JUSTICE-WILLOW SPRINGS
WATER COMMISSION

2024 Consumer Confidence Report **June, 2025**
Public Water Supply Facility ID: IL0315820
Commissioners: Mary Jane Mannella, George Pastorino
Director: Colleen H. Kelly
Water Commission Phone Number: (708) 458-7010

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Dear Water Customer;

The Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), is issuing the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for the monitoring period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, in conjunction with the City of Chicago and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) are issuing this report to you with important information concerning the quality and source of your drinking water.

Throughout 2024, the JWSWC supplied water that met all drinking water standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Illinois EPA. We are proud to report that there were no water quality violations during the 2024 monitoring year—demonstrating our ongoing commitment to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water to our community.

How do I get involved?

We prioritize in keeping our valued customers informed about their water quality. Feel free to attend to any of our regularly scheduled meetings at 7000 S Archer Rd in Justice, Illinois. The board meets at 9:30 AM every fourth Thursday of the month. These meetings are opened to the public and residents and business owners are encouraged to participate. Additionally, you can contact USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

If there are any questions or if additional information is needed, please contact Paul Gal, Responsible Operator in Charge at 708-458-7010.

How can I pay my water bill?

Every other month, you will receive a postcard bill from the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, and we offer several ways for you to pay your water bill.

We accept payment in the form of cash, check, money orders and credit cards. Please make checks payable to: Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission

Mail or drop off your payment. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. A drop box is located outside the building for your convenience when the office is closed. Payments can be mailed to: Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, 7000 S. Archer Road, Justice, IL 60458

Sign up for automatic payment (ACH Debit) through your checking or savings account. You will receive a bill, but the payment will be made from your bank automatically. ACH Debit is a secure transaction.

Check our website at https://jwswc.org for more details

I would like to share this information with my neighbors or loved ones:

Please share this information with all other individuals who drink this water, particularly those who may not have received this notice directly, such as residents of apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses. You can accomplish this by posting the notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. Copies of this report will be available at our office, 7000 S. Archer Rd in Justice, Illinois.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day, or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference. If you would like to learn more, please visit https://www.epa.gov/watersense

- Consider replacing faucets and toilets with ones that have a WaterSense label. WaterSense-labeled products are designed to use less water without sacrificing performance.
- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. (Make sure to flush as soon as the test is done, since food coloring can stain the tank.)
- Repair dripping faucets and showerheads. A drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year..
- A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water, while a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons. Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save up to 8 gallons per day.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes, or lower the water settings for smaller loads.
- Water your lawn or garden during the cool morning hours instead of midday to reduce evaporation. Look for sprinklers that produce droplets, not mist, or use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation for trees and shrubs.
- **To maintain a healthy lawn,** the JWSWC suggests watering deeply but infrequently. Ideally, you should aim for one inch of water per week. Over-watering not only wastes your money but also removes essential plant nutrients from the soil and can lead to disease problems in your lawn.
- Set sprinklers to water lawns and gardens only. Make sure you're not watering the street or sidewalk. Try not to overwater your landscaping—learn your plants' water needs and water different types appropriately.

Where does our water come from?

In 2024, the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission (JWSWC) purchased around 800 million gallons of water from the City of Chicago, which sources water from Lake Michigan via two treatment plants. The Jardine Plant, located near Navy Pier, treats water for northern areas, including JWSWC. Water is extracted from offshore cribs in Lake Michigan, treated at the Jardine Plant, and transported to the JWSWC's facility at 7000 S Archer Ave. It is then distributed through JWSWC's 85-mile water main system to local and retail customers.

The City of Chicago, which supplies water to McCook, draws its drinking water from Lake Michigan, the only Great Lake located entirely within the United States, bordered by Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Water is treated at two major facilities: the Jardine Water Purification Plant, serving northern areas, and the Sawyer Water Purification Plant, serving southern areas. Lake Michigan, the second-largest Great Lake by volume, holds about 1,180 cubic miles of water. Because Chicago relies on this surface water source, water quality is closely monitored through regular assessments conducted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA).

Source Water Assessment Summary

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

The Illinois EPA implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determined the susceptibility of the source water to contamination. The Illinois EPA has completed the Source Water Assessment Program for our supply.

Further information on our community water supply's Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling DWM at (312)742-2406 or by going online at https://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx.

Mandatory Water Testing

The JWSWC and the City of Chicago conduct water sampling as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Chicago, as the source water provider, tests for a broader range of contaminants, in accordance with EPA specifications.

The JWSWC tests the water supply for chlorine content daily to maintain the optimum levels for the consumers' needs. On a monthly basis, bacteriological samples are taken. On a yearly basis, samples are submitted for Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) Analysis. Samples are also provided for lead and copper monitoring on a schedule established by the IEPA. All testing and reports are performed according to the requirements of IEPA.

Susceptibility to Contamination

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 (1-800-426-4791).**

The sources of drinking water (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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 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 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.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be 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. EPA/CDC 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).**

Definitions

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

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the CCR calendar year.

Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 mg/L with a range of 0.6 mg/L to 0.8 mg/L.

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 Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Range of Detections: This column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year.

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

ND: Not detectable at testing limits. **N/A:** Not applicable

Sodium: There is no state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials who have concerns about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about the level of sodium in the water.

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

Unregulated Contaminants: A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

Copper Educational Statement

The JWSWC tests its water supply for copper contamination. The 2024 test results, shown in the table, indicate that the Commission is in compliance with IEPA copper regulations.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. Please with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Copper Range: <3.0 µg/L to 180 µg/L

To obtain a copy of the system's copper tap sampling data: https://jwswc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-Lead-and-Copper.pdf **or call Paul Gal, Responsible Operator in Charge at 708-458-7010.**

Lead Service Line Inventory

Our Community Water Supply has developed a service line material inventory. Our system inventory does not contain lead service lines.

The JWSWC, in coordination with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), has completed a thorough review of its water service infrastructure to identify any potential lead service lines. Following detailed inspections and an evaluation of historical construction records, the Commission has determined that there are no lead service lines in its system. This effort underscores the Commission's dedication to protecting public health, maintaining safe drinking water, and ensuring transparent communication with it's residents. If you would like to view the datasheets, please visit the links below.

To obtain a copy of the system's service line inventory: https://jwswc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/IEPA-2024-Final-Material-Inventory2.pdf **or call Paul Gal, Responsible Operator in Charge at 708-458-7010.**

Please note: This document is provided in PDF format. To view it, you will need a PDF reader such as Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your device, you can download it for free from the official Adobe website at https://get.adobe.com/reader/. Once installed, simply click the link above, and the document will open in Adobe Acrobat Reader for easy viewing and navigation.

Lead Educational Statement

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. The Justice Willow Springs Water Commission is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact **Paul Gal, Responsible Operator in Charge** at (**708) 458-7010**. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What are the risks if exposed to lead above the action level?

Infants and Children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Lead Testing & Lead Testing Sites

The JWSWC tests its water supply for lead contamination through designated lead testing site locations. The 2024 test results, shown in the table indicate that the Water Commission is in compliance with IEPA lead regulations.

Lead Range: <1.0 µg/L to 1.8 µg/L

To obtain a copy of the system's lead tap sampling data: https://jwswc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-Lead-and-Copper.pdf **or call Paul Gal, Responsible Operator in Charge at 708-458-7010.**

2024 City of Chicago Voluntary Monitoring

The City of Chicago has continued monitoring for Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E. coli in its source water as part of its water quality program. No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was detected in source water samples collected in 2024. Treatment processes have been optimized to provide effective barriers for removal of Cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia cysts in the source water, effectively removing these organisms in the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity through the removal of particles from the water, the possibility of Cryptosporidium and Giardia organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

In 2024, CDWM has also continued monitoring for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. USEPA has not yet established a standard for chromium-6, a contaminant of concern which has both natural and industrial sources. Please address any questions or concerns to DWM's Water Quality Division at 312-744-8190. Data reports on the monitoring program for chromium-6 are posted on the City's website which can be accessed at the following address below:

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water/supp_info/water_quality_resultsandreports/city_of_chicago_emergincontaminantstudy.html

For more information, please contact Patrick Schwer at 312-744-8190, Chicago Department of Water Management, 1000 East Ohio Street, Chicago, IL 60611, This notice is being sent to you by: The City of Chicago, Department of Water Management, Water System ID# IL0316000

UCMR5 Information

The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) program, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is crucial for assessing and addressing emerging threats to water quality across the nation. By monitoring contaminants not yet regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the EPA gains valuable insights into potential health risks and informs future regulatory decisions. The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCM) program to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Every five years the EPA reviews the list of contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List. The Justice Willow Springs Water Commission was not selected to participate in the 2024 UCMR5 program, but was selected to participate in the 2025 UCMR5 program by the EPA. For more information about the UCMR program, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr.

In February 2025, the JWSWC completed its first quarter testing under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5). The analysis included substances such as lithium, ADONA, HFPO-DA (GenX), multiple per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and other targeted contaminants, including: 11Cl-PF3OUdS, 4:2 FTS, 6:2 FTS, 8:2 FTS, 9Cl-PF3ONS, NFDHA-PFBA, PFBS, PFDA, PFDoA, PFEESA, PFHpA, PFHpS, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFMBA, PFMPA, PFNA, PFOS, PFPeA, PFPeS, PFUnA, NEtFOSAA, NMeFOSAA, PFTA, and PFTrDA.

All results from this round of testing fell within the acceptable limits established by the IEPA. The Commission will continue monitoring and is scheduled to complete three additional rounds of testing throughout the remainder of the year.

Special Notice for Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Data

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for The Justice Willow Springs Water Commission

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Paul Gal, Responsible, at (708) 458-7010. or by mail at 7000 S Archer Rd in Justice, Illinois. Copies of the 2025 UCMR5 testing to date are attached to this CCR report.

For more information about PFAS health advisories please visit the following link https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas/pfas-healthadvisory.html.

This notice is being sent to you by the JWSWC. State Water System ID#: IL0315820.

Date distributed: June, 2025

Water Testing Results

Contaminant / Additives	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units	Municipality	Violation	Collection Date	Likely Source of Contaminants
Regulated Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products									
Chlorine	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.9	0.8 - 1	ppm	JWSWC	N	2024	Water additive used to control microbes.
	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1	1 - 1	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No Goal	60	18	9.98 - 18.5	ppb	JWSWC	N	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection
	No Goal	60	17	5 - 20.4	ppb	Chicago	N	2024	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No Goal	80	41	15.32 - 55.7	ppb	JWSWC	N	2024	
	No Goal	80	32	13.1 - 44	ppb	Chicago	N	2024	
State Regulated Contaminants									
Fluoride	4	4	0.76	0.67 - 0.76	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Inorganic Contaminants									
Barium	2	2	0.0203	0.0198 - 0.0203	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	10	10	0.39	0.36 - 0.39	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate & Nitrite (as Nitorgen)	10	10	0.39	0.36 - 0.39	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	
Unregulated Contaminants									
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	28.2	25.3 - 28.2	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener
Sodium	N/A	N/A	9.18	8.87 - 9.18	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Radio Active & Synthetic Organic Contaminants									
Combined Radium 226/228	0	5	0.95	0.83 - 0.95	pCi/L	Chicago	N	2/4/2020	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	3.1	2.8 - 3.1	pCi/L	Chicago	N	2/4/2020	

Lead and Copper									
	MCLG	**Action Level (AL)**	**90th Percentile**	**# Sites Over AL**	**Units**	**Municipality**	**Violation**	**Date**	**Likely Source of Contaminants**
Lead	0	15	0	0	ppb	JWSWC	N	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	0	15	7.1	0	ppb	Chicago	N	2024	
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.082	0	ppm	JWSWC	N	2024	
	1.3	1.3	0.049	0	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	

Coliform Bacteria							
	Total Coliform (MCLG)	**Total Coliform (MCL)**	**Highest No. of Positive**	**Fecal Coliform or E. Coli (MCL)**	**Municipality**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contaminants**
Coliform Bacteria	0	5%	0.2	N/A	Chicago	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Water Clarity						
Turbidity	**Limit (Treatment Technique)**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**Municipality**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contaminants**
NTU/Lowest Monthly % ≤0.3 NTU	95% ≤ 0.3 NTU	Lowest Monthly Percentage: 99.7%	99.7% - 100%	Chicago	N	Soil runoff.
NTU/Highest Single Measurement	TT (Litmit 1 NTU)	39%	N/A	Chicago	N	

2024 JWSWC Violations: NONE

Units of Measurement

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water

%≤0.3 NTU: Percent of samples less than or equal to 0.3 NTU

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity