatrazine (ppb)	N/A	N/A	0.30	N/A
Iron (ppm)	0.3	N/A	ND	N/A
Magnesium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	14	N/A
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	N/A	0.002	N/A
Metolachlor (ppb)	N/A	N/A	0.25	N/A
Nickel (ppm)	N/A	N/A	0.002	N/A
pH (standard units)	6.5-8.5	N/A	8.5	N/A
Phosphorus (ppm)	N/A	N/A	0.09	N/A
Potassium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	6.3	N/A
Silica (ppm)	50	N/A	11	N/A
Silver(ppm)	0.1	N/A	ND	N/A
Sodium (ppm)	100	N/A	63	N/A
Specific Conductivity (uMHOS/cm)	1500	N/A	690	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	250	N/A	91	N/A
Radon (pCi/L)	300	N/A	50	N/A
Radium-266 (pCi/L)	1500	N/A	NA	ND
Radium-268 (pCi/L)	1500	N/A	NA	ND
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	N/A	380	N/A
Total Hardness (ppm)	400	N/A	190	N/A
Zinc (ppm)	5	N/A	ND	N/A

* *Unregulated parameters are monitored in the interest of the customer, and to assist regulators in developing future regulations.*



For Customers with Special Health Concerns

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.

Compliance Update

Federal rule mandates that the turbidity (cloudiness) of the water be monitored. Turbidity tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. The federal standards require that the turbidity be below 0.3 turbidity units 95% of the time.

Although this was not an emergency, as a customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what the City did to correct the situation. Drinking water with excess turbidity may interfere with the disinfection process and provide a media for microbial growth. Turbidity itself has no health effects.

Water samples for 2.5 hours on April 25, 2006 and 1.75 hours on May 2, 2006 had a turbidity measurement greater than 1.0 turbidity units. The standard is that no individual sample shall exceed 1.0 turbidity units and no more than 5% of all samples may exceed 0.3 turbidity units per month. The percentage of samples that were below the 0.3 standard was 98.93% for the month of April and 98.2% for May.

The City continues to work with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) and the EPA to ensure your drinking water meets all standards.

For more information, please contact the City of Olathe Water Production Division at (913) 971-5233 or City of Olathe, Water Production Division, P.O. Box 768, Olathe, KS 66051-0768 (State Water System ID# R6000).

Reader Feedback

Please send your comments to:
Olathe Link
P.O. Box 768
Olathe, KS 66051-0768
linkcomments@olatheks.org
913-971-8700

Issues Affecting You

Mayor's Message p2
Ensuring Safe Drinking Water p3
FAQs p3
Olathe Earth News p4-5
Summary of Water Quality Data p6-7
AquaFest p8

Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Service



This report is being mailed to you as a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Please share this report with others, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

CITIZEN REQUEST SYSTEM

Make an inquiry or request for City service 24/7, www.olatheks.org—Click on Contact Us or Olathe Quick Links

WATER – it's reason enough to celebrate!



AQUAFEST 2007

Olathe's 6th annual community water festival

Saturday, August 25* · 11 am to 2 pm

Cedar Lake Park, 15500 S. Lone Elm Road

Celebrate water as an important resource and a never-ending source of fun with activities for all ages, including:

- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Hands-on water activities
- Arts & crafts
- Giant water slide
- How-to classes in:
 - painting with watercolors
 - designing a rain garden
 - managing bugs without pesticides
- And much, much more!

*rain date September 15

AquaFest is sponsored by the City of Olathe Municipal Services, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works Departments.

For more information, call 971-9057 or visit www.olatheks.org.