

FACT SHEET:

City of Chicago

Lake Michigan Water Quality

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**GRAND PRAIRIE**
WATER COMMISSION

In 2030, the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC) will begin purchasing treated Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago and distributing it to the six GPWC Member communities (Channahon, Crest Hill, Joliet, Minooka, Romeoville and Shorewood). This transition from existing groundwater supplies to Lake Michigan water is central to the GPWC's mission to provide a sustainable, reliable and high-quality water supply for its communities to support public health, safety, economic interests and quality of life.

One of the most important benefits of this change is access to water drawn from a high quality source and treated at a conventional water purification plant. The water will be drawn from Lake Michigan via an intake structure located approximately 2 miles east of Jackson Park Harbor and treated at the Eugene Sawyer Water Purification Plant (SWPP) on the City's lakefront. The treated Lake Michigan water that the GPWC will purchase from the City of Chicago meets or exceeds all current state and federal water quality regulations.

Chicago proactively assesses potential risks to the quality of Lake Michigan and conducts routine testing of lake water for a range of parameters in its state-of-the-art laboratories 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year. Chicago also tests for emerging contaminants such as PFAS, microplastics, and pharmaceutical and personal care products. Results from the tests are used by Chicago to monitor water quality and identify potential adjustments in its treatment process needed to maintain a continuous supply of safe, high-quality drinking water to all the City's water customers.

Information related to the quality of Chicago water is published annually in a water quality and consumer confidence report. The report for 2024, available at: [Department of Water Management - Consumer Confidence Reports](#), noted that the City's water met all standards for microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, disinfection by-products, and radioactive contaminants.

Additional sampling conducted during 2024 found no *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in the source water treated at the SWPP, and yielded non-detect results for a range of PFAS compounds. A non-detect result means that if any PFAS were present, it was at such a low level that the laboratory instruments being used could not detect it.

Chicago posts a wide range of data pertaining to the quality of the its water on its website ([City of Chicago :: Water Quality Results and Reports](#)). Several specific sources of information are referenced below:

- City of Chicago's 2024 Comprehensive Chemical Analysis showing quarterly water quality results for more than 50 parameters: [CompChem 2024 Q1-Q4.pdf](#)
- City of Chicago's PFAS studies: [City of Chicago :: PFAS Findings](#)
- Historic Chicago data from the City's chromium-6 monitoring: [City of Chicago :: Chromium-6](#)
- City of Chicago's emerging contaminant study: [City of Chicago :: City of Chicago Emerging Contaminant Study](#)