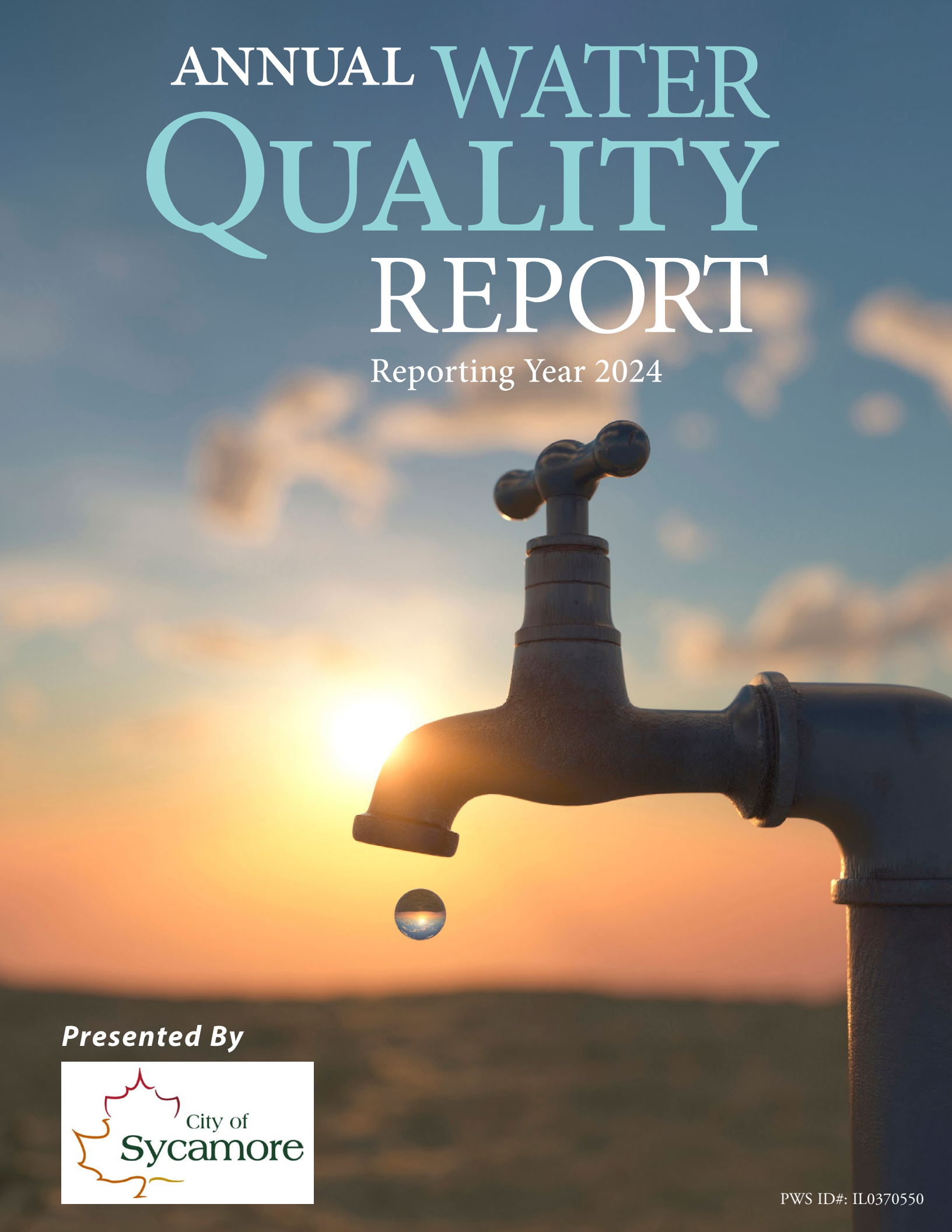
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By

City of Sycamore

PWS ID#: IL0370550

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Sycamore has five wells that draw water from deep sandstone aquifers. These wells are capable of pumping approximately 6.7 million gallons per day. All wells are equipped with backup generators for emergency conditions. The water pressure for Sycamore's system is provided by two elevated storage tanks with a total storage capacity of 2.25 million gallons.

Vulnerability Waiver

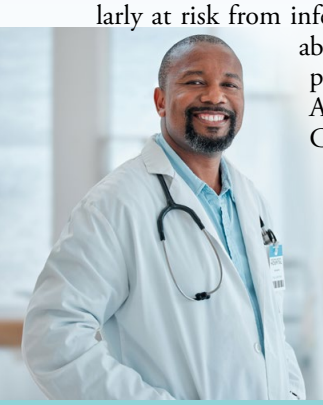
Due to favorable monitoring history, aquifer characteristics, and inventory of potential sources of contamination, our water supply was issued a vulnerability waiver for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and synthetic organic compounds (SOCs) for some city wells. The vulnerability waiver reduces the amount of testing that is required at the city wells.

Community Participation

City of Sycamore Council meetings are held at 308 West State Street on the first and third Monday of every month.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.



Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

PFAS Statewide Investigation

In 2024 we sampled all wells for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) testing requirements. More than 20 PFAS compounds were sampled, and none were detected above laboratory limits in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS health advisories, visit https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas.html.

Questions?

Additional information concerning the public water supply is available by contacting Matt Anderson, Director of Public Works, at (815) 895-3545. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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:

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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration 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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the U.S. EPA by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Source Water Assessment

To determine Sycamore's susceptibility to groundwater contamination, information obtained during a well site survey performed by the Illinois Rural Water Association was reviewed. Based on this information, 74 potential sources of contamination were identified within the survey area of this water supply's wells. The Illinois EPA (IEPA) does not consider the city's source water susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including monitoring conducted at the wells, monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system, and the available hydrogeological data on the wells.

In anticipation of the U.S. EPA's proposed Ground Water Rule, the IEPA has determined that the water supply is not vulnerable to viral contamination. This determination is based on the completed 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 hydrogeological barrier exists that should prevent pathogen movement, all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected, monitoring data did not indicate history of disease outbreak, and a sanitary survey of the water supply did not indicate a viral contamination threat. Because the community's wells are constructed in a confined aquifer, which should minimize the movement of pathogens into the wells, well hydraulics were not considered to be a significant factor in the vulnerability determination and were not evaluated for this groundwater supply.

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, visit epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl. The city's updated source water protection plan was reviewed and approved by the IEPA in June 2024. The source water protection plan can be found at cityofsycamore.com/water.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Sycamore 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, or 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact Sycamore Public Works at (815) 895-3545. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory and most recent lead tap sampling results may be found at www.cityofsycamore.com/water. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's UCMR5 program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2024	15	0	14.5	3.37–14.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2024	10	0	0.192	ND–0.192	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	2	1.22–2.23	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	1	0.49–3.6	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2024	100	100	5.23	2.82–5.23	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2024	5	0	5	1.27–7.52	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4	4	0.81	0.60–0.97	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	10	2.6–10	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Iron (ppb)	2024	1,000[2]	NA	199	155–199	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2024	150[3]	NA	4.83	4.31–4.83	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2024	50	50	0.519	0.248–0.519	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	2024	NS[4]	NA	10.5	7.83–10.5	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used in water softener regeneration
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	18	4.4–18	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Zinc (ppb)	2024	5,000[5]	NA	4.83	4.61–4.83	No	Naturally occurring; Discharge from metal factories

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community[1]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2024	1.3	1.3	0.82	0.024–1.1	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2024	15	0	4.5	<1.0–26	1/30	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES (UCMR5 TESTING DETECTIONS) [6]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lithium (ppb)	2024	13.1	11.3–15.9	NA

Monitoring Violations Annual Notice Template

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Sycamore IL0370550

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 1/1/24 – 12/31/2024 we collected samples for TTHM and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) during the incorrect sampling month and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for these contaminants, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
TTHM	Annual	2	9/1/2024 – 9/30/2024	8/29/2024
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Annual	2	9/1/2024 – 9/30/2024	8/29/2024

What happened? What is being done?

These samples were collected on 8/29/24, however the sampling period was 9/1/24 – 9/30/2024. There were no MCL violations and the samples met requirements. This was a timing issue, as we collected samples early.

For more information, please contact Bryan Carlson at 815-895-3545 or 475 N Cross St. Sycamore, IL.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Sycamore Water System ID# IL0370550 Date distributed 5/5/25

[1] The table summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please contact Sycamore Public Works at (815) 895-3545 or visit cityofsycamore.com/water.
[2] Iron is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.
[3] Manganese is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.
[4] Sodium is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.
[5] Zinc is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.
[6] No MCL or mandatory health effects language for this contaminant has been established by either state or federal regulations. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

About Our Monitoring Violations

1. We failed to test our drinking water for haloacetic acids (HAA5) and total trihalomethanes (TTHM) during the correct sampling period in 2024. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during 2024.

We collected samples for TTHM and HAA5 in the incorrect sampling month. These samples were collected on August 29, 2024, but the sampling period was from September 1 through 30, 2024. There were no maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations, and the samples met requirements. This was a timing issue; we collected samples early.

2. We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

The original URL provided for the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) did not include ".com" and was thus not complete. The 2023 CCR was correct and posted, but the notification was not. This was corrected by November 1, 2024.

Water Treatment Process Overview

Raw water from the well is sent to Water Remediation Technologies (WRT) filters for radium removal. After the water passes through the WRT filters, the treatment chemicals are added. First, a phosphate blend is added as a corrosion inhibitor and to sequester iron and manganese. Then fluoride is added to promote healthy teeth per the Illinois Department of Public Health. Last, chlorine is added for disinfection.

The City of Sycamore is in the process of constructing a hydrous manganese oxide treatment plant for radium removal at Well 7. The plant is anticipated to be completed in early 2025.