HOUSTON PUBLIC WORKS

WATER QUALITY REPORT 2023

Houston Water Quality Report | Jan - Dec 2023

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that all drinking water suppliers provide a Drinking Water Quality Report to their customers on an annual basis.

This annual water quality report includes important information regarding drinking water. For assistance in English, please call 311.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al 311.

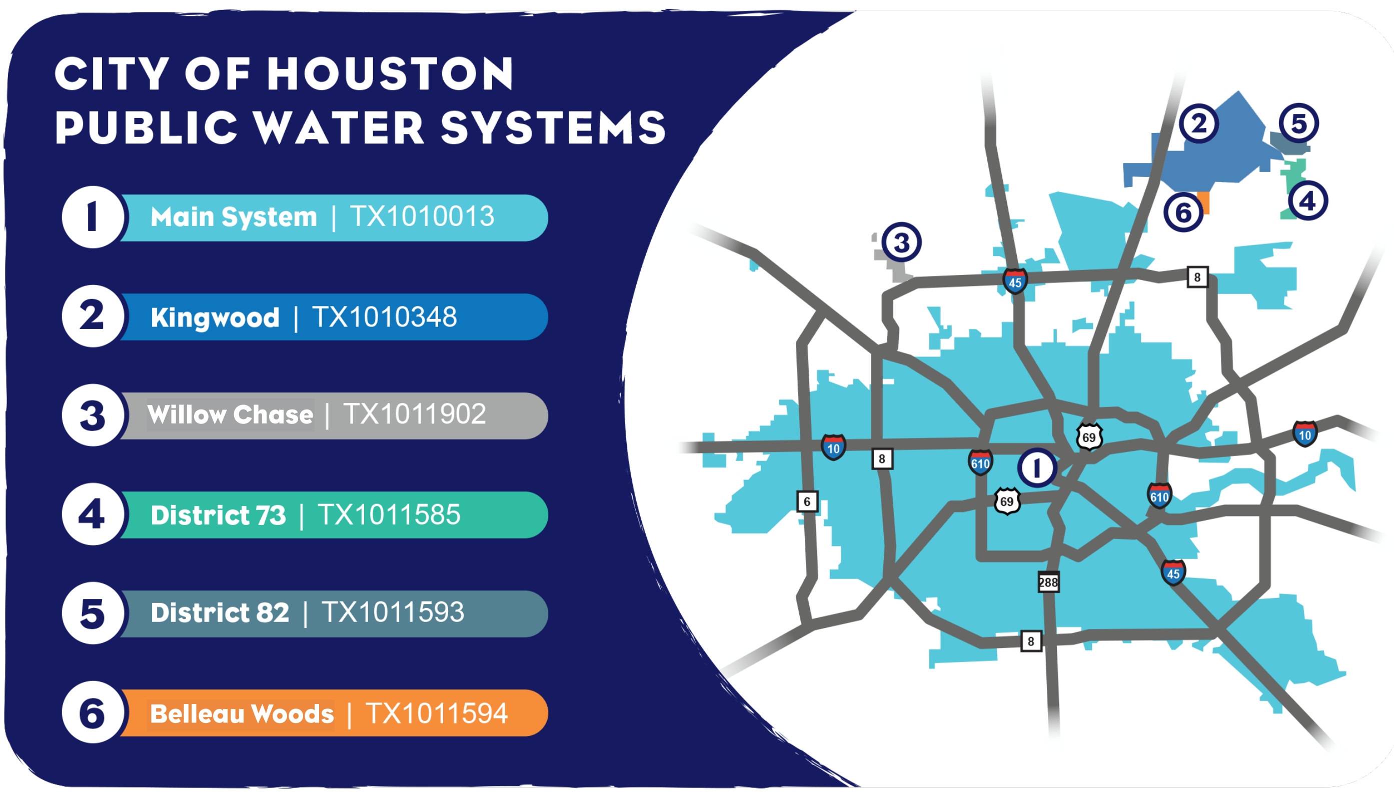
Bảng Báo Cáo Chất Lượng Nước hàng năm này cung cấp thông tin về nước uống. Để được trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt, xin vui lòng gọi số 311.

Ce rapport annuel sur la Qualité de l'Eau fournit des informations sur l'eau potable. Pour de l'assistance en français, appelez le 311.

ت قرير جودة المياه يحتوي على معلومات تخص مياه الشرب. للمساعدة باللغة العربية، الرجاء الاتصال ب 311

這份「水質年度報告」提供飲用水方面的資訊。如需中文協助，請撥 311.

The City of Houston delivers drinking water of the highest quality through six community public water systems.



Water Sources

Customers of Houston Water Main Public water system receive their drinking water from three surface water purification plants and 39 ground water plants. 16 additional ground water plants provide for the remaining five Houston public water systems: Kingwood, Willow Chase, District 73, District 82, and Belleau Woods. The City of Houston treats drinking water according to federal and state standards to remove harmful contaminants.

The sources of drinking water nationwide (both tap water and bottled 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 can be polluted by animals or 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For concerns with taste, odor or color of drinking water, contact 311 or email **waterquality@houstontx.gov.**

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 the 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 (800.426.4791).

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants do not have EPA-established drinking water standards. The purpose of monitoring these contaminants is to assist the EPA in determining if future regulation is warranted. The current round of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) sampling will be continuing in 2024. For more information visit **epa.gov/dwucmr.** Per requirements, this document includes only detected contaminants. For a complete listing of all City of Houston's UCMR results, visit: **https://www.houstonpublicworks.org/unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr.**

Special Notice

Some people may be more vulnerable to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from a physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791).

Arsenic

Some of Houston's drinking water contains low levels of arsenic, which is below state and federal action levels. EPA's standard balances arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing it from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 in-home plumbing. The City of Houston is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in in-home plumbing components. When water in your home plumbing has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for one to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791) or at **epa.gov/safewater/lead.** Houston Water is conducting a survey to offer free water testing for qualified homes that may have lead and copper pipes. To find out if your home qualifies for free lead and copper tap water testing, please complete the survey at **surveymonkey.com/r/leadcopper.**

Water Loss

The Infrastructure Leak Index (ILI) measures the efficiency of water loss control efforts. It is calculated by taking the real losses (water lost due to leaks) and dividing them by the unavoidable real losses, the theoretical level of minimum leakage calculated by American Water Works Association Standards. Houston Water's ILI is based on the combination of all six community public water systems. In 2023, Houston Water's ILI was 6.79.

Public Participation

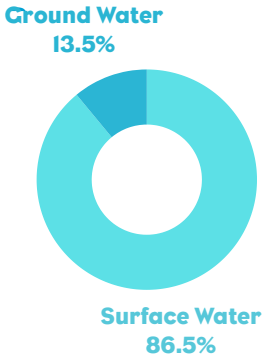
There are many opportunities for public participation. Information on Houston City Council meetings is available at **houstontx.gov/citysec.**

To find out more about Houston Water Education & Outreach visit **https://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/waterconservation** or **https://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/protect-our-pipes.**

Contact Us

Questions about this report or your water quality? Please email **waterquality@houstontx.gov** or call 311 (713.837.0311) and ask to speak with a member of the Water Quality team.

Main System | TX1010013



SURFACE WATER SOURCE

San Jacinto River (Lake Conroe & Lake Houston) Trinity River (Lake Livingston)

GROUND WATER SOURCE

104 Wells (Evangeline & Chicot Aquifers) at depths greater than 750 feet

AVERAGE DAILY WATER PRODUCED

464 M Gallons

CUSTOMERS

2.4 M

Parameter/ Substance (units) (sampled in 2023 unless noted)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Ideal Goal (EPA'S MCLG)	Detections		
			Minimum	Average	Maximum
MONITORED AT WATER PLANTS					
Arsenic[1] (ppb)	10	0	ND	1.6	5.2
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	ND	0.1	0.3
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.04	0.13	0.27
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	ND	0.76	2.8
Combined Uranium (ppb)	30	0	ND	3.8	19.8
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	ND	10.5	120
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	ND	0.3	0.8
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	ND	3.3	8
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	0	ND	3.8	10
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND	0.2	0.8
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	ND	0.01	0.2
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	ND	1	15.6
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	ND	0.07	0.15
Thallium, total (ppb)	2	0.5	ND	0	0.28
Turbidity (NTU)	(TT) 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	NA	Lowest Monthly Percentage ≤ 0.3 NTU: 96% Highest Single Measurement: 0.52 NTU		
Turbidity has no health effects; however, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.					
Xylenes, Total (ppb)	10,000	10,000	ND	0.03	0.6
MONITORED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS					
Chloramines (Disinfectant) (ppm)	4.0 (MRDL)	<4.0 (MRDLG)	0.01	2.9	4.8
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND	0.37	1.27
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	ND	0.03	0.26
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <60	NA	Highest LRAA: 36 ppb Individual sample results range from not detected to 70 ppb.		
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <80	NA	Highest LRAA: 47 ppb Individual sample results range from not detected to 67 ppb.		
MONITORED AT CUSTOMER TAP					
Lead (ppb)	AL= 90% below 15 ppb	0	90% below 3.1 ppb No samples above 15 ppb		
Copper (ppm)	AL= 90% below 1.3 ppm	1.3	90% below 0.19 ppm No samples above 1.3 ppm		

Main System | TX1010013

SECONDARY STANDARDS				
Parameter/ Substance (units)	Recommended Levels (SMCL)	Detections		
		Minimum	Average	Maximum
Aluminum (ppm)	0.2	ND	0.2	3.36
Chloride (ppm)	250	20	49	168
Copper (ppm)	1	ND	0.02	0.19
Fluoride (ppm)	2	ND	0.3	0.76
Iron (ppm)	0.3	ND	0.1	1.47
Lead (ppb)	NA	ND	0.1	1.5
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	ND	0.01	0.05
pH (su)	6.5 - 8.5	7.2	7.6	8.2
Sulfate (ppm)	250	5	21	57
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	114	293	534
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	NA	28	128	176
Zinc (ppm)	5	ND	0.02	0.07

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS[2]				
Parameter/ Substance (units)	Dates Monitored	Minimum	Average	Maximum
6.2 FTS (ppb)	Feb - Nov 2023	ND	0.002	0.04
Lithium (ppb)	Feb - Nov 2023	ND	13.5	27
PFBA (ppb)	Feb - Nov 2023	ND	0.0007	0.01
PFHxA (ppb)	Feb - Nov 2023	ND	0.0006	0.005
PFPeA (ppb)	Feb - Nov 2023	ND	0.0005	0.007

Notes

1 For more background information regarding Arsenic - please refer to page 4.

2 For more information regarding Unregulated Contaminants - please refer to page 3.

Kingwood | TX1010348

Ground Water
100%

GROUND WATER SOURCE

16 Wells (Evangeline & Chicot Aquifers)
at depths greater than 750 feet

AVERAGE DAILY WATER PRODUCED

8M Gallons

CUSTOMERS

80.5K

Parameter/ Substance (units) (sampled in 2023 unless noted)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Ideal Goal (EPA'S MCLG)	Detections		
			Minimum	Average	Maximum
MONITORED AT WATER PLANTS					
Arsenic[1] (ppb)	10	0	ND	1.3	2.6
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.251	0.27	0.29
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	ND	1.65	3.3
Combined Uranium (ppb)	30	0	ND	0.7	3.5
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.12	0.13	0.16
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	ND	1.66	3.3
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	0	ND	0.86	4.3
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND	0.01	0.07
Xylenes, Total (ppb)	10,000	10,000	ND	0.4	1.9
MONITORED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Chlorine (Disinfectant) (ppm)	4.00(MRDL)	<4.00(MRDLG)	0.4	1.7	3.9
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <60	NA	Highest LRAA: 1.2 ppb. Individual sample results range from not detected to 2.4 ppb.		
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <80	NA	Highest LRAA: 2.9 ppb. Individual sample results range from not detected to 7.2 ppb.		
MONITORED AT CUSTOMER TAP					
Lead (ppb)	AL= 90% Below 15 ppb	0	90% below 2 ppb. One samples above 15 ppb		
Copper (ppm)	AL= 90% below 1.3 ppm	1.3	90% below 0.218 ppm. No samples above 1.3 ppm		

SECONDARY STANDARDS				
Parameter/ Substance (units)	Recommended Levels (SMCL)	Detections		
		Minimum	Average	Maximum
Aluminum (ppm)	0.2	ND	0.01	0.06
Chloride (ppm)	250	19	22.2	27
Copper (ppm)	1	ND	0.002	0.004
Fluoride (ppm)	2	0.12	0.13	0.16
Iron (ppm)	0.3	ND	0.06	0.14
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	0.001	0.028	0.057
pH (su)	6.5 - 8.5	7.6	7.66	7.8
Sulfate (ppm)	250	5	9.2	12
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	184	203.4	234
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	NA	103	118.2	137
Zinc (ppm)	5	ND	0.007	0.022

Kingwood | TX1010348

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS[2]				
Parameter/ Substance (units)	**Dates Monitored**	**Minimum**	**Average**	**Maximum**
Lithium (ppb)	July 2023 - December 2023	ND	6.7	14.8

Notes

1 For more background information regarding Arsenic – please refer to page 4.

2 For more information regarding Unregulated Contaminants - please refer to page 3.

Photo of a City of Houston NEWPP Water Treatment Pool, 2023

Willow Chase | TX1011902

Ground Water
100%

GROUND WATER SOURCE

5 Wells (Evangeline & Chicot Aquifers)
at depths greater than 750 feet

AVERAGE DAILY WATER PRODUCED

2.5M Gallons

CUSTOMERS

13.2K

Parameter/ Substance (units) (sampled in 2023 unless noted)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Ideal Goal (EPA'S MCLG)	Detections		
			Minimum	Average	Maximum
MONITORED AT WATER PLANTS					
Arsenic[1] (ppb) 2022[2]	10	0	3.5	3.7	3.9
Barium (ppm) 2022[2]	2	2	0.226	0.259	0.292
Combined Uranium (ppb)	30	0	2.4	4.2	5.9
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	4	4.5	5
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	0	ND	2	4
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.15	0.21	0.3
Selenium (ppb) 2022[2]	50	50	5.3	8.2	10.9
MONITORED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Chlorine (Disinfectant) (ppm)	4.0 (MRDL)	<4.0 (MRDLG)	0.3	1.4	2.2
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <60	NA	Highest LRAA: 1.05 ppb Individual sample results range from not detected to 4.2 ppb		
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <80	NA	Highest LRAA: 1.025 ppb. Individual sample results range from not detected to 2.3 ppb.		
MONITORED AT CUSTOMER TAP					
Lead (ppb)	AL= 90% below 15 ppb	0	90% below 1 ppb. No samples above 15 ppb		
Copper (ppm)	AL= 90% below 1.3 ppm	1.3	90% below 0.05 ppm. No samples above 1.3 ppm		

SECONDARY STANDARDS				
Parameter/ Substance (units)	Recommended Levels (SMCL)	Minimum	Average Detections	Maximum
Chloride (ppm)	250	44	47	50
Copper (ppm) 2022[2]	1	ND	0.001	0.002
pH (su)	6.5 - 8.5	7.3	7.4	7.5
Sulfate (ppm)	250	4	5	6
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	268	279	289
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm) 2022[2]	NA	167	171	175

Notes

1 For more background information regarding Arsenic - please refer to page 4.

2 Subject to reduced monitoring requirements. Detected contaminant within the past five years, in the year indicated.

District 73 | TX1011585

Ground Water
100%

GROUND WATER SOURCE

2 Wells (Evangeline & Chicot Aquifers)
at depths greater than 750 feet

AVERAGE DAILY WATER PRODUCED

436K Gallons

CUSTOMERS

6.2K

Parameter/ Substance (units) (sampled in 2023 unless noted)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Ideal Goal (EPA'S MCLG)	Detections		
			Minimum	Average	Maximum
MONITORED AT WATER PLANTS					
Arsenic[1] (ppb)	10	0		2.1[2]	
Barium (ppm)	2	2		0.3[2]	
Combined Uranium (ppb)	30	0	2.5	3.4	4.2
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	3	3	3
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	0	5.6	5.6	5.6
MONITORED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Chlorine (Disinfectant) (ppm)	4.0 (MRDL)	<4.0 (MRDLG)	0.02	1.6	2.9
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <60	NA	Highest LRAA: 1.4 ppb. Individual sample results range from not detected to 1.4 ppb.		
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <80	NA	Highest LRAA: 7.4 ppb. Individual sample results range from not detected to 3.7 ppb.		
MONITORED AT CUSTOMER TAP					
Lead (ppb) 2021[3]	AL= 90% Below 15 ppb	0	90% below 0 ppb No sample above 15 ppb		
Copper (ppm) 2021[3]	AL= 90% below 1.3 ppm	1.3	90% below 0.075 ppm. One sample above 1.3 ppm		

SECONDARY STANDARDS				
Parameter/ Substance (units)	Recommended Levels (SMCL)	Detections		
		Minimum	Average	Maximum
Chloride (ppm)	250	18	18	18
Fluoride (ppm)	2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Iron (ppm)	0.3		0.089[2]	
Manganese (ppm)	0.05		0.0175[2]	
pH (su)	6.5 - 8.5	7.9	7.9	7.9
Sulfate (ppm)	250	3	3.5	4
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	176	180	183
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	NA		83[2]	

Notes

1 For more background information regarding Arsenic - please refer to page 4.

2 Only one sample was required to be taken for this analyte in the year indicated.

3 Subject to reduced monitoring requirements. Detected contaminant within the past five years, in the year indicated.

District 82 | TX1011593

Ground Water
100%

GROUND WATER SOURCE

2 Wells (Evangeline & Chicot Aquifers)
at depths greater than 750 feet

AVERAGE DAILY WATER PRODUCED

109K Gallons

CUSTOMERS

945

Parameter/ Substance (units) (sampled in 2023 unless noted)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Ideal Goal (EPA'S MCLG)	Detections		
			Minimum	Average	Maximum
MONITORED AT WATER PLANTS					
Barium (ppm) 2021[1]	2	2		0.15[2]	
Combined Radium (pCi/L) 2021[1]	5	0		1.5[2]	
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10		0.17	
MONITORED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Chlorine (Disinfectant) (ppm)	4.0 (MRDL)	<4.0 (MRDLG)	0.15	1.4	2.43
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <60	NA	Highest LRAA: 1.8 ppb. Individual sample results range from not detected to 1.8 ppb.		
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <80	NA	Highest LRAA: 15.9 ppb. Individual sample results range from not detected to 15.9 ppb.		
MONITORED AT CUSTOMER TAP					
Lead (ppb) 2022[1]	AL= 90% Below 15 ppb	0	90% below 3 ppb. No sample above 15 ppb		
Copper (ppm) 2022[1]	AL= 90% below 1.3 ppm	1.3	90% below 0.06 ppm. No sample above 1.3 ppm		

SECONDARY STANDARDS				
Parameter/ Substance (units)	Recommended Levels (SMCL)	Detections		
		Minimum	Average	Maximum
Chloride (ppm) 2021[1]	250		16[2]	
Copper (ppm) 2021[1]	1		0.003[2]	
Iron (ppm) 2021[1]	0.3		0.04[2]	
Manganese (ppm) 2021[1]	0.05		0.001[2]	
pH (su) 2021[1]	6.5 - 8.5		7.7[2]	
Sulfate (ppm) 2021[1]	250		2[2]	
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) 2021[1]	500		178[2]	
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm) 2021[1]	NA		102[2]	
Zinc (ppm) 2021[1]	5		0.04[2]	

Notes

1 Subject to reduced monitoring requirements. Detected contaminant within the past five years, in the year indicated.

2 Only one sample was required to be taken for this analyte in the year indicated.

Belleau Woods | TX1011594

Purchased from City of Humble
100%

MIXED SURFACE WATER & GROUND WATER SOURCES

AVERAGE DAILY WATER PRODUCED

150K Gallons

CUSTOMERS

399

Parameter/ Substance (units) (sampled in 2023 unless noted)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Ideal Goal (EPA'S MCLG)	Detections		
			Minimum	Average	Maximum
MONITORED AT WATER PLANTS					
Arsenic[1] (ppb)	10	0	ND	1.6	6.2
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	ND	0.33	1.3
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.07	0.29	0.39
Combined Uranium (ppb)	30	0	ND	1	1.7
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	ND	20	60
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.12	0.18	0.23
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	ND	3	5
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	0	4	4.2	4.4
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND	0.22	0.85
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	ND	0.03	0.12
MONITORED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Chloramines (Disinfectant) (ppm)	4.0 (MRDL)	<4.0 (MRDLG)	0.5	2.1	3.8
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.3	0.46	0.65
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	ND	0.03	0.05
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <60	NA	Highest LRAA: 8 ppb. Individual sample result was 1.2 ppb		
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Yearly Average (LRAA) <80	NA	Highest LRAA: 11.6 ppb. Individual sample result was 10 ppb.		
MONITORED AT CUSTOMER TAP					
Lead (ppb)	AL= 90% Below 15 ppb	0	90% below 7.8 ppb. One sample above 15 ppb		
Copper (ppm)	AL= 90% below 1.3 ppm	1.3	90% below 0.37 ppm. No sample above 1.3 ppm		

SECONDARY STANDARDS

Parameter/ Substance (units)	Recommended Levels (SMCL)	Detections		
		Minimum	Average	Maximum
Chloride (ppm)	250	32	44	53
Copper (ppm)	1	0.002	0.007	0.014
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.12	0.18	0.23
Iron (ppm)	0.3	ND	0.09	0.3
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	ND	0.004	0.012
pH (su)	6.5 - 8.5	6.7	7.5	7.9
Sulfate (ppm)	250	7	10.2	18
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	187	262	321
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	NA	66.4	119	154
Zinc (ppm)	5	ND	0.04	0.14

Notes

1 For more background information regarding Arsenic - please refer to page 4.

CONTAMINANT SOURCES	
Arsenic	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Atrazine	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine & Chloramines	Water additives used to control microbes
Combined Radium	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Fluoride	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Lead	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate / Nitrite	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Picloram	Herbicide runoff
Selenium	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Simazine	Herbicide runoff
Thallium	Discharge from electronics, glass, and leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomenthanes (TTHMs)	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	Soil runoff
Xylenes	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

6:2 FTS	1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctane sulfonic acid
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria were found.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an Escherichia coli (E. coli) maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria were found on multiple occasions.
Lithium	Naturally occurring metal that may concentrate in brine waters; lithium salts are used as pharmaceuticals, used in electrochemical cells, batteries, and in organic syntheses
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average - average of results taken at specific monitoring location during previous four quarters
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level - highest level of a contaminant allowed. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs using best available treatment technology
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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 - 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 - level of drinking water disinfectant below known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not Detected
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	Pico Curies per liter (measure of radioactivity)
PFBA	Perfluorobutanoic acid
PFHxA	Perfluorohexanoic acid
PFPeA	Perfluoropentanoic acid
ppb	Parts Per Billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	Parts Per Million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level - National Secondary Drinking Water Standards are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water. The EPA recommends secondary standards but does not require systems to comply with limits
TT	Treatment Technique - required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
Turbidity	A measure of clarity of drinking water

REPORT WATER LEAKS

HOUSTON 311

HOUSTON311.ORG

CONSERVE WATER

Conserving water is crucial for our environment and future water security. By reducing water use through conservation and efficiency measures, we lessen the burden on water treatment plants and prolong the lifespan of our water sources. Visit **GiveWaterABreak.org** for practical tips and free resources to help save water. Every effort counts in ensuring a sustainable water supply for our communities and ecosystems.

PROTECT OUR PIPES

Seventy percent of sewer overflows in Houston result from clogs formed by fats, oils, and grease disposed of down drains, along with wipes flushed down toilets. These overflows not only require expensive repairs but also pose risks to public health and the environment. Remember to dispose of grease properly—by placing it in the trash—and only flush the "3 P's": Pee, Poo, and (Toilet) Paper. For more information, visit **ProtectOurPipes.org**

CONTACT US

To report concerns or file a complaint, please contact the **City of Houston's 3-1-1 Houston Service Center at 3-1-1 or 713.837.0311.** You can also submit your request online at www.houston311.org or download the Houston 3-1-1 app on your smartphone or tablet.

Using 3-1-1 to report concerns is the quickest way to address your issue and track its resolution. The City of Houston monitors these calls to gather vital information necessary for addressing issues properly.

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