



# A Community Update

## City of Stanwood 2011 Water Quality Report

Public Water System ID #83650H

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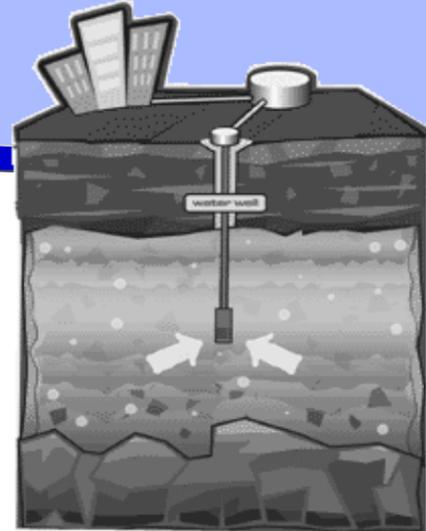
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98292



# City of Stanwood

## Water Quality Report

### For the Year 2011



The City of Stanwood is pleased to present the annual Water Quality Report for the 2011 calendar year. We are committed to delivering quality drinking water. You can be confident that the water provided at your tap meets or exceeds national and state regulations. This report will inform you on the source of your water, what compounds are currently in your water, and how well your water complies with current regulations enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

### Your Water Sources

The City of Stanwood currently has five groundwater sources that withdraw water from aquifers. Aquifers are natural reservoirs of water found underground within layers of gravel, rock and sand. This water becomes replenished as rainwater seeps through layers of earth, which act as a natural filter. Hatt Slough Springs (source 1), Bryant Well #1 (source 2) and Cedarhome Well (source 7) are supplied by aquifers. Bryant Well #2 (source 3) and Fure Well (source 4) are not in operation at this time.

The DOH Office of Drinking Water rates all water sources based on their contaminant susceptibility as part of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). Most of the city's sources are designated as high susceptibility due to the type of aquifer, depth of well and nearby contaminant sources. SWAP data for the City of Stanwood is online at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/sw/assessment.htm>

The Bryant Well #1 is the city's primary source of water and it provides the majority of the city's water supply. The Bryant Wells are located near Stanwood High School off 268th Street NW (Stanwood-Bryant Road). Water pumped from Bryant Well #1 is filtered for purity and chlorinated for disinfection before it is sent out to the distribution system and finally arrives at your tap. Water pumped from all other sources is chlorinated for disinfection before it is sent to the distribution system.

Our distribution system is a network of underground pipes that carry water from our sources to your tap. Our water system operators continue to track the quantity and quality of water from source to sink every day.

### Important Health Information

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in water include:

- ◆ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, from wildlife;
- ◆ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which are naturally occurring;
- ◆ **Organic contaminants**, which are byproducts of disinfection processes; and
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring.

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 for 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 (1-800-426-4791).



Knittle Reservoirs and Cedarhome Elevated Reservoir

**Mayor**  
Dianne White

**2011 Council Members**  
Roger Haskin  
Tim Pearce  
Andy Chappel  
Arne Wennerberg  
Bill Carlton  
Tim Loney  
Leonard Kelley

**Utilities Superintendent**  
Kevin Hushagen

**Water Treatment Operator**  
Gina Melander

### Get Involved!

#### For More Information Please Contact

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline  
1-800-426-4719  
[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

Or

Washington State Department of Health  
(253) 395-6750  
[www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw)

For questions regarding your water utility, call (360) 629-9781.

City Council meetings are held on the **2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 7:00pm at the School District Office located at 26920 Pioneer Highway.** Please join us.

## Help Conserve Water: Water Use Efficiency Performance Report

The Public Works Water Department would like to thank you for doing your part in helping our community conserve water. Through our commitment to water conservation, you have reduced our residential water use by more than 21 percent over the past 5 years. The City's goal was to reduce single-family household water use to 201 gallons per day (gpd) by 2019, based on a 4-year rolling average and with your help, we have reached this goal. A 4-year rolling average is used to assess our conservation performance because weather can have a large impact on water use year to year. Our 4-year rolling average for 2008—2011 was 195 gpd per household and our 2011 average water use was 178 gpd per household. Please continue to help us maintain our goal.

### City of Stanwood Comparison of 2006 and 2011 Water Use Data

	Year		Percent Change
	2006	2011	
Total Water Production	377 MG	286 MG	-24%
Total Authorized Consumption	260 MG	249 MG	-4%
Distribution System Leakage	31.0%	12.9%	-18.1%
Average Single Family Use per Household	226 gpd	178 gpd	-21%

MG = million gallons gpd = gallons per day

Here are some ways you can help us reach our water use goals by saving even more water around your house.

- ◆ Fix all leaks in toilets, faucets and sprinklers.
- ◆ Replace showerheads with low-flow models.
- ◆ Wash only full loads of clothes and dishes.
- ◆ Install aerators on bath and kitchen faucets.
- ◆ Replace dishwashers and washing machines with Energy Star® models.
- ◆ Select drought-tolerant or native plants for your next landscaping project.
- ◆ Water your lawn once or twice a week for a longer duration (45 – 60 minutes, or 1 inch of water) to encourage deep roots.

The PW Water Department is also working hard to reduce the amount of water loss and distribution system leakage. We are tracking all authorized consumption and replacing old water mains, that are more likely to cause water loss due to leaks. We are working hard to achieve our goal of less than 10% distribution system leakage, based on a 3-year rolling average. The current 3-year rolling average is 15%. You can help us achieve our goal by notifying the Public Works Department of any water leaks you see.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Is fluoride added to the water? **No**

I'm installing a water softener and need to know the hardness of the city's water.  
**171 ppm**

My fixtures are stained with white spots, why? **Due to calcium in the water. Try using one capful of vinegar to 1 cup of water and scrub with a soft bristled toothbrush.**

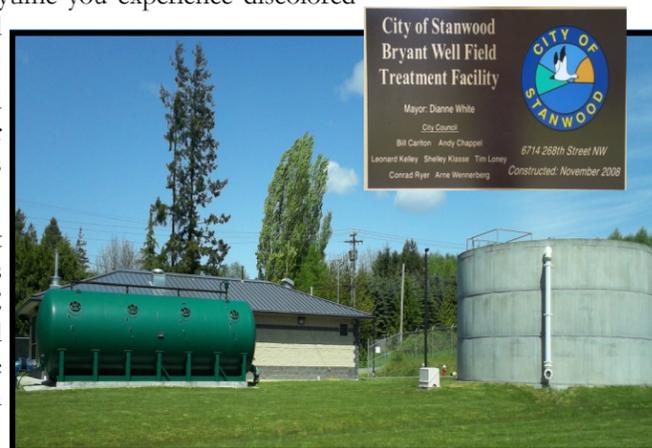
Who do I call for billing questions or to set up/close an account?  
**Please call our billing department at (360) 629-9617**

## A Note From Your Water Department

In 2011 a city-wide flushing program was implemented to purge the deposits in the pipelines and minimize the discoloration at your tap. The Water Department would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during that time. We are looking at ways to improve the program so it has less of an impact on you. If at anytime you experience discolored water at your tap, please contact us at (360) 629-9781 and we will flush the pipelines in your area.

Another project that was completed in 2011 was the replacing of all of the manual read meters with radio read meters. Please remember that it is your responsibility to make sure your meter box is accessible and clear of debris.

Our Cross Connection Control program is underway with the 1st stage (businesses) being completed. A big thank you to all business owners for being in compliance. Stage 2 (residences) of our CCC program will start in 2012. We will be sending out informational brochures and a questionnaire for you to complete and return to the city. For your convenience, you may return your questionnaire with your utility payment.



## 2011 Water Quality Monitoring Results

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the DOH and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Each of the City's water sources is chlorinated and the chlorine concentration is monitored as it enters the distribution system. The table on the right summarizes chlorine concentrations. Chlorine is necessary to properly disinfect your water supply from bacteria and microbes.

Chlorine Monitoring Point	Average	Range	Units
Hatt Slough	0.40	0.21 -- 0.58	ppm
Cedarhome Well	0.26	0.03 -- 0.59	ppm
Water Treatment Plant	0.48	0.11 -- 0.86	ppm

The City of Stanwood routinely monitors the quality of all of our water sources and the distribution system to ensure that they meet the latest regulations. The table below summarizes the makeup of your water in the past year. In addition to the contaminants listed below, we also monitored our sources for synthetic organic compounds, volatile organic compounds, lead, copper, nickel, radon, sulfate, radionuclides and others. These contaminants measured below their MCL or action levels.

THIS IS WHAT'S IN YOUR TAP					THIS MUCH IS ALLOWED		WHERE DID THIS COMPOUND COME FROM?
Detected Contaminants	Treatment Plant Results	Hatt Slough Results	Cedarhome Well Results	Units	EPA's MCL Standard	Do We Comply?	Typical Sources
Arsenic	Average: 8.7 Range: 7 - 10	None	Not required in 2011	ppb	10	Yes	Erosion from natural deposits
Nitrate	Not detected	2.14	Not detected	ppm	10	Yes	Fertilizer runoff, animal waste, natural erosion
Sodium *	Sodium tests were not required in 2011			ppm	20	Yes	Erosion from natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	Average: 9.9	Range: 3.6 – 19.7		ppb	80	Yes	A byproduct of chlorination
Five Haloacetic Acids	Average: 2.03	Range: Not detected -- 5.1		ppm	60	Yes	A byproduct of chlorination
Total Coliform	Not detected in 116 Annual Samples			Positive Samples	0	Yes	Microbes naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli	Not detected in 116 Annual Samples			Positive Samples	0	Yes	Bacterial contamination from human or animal waste

\* Note: Sodium is unregulated, but the EPA recommends a 20 mg/L guidance level.

### 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**ppb = parts per billion = micrograms per liter (µg/L).** This can be compared to one cent in \$10 million.

**ppm = parts per million = milligrams per liter (mg/L).** This can be compared to one cent in \$10,000.

**NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units:** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

## Arsenic and Lead Information

Arsenic is naturally present in our water source and is removed at the Bryant Well Field Treatment Facility. While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

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 Stanwood 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>.