

# 2023 Drinking Water Quality Report

ISSUED MAY 2024 / BASED ON 2023 WATER QUALITY DATA

# City of The Dalles

*Our Water Utility is recognized by the State of Oregon as an Outstanding Performer*



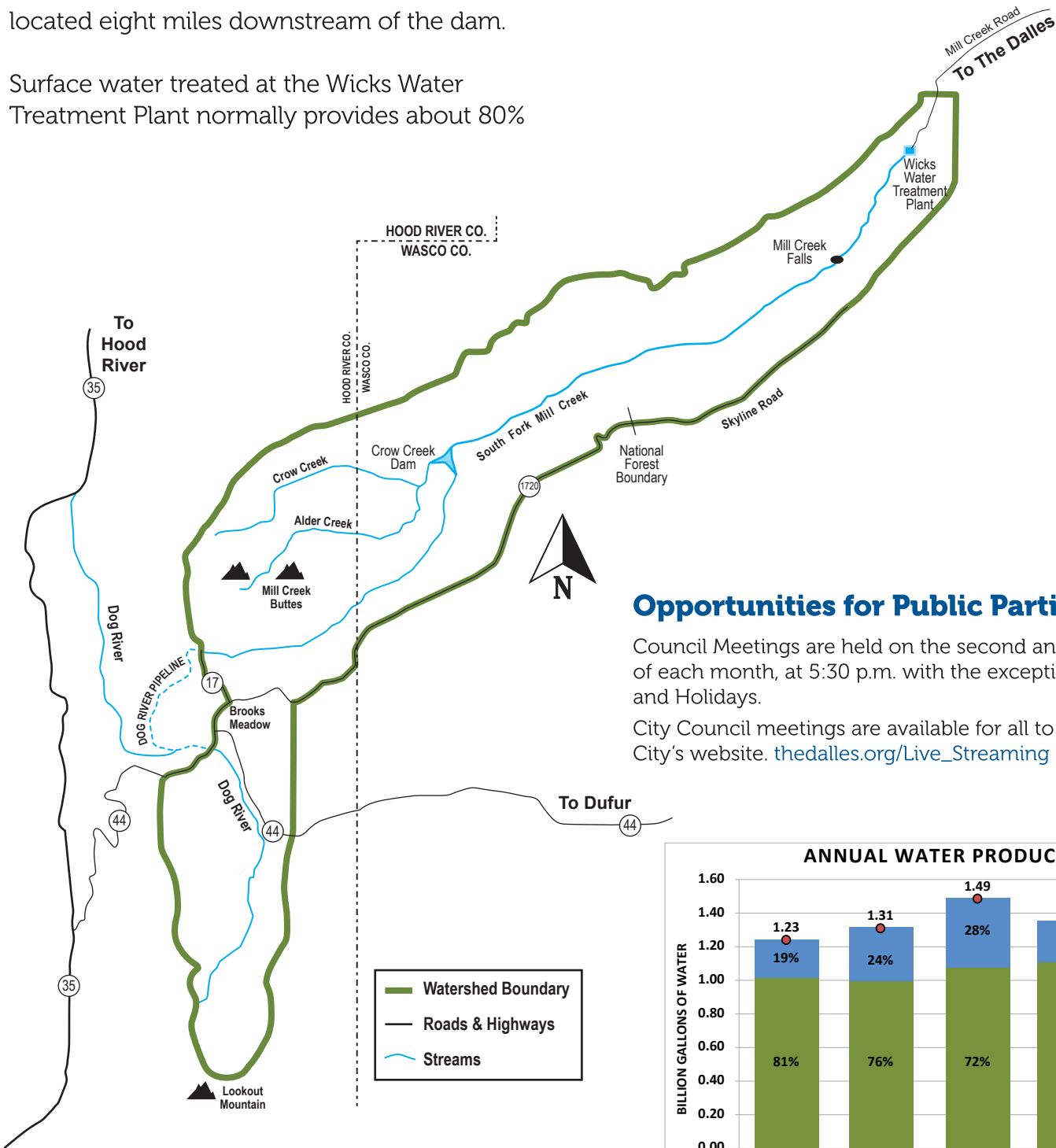
**OUR GOAL Safe water in abundant supply, for today and for future generations.**

# Where does our **DRINKING WATER** come from?

The Dalles Municipal Watershed is the source for most of the drinking water delivered to our service area. The 22,000-acre protected watershed collects rainfall and snow melt from Dog River, Alder Creek, Crow Creek and the South Fork of Mill Creek, which is then stored behind Crow Creek Dam. Built in 1967, the dam provides storage for 267 million gallons of water. The Wicks Water Treatment Plant is located eight miles downstream of the dam.

Surface water treated at the Wicks Water Treatment Plant normally provides about 80%

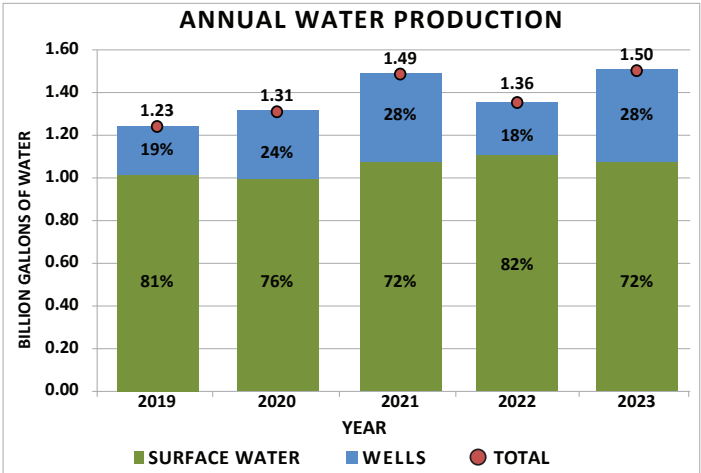
of the City's annual water supply. Three wells supplement the surface water supply during the summer months. From May to September well and surface waters mix throughout the distribution system. All city wells draw from "The Dalles Pool", an aquifer located under The Dalles that extends slightly beyond the City's urban growth area.



## Opportunities for Public Participation

Council Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. with the exception of August and Holidays.

City Council meetings are available for all to view live on the City's website. [thedalles.org/Live\\_Streaming](https://thedalles.org/Live_Streaming)



# 2023 Water Quality Summary

**What’s in our drinking water?** During 2023, our water was tested by state- and federal-certified laboratories for many possible contaminants, including bacteria, turbidity, inorganic, and organic chemicals, like the disinfection by-products. Only the materials that were *actually* detected are listed in the tables below. All of the others were *not detected*. **All substances detected were present at levels considered safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Oregon Health Authority.**

Turbidity and Regulated Chemicals (including inorganic, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals; IOCs, SOCs, VOCs)					
Substance	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	This much allowed (MCL)	This much was found	Complies?	Major Sources Listed by EPA
Turbidity (NTU)	Not Applicable	TT, 95% under 0.3	0.05 - 0.10; 100% comply	YES	Particulate matter from soil runoff
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0* - 1.1 *off for maint	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Not Applicable	TT	0.6 - 1.8	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine (ppm)	4 (MRDLG)	4 (MRDL)	0.4 - 1.4	YES	Water additive used to control microbes

Disinfection By-products (DBPs, a subset of VOCs)(Four locations are sampled quarterly)					
Substance	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	Highest Running Annual Average allowed, by location (MCL)	This much was found (Individual tests)	Highest 12-month Locational Running Average	Complies? (Is it OK?)
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Not Applicable	80	10 - 29	24	YES
Haloacetic Acids (HAA-5) (ppb)	Not Applicable	60	3 - 25	21	YES

Disinfection by-products (DBPs) are substances formed when water is chlorinated to protect customers from disease-producing organisms. The challenge is to apply enough chlorine to kill microorganisms while keeping the by-products formed as low as possible.

Unregulated Contaminants				
Substance	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	Range	Average	Typical Source
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	0	0.7 - 5.9	2.3	By-product of chlorinating water
Bromoform (ppb)	0	0.8 - 0.8	0.8	By-product of chlorinating water
Chloroform (ppb)	70	6.5 - 27	15.5	By-product of chlorinating water
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	60	3.2 - 4.0	3.7	By-product of chlorinating water
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	0	2.0 - 9.7	5.8	By-product of chlorinating water
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	200	2.0 - 15	8.2	By-product of chlorinating water
Sodium (ppm)	Not Applicable	6.4 - 44	28	Erosion of natural deposits
Lithium (UCMR5 Sampling)	Not Applicable	16.9 - 39.1	31.4	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper Sampling (Sampled in July 2021, next round Summer 2024)						
Substance	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	Homes exceeding the AL	Complies?	Major Sources Listed by EPA
Lead (ppb)	0	15	1	1 of 34 (3%)	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1	0 of 34 (0%)	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing

The 90th percentile is the highest result found in 90% of the samples when they are listed in order from lowest to highest results. EPA requires testing for Lead and Copper at customers' taps most likely to contain these substances based on when the house was built. Because of the quality shown by these, and previous results, the City has been allowed to reduce testing to 30 samples every three years.

## Key to Technical Terms

**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.

**MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available water treatment technology.

**MRDLG** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The level of residual disinfectants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur.

**MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - The highest level of residual disinfectants in drinking water, as an annualized average, set as close to the health goals as feasible.

**TT** - Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**AL** - Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**ppm** - parts per million - one part of a contaminant for every million parts of water; equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb** - parts per billion - one part of a contaminant for every billion parts of water; equivalent to micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**ND** - Not Detected - No detection above the analytical method detection level

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - Standard unit to measure water clarity

**Turbidity** - Clarity of water, measured to evaluate filtration effectiveness

## Why do we treat the water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring substances. Water may also carry contaminants from animals or human activity into water sources. The City manages The Dalles Municipal Watershed to reduce or eliminate the risks of these substances that may be present in a surface water source:

- Viruses, parasites and bacteria from wildlife, livestock and human sewage
- Salts, metals or other inorganic contaminants may be naturally occurring or human caused
- Pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals
- Radioactive material may be naturally occurring or human caused

The EPA requires water providers to routinely test drinking water after filtration to ensure that it is safe to drink. The Dalles submits test results to the State of Oregon.

To view test results go to [your.water.oregon.gov](https://your.water.oregon.gov) and enter The Dalles Public Water System No. 00869.

## Tap water and bottled water safety

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of substances from source water. The presence of such substances in water does not necessarily pose a health risk. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations restrict the amount of certain contaminants in tap water.

Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 for information about contaminants and potential health effects or visit [epa.gov/safewater](https://epa.gov/safewater)



## Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5)

EPA's Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) requires sample collection and analysis for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium between 2023 and 2025. The City is one of 127 public water systems in Oregon that is monitoring under UCMR5. No PFAS compounds have been detected in any City water sources to date. Low levels of naturally-occurring lithium were detected in the three well sources, but not the surface source.

The monitoring data on PFAS and lithium will help the EPA make determinations about future regulations and other actions to protect public health under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The data will also ensure science-based decision-making for proposed regulations, reporting requirements to customers, and information on available funding to address the contaminant. More information about UCMR5 can be found on EPA's website [epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule](https://epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule)

## Summer 2023 Dog River Pipeline Construction Continues

The City of The Dalles' new and improved Dog River Pipeline is now in service! Following two busy construction seasons, the new pipeline is now installed and delivering high-quality water from the City's protected watershed to The Dalles.

The new three-and-a-half-mile pipeline is built with durable high-density polyethylene and replaces the aging wooden pipeline estimated to have leaked one million gallons of water per day during high springtime flows.

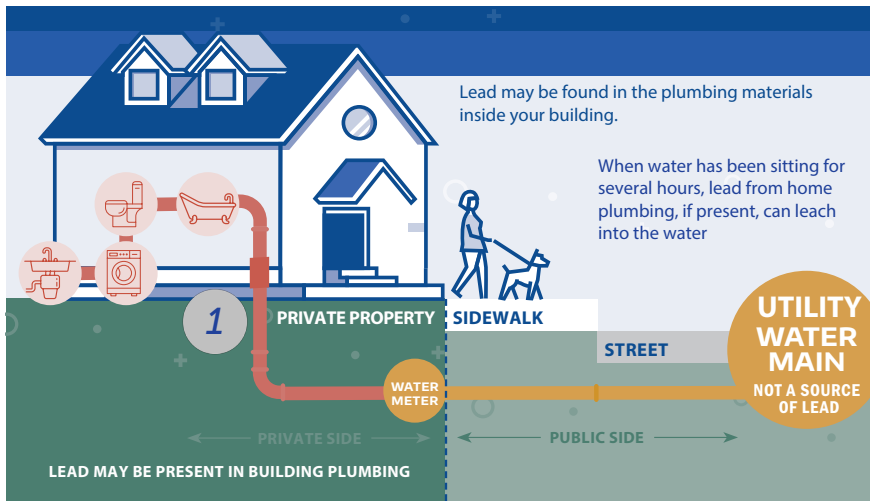
Along with the pipeline, the City has also installed a new rock ramp fish passage in Dog River (see cover picture) and made repairs to a culvert to further protect water quality. Some finishing touches, including portions of the new fish screening system near the intake and final restoration, will happen in spring 2024.

To learn more about the project, visit [thedalles.org/dogriverspipeline](https://thedalles.org/dogriverspipeline) or email [dogriverpipeline@ci.the-dalles.or.us](mailto:dogriverpipeline@ci.the-dalles.or.us)



# Water Service Line Survey

The City of The Dalles has no known lead service lines in our system. However, to comply with the Federal Lead and Copper Rule Revised, the City must complete an inventory of materials in our system from the water main to where the service line connects to your building (labeled with a "1" in the picture below).



## You Can Help!

Residents in homes constructed prior to 1986 can help us complete this inventory by sending us a picture of your scratch test. Information on how to conduct a scratch test can be found at the link below.

If there are not enough voluntary participants to complete the inventory, the City will reach out to randomly selected customers in mid-2024. If the customer is unable to send a picture of the water service line scratch test, City employees will need access to the location inside the building where the water service line enters so they can take a picture of the pipe material. Learn more at [thedalles.org/waterservicelinesurvey](https://thedalles.org/waterservicelinesurvey)

## Lead and Copper Sampling 2024

The EPA requires testing for Lead and Copper at customers' taps most likely to contain these substances based on when the home was built. Because of the quality shown by these, and previous results, the City has been allowed to reduce testing to 30 samples every three years. In the summer of 2024, the City will again conduct in-home testing at selected homes as required. If you wish to test your water for lead, contract with an Oregon accredited laboratory; which can be found online here: [orelap.state.or.us/searchLabs](https://orelap.state.or.us/searchLabs)

## A SPECIAL NOTE TO PEOPLE WITH 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 microbial contaminants are available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

## FLUSH YOUR TAP FOR BEST WATER QUALITY

The City adds food-grade phosphates at the Wicks Water Treatment Plant and the City wells to produce a protective coating in the pipes that prevents lead from leaching from household plumbing. All in-home lead sampling conducted since 1994 indicates that lead levels in drinking water are below regulated limits. However, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, please refer to the EPA recommendations below.

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 used in service lines and home plumbing. The City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water has been sitting for several hours in your home's pipes, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your cold-water tap for 30 seconds to two 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 [epa.gov/safewater/lead](https://epa.gov/safewater/lead).



**City of The Dalles**  
Public Works Department  
1215 West 1st Street  
The Dalles, OR 97058


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## Our Ongoing Commitment: Safe Water, Abundant Supply

We are proud to present our annual water quality report. This issue covers all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. We are committed to delivering the highest quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

### Informe Sobre de Calidad del Agua

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

 Printed on recycled paper.



## Partnership For Safe Water

City of The Dalles has been a member of the Partnership for Safe Water since 1997. Members of this nationwide partnership, which includes six drinking water organizations and more than 300 water utilities throughout the United States, seek water system excellence by optimizing operations rather than relying solely on significant capital improvements. The Wicks Water Treatment Plant has achieved the Director's Award each year since the year 2000 for meeting goals for continuous improvement and producing high quality drinking water. Learn more at [awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Programs/Partnership-for-Safe-Water](http://awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Programs/Partnership-for-Safe-Water)

## What phone number do I call for help with water issues?

### Who do I call about my water service?

- Emergency Water Shutoff
- Water quality, low pressure, leak investigation
- Backflow prevention assembly installation/testing
- Water meter insulation (to prevent freezing)

Call the Public Works Department: (541) 296-5401

Monday–Friday, 7:00a.m.–4:00p.m.

After hour water emergencies (541) 980-7703

More information at [thedalles.org/waterdistribution](http://thedalles.org/waterdistribution)

### Who do I call about a new City water and sewer account or about my bill?

- Water/sewer billing questions
- Stop water or sewer service
- High water/sewer bill concerns

Call the Finance Department: (541) 506-2031

Monday–Friday 8:00a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Sign up for water/sewer service in person

City Hall 313 Court Street 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Applications for service at [thedalles.org/watersewerbilling](http://thedalles.org/watersewerbilling)