


2014 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE CITY OF WESTON  
SAWGRASS / SPRINGTREE COMBINED WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

# THE CITY OF WESTON

## 2014 WATER QUALITY REPORT



▶ Also,  
Water Conservation  
Facts and Money  
Saving Tips...

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# THE CITY OF WESTON

## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

*We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.*

*We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.*



*The City of Sunrise Utilities Department (which owns and maintains the water treatment plant) routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws.*

*Este reporte contiene informacion importante sobre su agua potable. Para preguntas o asistencia en Español por favor llamenos al centro de comunidad (954) 389-4321*

## ▶ YOUR WATER SOURCE



Our water source is from groundwater wells that draw from the Biscayne Aquifer. The groundwater wells are 70 to 90 feet deep and draw water from this aquifer, which is replenished by rainwater. South Florida's topography creates a very effective purification system by filtering water through many feet of soil, sand, and rock. Although the Biscayne Aquifer is prolific, it is not limitless. With the increased pressure of a growing population and a focus on restoration of the Everglades, the competition for water in South Florida is stronger than ever. It's easy to see why we should be thinking about our water supply and how we can conserve this precious resource.

Treatment of your water includes state of the art membrane softening at the Sawgrass Water Treatment Plant. Treated water is stored to meet peak demand periods. Chlorine and ammonia are added for disinfection, and fluoride is added for dental health purposes.

- In 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment for the City of Sunrise-Sawgrass Public Water System. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp) or they can be obtained from the City of Sunrise by calling 954-888-6000.

## ▶ YOUR WATER REPORT



***We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility and any regularly scheduled meetings, please contact Ted Petrides at (954) 888-6000.***

***We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. The City of Sunrise Utilities Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period January 1 to December 31, 2014. Data obtained before January 1, 2014 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.***



# ▶ ABOUT WATER QUALITY...



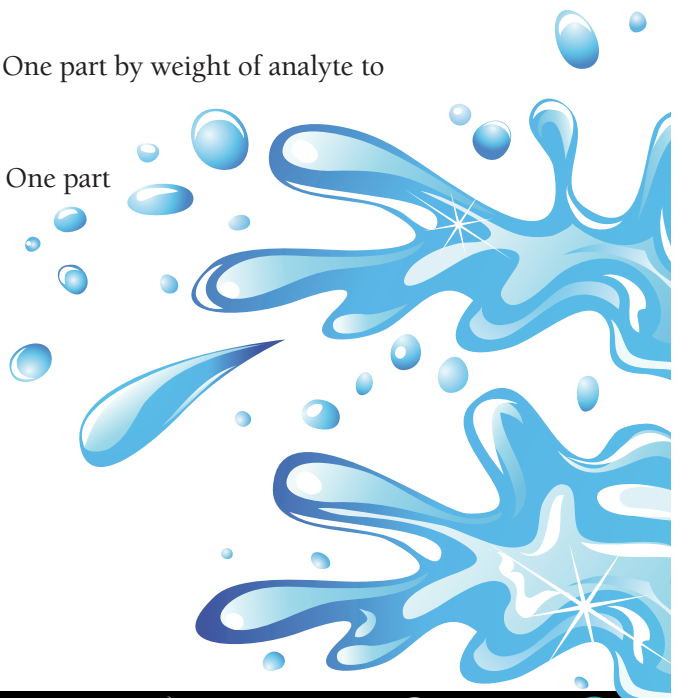
*Water treatment and testing is a very specific and terminology filled business.*

*In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations.*

*To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:*

- **Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 Contaminant Level Goal or 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.
- **Action Level or (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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 or 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.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/l}$ ):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.
- **N/A** means not applicable, does not apply.
- **ND** means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

▶ *About Water  
Quality Continued  
on Next Page*



# ▶ ABOUT WATER QUALITY...



**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.**

**Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) 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.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) 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.
- (E) 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, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

**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. The City of Sunrise Utility Department 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 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

▶ **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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.



# NON-SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS TABLE

*This table just looks scary – but it's not... It shows clean, healthy drinking water*

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Year Tested	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected /Range (Sawgrass WTP)	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria (Highest Monthly %)	July 2014	N	1.5%	0	>5.0%*	Naturally present in the environment	
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 226 + 228 pCi/L	May 2014	N	0.358	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	May 2014	N	0.54	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.	
Barium (ppm)	May 2014	N	0.0022	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (ppm)	May 2014	N	0.71	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels of 0.7	
Nitrate (ppm)	May 2014	N	0.077	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Sodium (ppm)	May 2014	N	45.0	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil	
<b>Stage 1 – Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Chloramines (ppm)	Jan - Dec. 2014	N	2.9 annual average (Range 0.1 - 3.9)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.	
<b>Stage 2 – Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Jan. - Dec. 2014	N	7.0 (Max LRAA) (Range 2.4 to 12.0)	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	Jan. - Dec. 2014	N	7.9 (max LRAA) (Range 2.8 to 9.8)	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
<b>Lead and Copper (Tap Water)</b>							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)		AL Exceeded?	90th Percentile Result = 0.083	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL = 0	1.3	Action Level (AL) = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)		AL Exceeded?	90th Percentile Result = 3.6	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL = 1	0	Action Level (AL) = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

\* For systems collecting at least 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacterial in >5% of monthly samples.

## Unused or unwanted medications

Please DO NOT FLUSH your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains. For more information, please click here: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>

▶ We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.



# ▶ WATER CONSERVATION



## ***Saving Water in and around your home***

The statistically average single-family residence uses 16 thousand gallons per month. Individual use may vary based on the number of people in your household, and irrigation demand.

The single largest controllable use of water is irrigation. It has been determined that the most efficient time to water your landscaping is after 5:00 p.m. and before 9:00 a.m.

## ***Permanent Broward County Landscape Watering Restriction***

A permanent twice-a-week landscape watering schedule is in place for County, city and private water customers in Broward County. Watering is allowed before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. on your designated days.

- Even-numbered addresses are permitted to water on Thursday and/or Sunday and;
- Odd-numbered addresses can water on Wednesday and/or Saturday.

Please note that everyone's landscaping is different, as such, monitor the condition of the vegetation when making changes to watering patterns. The following are general guidelines that will assist in minimizing the amount of water used to irrigate your lawn.

- Use an automatic sprinkler timer (timers do not forget to turn the sprinklers off).
- In general, sprinklers should run for 15 to 20 minutes per zone.
- Retrofit your old sprinkler timer with a rain sensor. This device will prevent your sprinkler system from coming on when it is raining. All new systems are required to have one!
- Xeriscape your property. The use of indigenous plants that can flourish with little or no additional water will not only help preserve the natural beauty of our city, but will save you money on your water bill.
- Check your sprinkler system on a regular basis for loose, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. Use the right heads. Either use empty tuna cans to measure how much water various parts of your lawn receives, or simply walk through the lawn to make sure the entire lawn is being watered.
- Do not waste water by having sprinkler heads spray on fences or driveways.
- Don't clean sidewalks and driveways with water. A hose can use 25 gallons in just 5 minutes. Remember: A broom is best.

***Saving water not only helps save our environment but will save you money as well.***

## **WATER - WHAT YOU USE:**

Ever wonder how much water you use for daily activities?

- Toilet flush = 5 gallons
- Dishwasher = 12 gallons per load
- Washing machine = 47 gallons per load
- Bath = 36 gallons per tub
- Brushing teeth, showering or washing hands = 4 gallons per minute
- Yard hose = 9 gallons per minute

## **SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVING WATER**

- For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save up to 1,000 gallons of water per month.
- Efficient washing machines can save up to 20 gallons per load. These also save on energy. If you are replacing laundry appliances, consider the new horizontal axis models. These not only save up to 40% of water used, they deliver even more substantial energy savings – up to 65%!
- When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain, use it to water your trees or shrubs.
- Leaks, from toilets or faucets, can result in increases in your water bill, damage to your home, as well as thousands of wasted gallons of water! A single leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons in a day!

Faucets typically leak because of old gaskets, washers or O-rings and corroded valve seats. Today, most faucets can be categorized as being "washerless" (port-type faucets), or compression (washer). Note: A washerless faucet does not mean it will never leak, rather the parts will last longer since their design minimizes friction and wear.

▶ ***The South Florida Water Management District offers a variety of ways to Reduce Your Water Use, No Excuse!***



# FAQS



## ***Does the City utilize conservation practices when installing landscaping?***

With a strong focus on water conservation, over 60% of new plant materials installed were native plants and 20% true xeriscape materials, all requiring substantially less water than non-native plants. The conservation of water saves money and assists the environment.

## ***Why do I see areas of city property being watered during the day?***

The City uses water from its canals and lakes for irrigation, not potable water. If we do water, the City can only run each irrigation zone twice per week, either Wed. & Sat. or Thurs. & Sun. between the hours of 12 AM and 10AM. In City rights of way alone the city has 88 clocks with an average of 20 zones each for a total of 1,760 zones turning on only one time during a two day cycle. Efforts are made to water the front side of berms and anything affecting roadways and sidewalks up until 7:00 AM and to water the backsides of berms and areas that do not affect roadways or sidewalks between 7AM and 10AM.

– **Rain Sensors:** Along with consciously turning off all the clocks if we feel it is going to rain, we have 88 rain sensors on our clocks which are checked monthly to ensure they are in working order. These rain sensors automatically shut down the clocks if they detect more than a ¼” of rain in a three day period; this safeguard is for those rainy nights when nobody was expecting rain.

– **Maintenance Checks:** The city is allowed to run each zone for 10 minutes per week in order to do maintenance checks. This is the major cause of phone calls because these checks can be done anytime during normal working hours, usually between 7 AM and 4 PM.

– **New plant materials** can be watered every day except Friday for the first 30 days and on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday for new plants in the ground 31 to 60 days. If more than 50% of an irrigation zone is new material, it can be watered during the day except Friday, during the midnight to 10:00AM timeframe.

## ***Should I buy bottled water?***

Some people drink bottled water because they think it is better for them than water out of the tap, but that's not true. In the United States, local governments make sure water from the faucet is safe. There is also growing concern that chemicals in the bottles themselves may leach into the water. Drinking water in Weston meets all of the federal and state drinking water standards. You can buy bottled water, but it costs up to 1,000 times more than municipal drinking water. Of course, in emergencies such as hurricanes, bottled water can be a vital source of drinking water.

Plastic bottles are also an environmental waste concern: For every six water bottles used in the US, only one makes it to the recycling bin. Americans add 29 billion water bottles a year to the waste stream and manufacturers use 17 million barrels of crude oil to produce them.

## ***Does the City offer recycling in parks for sports drinks, soda cans and water bottles?***

The City has very visible and creative recycling containers in all three of our major active/sports parks: Weston Regional, Tequesta and Vista Parks. Look for this high-profile design and help the recycling effort.

## ***How do chemicals get into my water?***

Many of them, such as calcium, magnesium, iron, and others, occur naturally in water, and most of these “natural” chemicals are not harmful to your health. However, surface runoff pollutes reservoirs and rivers. People however are also responsible for a lot of the problem. For instance, if you paint your house with an oil-based paint, clean your brushes with paint thinner, and dump the paint thinner in the backyard, you can contaminate an aquifer that may be someone's water supply.

\* It is a violation of City and state laws to dump trash or introduce pollutants into the City's water bodies and wetland mitigation areas.



# CONSERVATION LINKS & CONTACT INFORMATION



To promote and encourage residential participation and education on the environment and water conservation, please find links below to numerous local organizations dedicated to environment preservation and assisting Broward residents in creating Florida-friendly landscapes.

## Links To Conservation Information:

- South Florida Water Management District  
<http://www.savewaterfl.com>
- Turf and Landscape BMP Manual  
<http://www.broward.org/KnowTheFlow/Documents/LandscapeBMPBrochureWeb.pdf>
- Water Conservation  
<http://www.sfwmd.gov/conserve>
- How to help the Everglades  
<http://www.sfwmd.gov/everglades4ever>

## Broward County



- NatureScape  
<http://www.broward.org/naturescape/>
- The Impact of Fertilizer  
<http://www.broward.org/WaterMatters/Pages/ProtectingOutdoorsFertilizer.aspx>
- Know the Flow  
<http://www.broward.org/knowtheflow/>
- Water Matters  
<http://www.broward.org/watermatters/>

Water Efficiency and Self-Conducted Water Audits at Commercial and Institutional Facilities. This is a comprehensive hands-on guidebook that was developed to help commercial and institutional facility managers improve water use efficiency and lower operating costs at their facilities.

To preview the guidebook, click here.

## Notifications

For City information and/or our weekly newsletter delivered directly to your inbox, sign up for Weston E-notifications by clicking here:

<http://www.westonfl.org/EmailSubscriptions.aspx>

## CONTACTS (CONTACTOS)

**Director of Public Works**  
**Karl C. Thompson, P.E.**  
954-385-2600

**Water billing and usage inquiries:**  
**Sunrise Customer Services Center**  
954-746-3232

Para preguntas sobre factures o desgastes, Favor comunicarse con el Servicio al Cliente al 954-746-3232

**Weston Public Works Services Center**  
For water main and water meter inquiries  
954-385-2600

## Centro De Servicios Publicos:

Para preguntas sobre la tuberia principal o el contador de agua, favor del llamar al 954-385-2600

## PROBLEMS (PROBLEMAS)

**Bonaventure area of Weston**  
Weekdays, 9AM-5PM - 954-746-3232  
After hours & weekends - 954-888-6087  
Served by the City of Sunrise

**Indian Trace area** (all areas except Bonaventure)  
Weekdays, 9AM-5PM - 954-746-3232  
After hours & weekends - 954-385-2600  
Served by the Indian Trace Development District

For City Information [www.westonfl.org](http://www.westonfl.org)



## Emergency notifications ONLY

<http://www.westonfl.org/Residents/Hurricane/CodeRed.aspx>  
or call 954-385-2002

## RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS:

The City of Weston utilizes the CodeRED Emergency Notification System - an ultra high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications. CodeRED is used for emergency communications ONLY. \*\*Your contact information is private, exempt from public records laws, and cannot be shared, requested or sold.

**USES:** This system allows us to send critical communications, to all or targeted areas within the City in case of an **emergency situation** that requires immediate action. This system is capable of dialing the entire City within minutes. It delivers a recorded message from the City Manager's office describing the situation and any instructions for immediate or future action.