

2025 Water Quality Report

City of Galesburg - Water Division Facility Number: IL0950200

The Water Division is committed to providing our customers with the best water possible, which is safe to drink and aesthetically pleasing. In 2025, as in previous years, your drinking water was tested in accordance to health standards set by regulatory agencies. Those agencies are both the United States and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, USEPA and IEPA respectively.

As our customer, we would like you to fully understand the efforts we make to provide safe drinking water. It is our belief that an informed customer is our best ally. This report summarizes the quality of water that we provided for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025, including details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Federal and State health standards.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you have any questions about this report or concerns about our water system, please contact Mike Mackey, Water Superintendent at 309/345-3648. You are also welcome to attend the City Council meetings regularly scheduled on the first and third Monday of each month. Visit the city's website at www.ci.galesburg.il.us for more details on the Water Division. If you would like a copy of this report, please stop by City Hall or call us at 309/345-3649.

Where Your Water Comes From

In the 1950's, with the vision to provide better water from a more reliable source, the City of Galesburg made the decision to abandon its deep wells in Galesburg and start obtaining groundwater from an aquifer located near Oquawka, Illinois. An aquifer is an under-ground geological formation that contains water. A collector well and four drilled, gravel-packed wells withdraw the groundwater from the aquifer along the Mississippi River. The City maintains two of its deep wells located at its treatment facility in Galesburg. These wells are for emergency use only.

How Your Water Is Treated

In 2010 a new water treatment facility was completed near our wells. In the effort to supply you with the safest drinking water possible, our treatment process involves several steps. The water is filtered to remove iron and manganese which, when present, will stain laundry and plumbing fixtures. The water is chlorinated for disinfection of bacteria and viruses that may be present. Fluoride is added to help promote strong teeth. A phosphate inhibitor is added for corrosion control of lead and copper. All chemicals added to your water are closely monitored and tested in our laboratory to ensure that the proper dosages are achieved. The laboratory is also state certified to test water for coliform bacteria.

LEAD—ARE YOU AT RISK?

The City of Galesburg found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Some homes are considered high-risk in that they have a lead water service line and/or copper plumbing with lead solder. We continue to treat the water with a corrosion inhibitor to further reduce your exposure to lead in the drinking water.

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 Galesburg 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 Standards 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 the City of Galesburg at 309/345-3649. 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>.

The City began the Lead Service Line Replacement Program in 2017, replacing approximately 500 lead services each year. We completed the lead service line replacement program in 2023 with over 3,000 lead service lines replaced. The City of Galesburg serves no lead service lines, complete lead tap sampling data is available for review by contacting us at 309/345-3649. If you would like more information about your service line material please feel free to contact us at 309/345-3649.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The Source Water Assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please call the Water Division at 309/345-3649.

To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CONTAMINATION:

To determine the City of Galesburg's susceptibility to groundwater contamination, the Illinois EPA reviewed an engineering report for the City of Galesburg.

Based on the above document and water quality monitoring data, this community water supply's source water is susceptible to SOC and VOC contamination. Also, as a result of monitoring conducted at the wells and entry point to the distribution system, the land use activities, and the source water protection initiatives by the city, the City of Galesburg's source water is not susceptible to IOC contamination.

Furthermore, in anticipation of the U.S. EPA's proposed Ground Water Rule, the Illinois EPA has determined that the City of Galesburg's wells are not vulnerable to viral contamination. This determination is based on the evaluation of the following criteria during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: the community's wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper site conditions; a hydro-geologic barrier exists that prevents pathogen movement; all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected; monitoring data did not indicate a history of disease outbreak; and the sanitary survey of the water supply did not indicate a viral contamination threat. However, having stated this, the "U.S. EPA is proposing to require States to identify systems in karst, gravel, and fractured rock aquifer systems as sensitive and these systems must perform routine source water monitoring." Because some of the community's wells are constructed in an unconfined sand and gravel aquifer, the Illinois EPA evaluated the well hydraulics associated with the City of Galesburg's well field. The wells range between 74 and 2094 feet overburden. This should provide an adequate degree of filtration to prevent the movement of pathogens into the wells.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION EFFORTS:

The Illinois Environmental Protection Act provides minimum protection zones of 400 and 200 feet for the City of Galesburg's wells. These minimum protection zones are regulated by the Illinois EPA. To further reduce the risk to the source water, the facility has implemented a wellhead protection program which includes a management and education committee, source water protection management strategies, and contingency planning. This effort resulted in the community water supply receiving a special exception permit from the Illinois EPA, which allows a reduction in the SOC and VOC monitoring. The outcome of this monitoring reduction has saved the facility considerable laboratory analysis costs.

CONTAMINANTS – EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

1. 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 materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from 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 may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems; and

Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

2. 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).
3. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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.
4. 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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Your water is monitored on a regular basis for regulated and non-regulated contaminants. This table is a list of a contaminants which were detected in your water.

2025 WATER QUALITY DATA REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED

*See page 4 for Definition of Terms & Table Footnotes

COLIFORM BACTERIA	MCLG	TOTAL COLIFORM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL	HIGHEST NO. OF POSITIVE	FECAL COLIFORM OR E. COLI MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL	TOTAL NO. OF POSITIVE E. COLI OR FECAL COLIFORM SAMPLES	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION			
	0	0	0		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.			
LEAD AND COPPER (UNIT OF MEASUREMENT)			ALG	AL	90TH PERCENTILE	COLLECTION DATE	NUMBER OF SITES OVER AL	VIOLATION	RANGE	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Copper (ppb)			1300	1300	500	04/15/2025	0 of 30	No	24-590	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
			1300	1300	480	10/15/2025	0 of 30		39-570	
Lead (ppb)			0	15	<1.0	04/25/2025	0 of 30	No	<1.0-1.9	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
			0	15	<1.0	10/14/2025	0 of 30		<1.0	
REGULATED CONTAMINANT (UNIT OF MEASUREMENT)			MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED		RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	VIOLATION	COLLECTION DATE	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS										
Chlorine (ppm)*			MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.2		1.0 - 1.4	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAAs [Total Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)*			N/A	60	27.9		10.9-27.9	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHMS [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)*			N/A	80	52.8		25.9-52.8	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS										
Barium (ppm)			2	2	0.040			No	8/20/2024	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)			4	4	0.737		.670-.737	No	9/2/2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)			10	10	1.5		N/A	No	8/20/2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppm)			50	50	.0012		N/A	No	8/20/2024	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Sodium (ppm)			N/A	N/A	10		N/A	No	8/20/2024	Erosion of natural deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS										
Combined Radium 226/228			0	5	.401		N/A	No	7/19/2021	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha excluding Radon and Uranium (pCi/L)			0	15	<2.8		N/A	No	7/24/2024	Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminants are monitored on various schedules, these are the most current results

Our water system is required to monitor for contaminants in the raw water from our emergency back-up wells located in Galesburg. Data for emergency wells are available upon request.
Results may be obtained by calling 309/345-3649.

DEFINITION OF TERMS – For Water Quality Data

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. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

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 disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's 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.

Highest Level Detected: This column represents the highest level of sample result data collected during the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) calendar year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.

Range of Levels Detected: 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.

N/A: Not applicable

* **Avg** – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly and quarterly samples.

Unit of Measurement:

ppm – Parts per million, or milligrams per liter, or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb – Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter, or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

pCi/L – Picocuries per liter

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE FOOTNOTES

COPPER	This 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. People with Wilsons Disease should consult their personal doctor.
LEAD	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.
SODIUM	There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

PFAS Statewide Investigation

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) recently tested our water system for compounds known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as part of a statewide investigation of community water supplies. PFAS are a group of thousands of manmade substances that have been produced in the United States since the 1940s and utilized for a variety of applications ranging from water and stain proofing to firefighting. Some PFAS have been phased out of production due to environmental and human health concerns, yet they persist in the environment and may contaminate surface and ground waters.

Illinois EPA testing has determined that one or more PFAS were detected in our water system at values greater than or equal to the Illinois EPA health-based Draft Guidance Levels.

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they do not break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

Where can PFAS be found?

PFAS can be found in:

- **Food** packaged in PFAS-containing materials, processed with equipment that used PFAS, or grown in PFAS-contaminated soil or water.
- **Commercial household products**, including stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products (e.g., Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products, and fire-fighting foams (a major source of groundwater contamination at airports and military bases where firefighting training occurs).
- **Workplace**, including production facilities or industries (e.g., chrome plating, electronics manufacturing, or oil recovery) that use PFAS.
- **Drinking water**, typically localized, and associated with a specific facility (e.g., manufacturer, landfill, wastewater treatment plant, firefighter training facility).
- **Living organisms**, including fish, animals, and humans, where PFAS have the ability to build up and persist over time.

Why are PFAS important?

PFAS are found in a wide range of consumer products that people use daily such as cookware, pizza boxes and stain repellents. Most people have been exposed to PFAS. Certain PFAS can accumulate and stay in the human body for long periods of time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health outcomes in humans. The most-studied PFAS chemicals are PFOA and PFOS. Studies indicate that PFOA and PFOS can cause reproductive and developmental, liver and kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory animals. Both chemicals have caused tumors in animals. The most consistent findings are increased cholesterol levels among exposed populations, with more limited findings related to:

- low infant birth weights
- effects on the immune system
- cancer (for PFOA)
- thyroid hormone disruption (for PFOS)

What is the City of Galesburg doing about PFAS?

The City of Galesburg has taken measures to respond to the results of this testing. As proactive measure(s) to protect our drinking water supply, the City of Galesburg is working to:

- continue to monitor PFAS values through quarterly sampling
- test and identify which water source intake/well is affected
- isolate the affected water source intake/well to reduce levels; WL50334 and WL50335 have the highest PFAS levels and have been isolated from the system
- continue evaluating treatment options and developing a plan to reduce PFAS in potable water

The City of Galesburg is currently working with an engineering firm to evaluate various water treatment options to reduce/potentially eliminate PFAS concentrations

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are contaminants you may see reported in your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for the first time.

In 2023, our PWS was sampled quarterly as part of the State of Illinois PFAS Statewide Investigation. Results from this sampling indicated six PFAS contaminants were detected in our drinking water with the wells and tap water being both above and below the health advisory levels established by the Illinois EPA. Follow up monitoring is being conducted.

PFAS Analyte	Draft Guidance Level (ppt)	Range of Levels Detected WL50333	Range of Levels Detected WL50334	Range of Levels Detected WL50335	Range of Levels Detected WL01584	Range of Levels Detected WL02130	Range of Levels Detected WL02176	Range of Levels Detected TP02
Perfluorooctanoic acid (ppt) PFOA	4	12-19	<2.0-17	62-70	13	19	<1.9-<2.0	5.8-8.6
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (ppt) PFOS	4	4.5-4.9	<2.0-17	13-17	3.5-4.1	4.4-4.9	<1.9-<2.0	<2.0-2.6
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (ppt) PFBS	N/A	6.6-9.3	<2.0-30	27-31	5.2-6.3	<1.9-<2.0	<1.9-<2.0	2.2-4.3
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (ppt) HFPO-DA	10	<1.9-<2.0	<2.0	<1.8 - <2.0	<1.9-<2.0	<2.0	<1.9-<2.0	<1.9-<2.0
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (ppt) PFHxS	10	2.6-2.9	<2.0-5.5	5-5.4	<1.9-<2.0	<2.0-<2.1	<1.9-<2.0	<1.9-<2.0
Perfluorononanoic acid (ppt) PFNA	10	<1.9-<2.0	<2.0	<1.8-<2.0	<1.9-<2.0	<2.0	<1.9-<2.0	<1.9-<2.0

For more information about PFAS health advisories visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/pfas-healthadvisory.aspx>

ppt = Part per Trillion

ND = Not Detected

*A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for these contaminants has been established by the Illinois EPA. All Community Water Systems have been given until 04/26/2029 to meet PFAS drinking water standards.

UCMR 5 REGULATIONS

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Galesburg

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 the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have the right to know.

SEMIVOLATILE ORGANICS—PFAS—PIA			
COLLECTION DATE	PARAMETER	RESULT ug/L	MRL
08/24/2023	PFBA	0.054	0.0053
	PFPeA	0.011	0.0032
	PFBS	0.0035	0.0032
	PFOA	0.0080	0.0042
02/27/2023	PFBA	0.085	0.0047
	PFPeA	0.015	0.0028
	PFBS	0.0066	0.0028
	PFOA	0.014	0.0038
	PFOS	0.0042	0.0038