

# 2023 LONGMONT DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



## YOUR WATER!

The City of Longmont is pleased to present the 2023 Drinking Water Quality Report. Inside you will find information about Longmont’s drinking water and results of the most recent tests that were done on the drinking water.

The City of Longmont is proud to report we met all applicable federal and state drinking water standards and did not have any violations in 2023.



### SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVE:

Preserve the natural environment in our watershed and provide a reliable, high quality water supply that protects public health.

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If you prefer to receive this report in printed format, please call 303-651-8416.



# WHERE LONGMONT GETS ITS WATER

The City of Longmont’s drinking water is all surface water that comes from streams, lakes and reservoirs that are fed by snowmelt and rainfall. The sources of Longmont’s drinking water are:

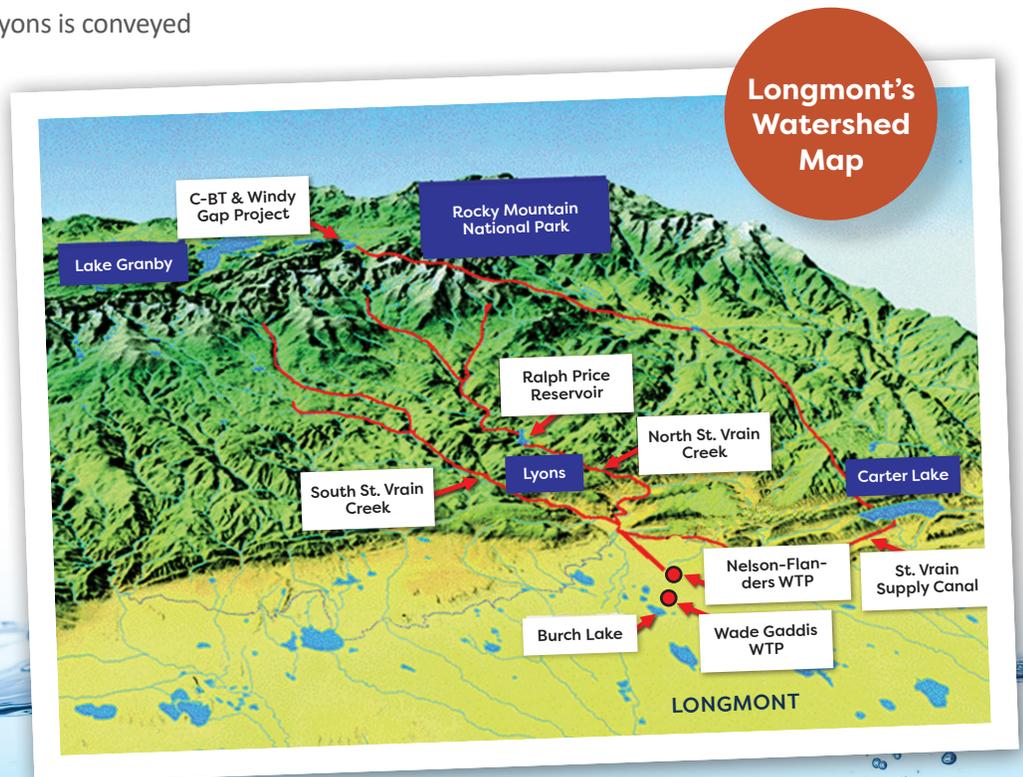
The **St. Vrain Creek** watershed, which includes North and South St. Vrain Creeks and St. Vrain Creek. The North St. Vrain Creek watershed includes wilderness areas and portions of Rocky Mountain National Park. Ralph Price Reservoir is used to store water from North St. Vrain Creek. The South St. Vrain Creek watershed extends into the Indian Peaks Wilderness. The North and South forks combine to form St. Vrain Creek near the town of Lyons. The Highland Ditch is used to convey water from the St. Vrain for treatment. During this reporting year, 38% of Longmont’s water came from North St. Vrain Creek and St. Vrain Creek. Water from St. Vrain Creek below the Town of Lyons is conveyed to Burch Lake by the Palmerton Ditch. Burch Lake was not used during this reporting year.

The **Colorado and Fraser Rivers** in Grand County. These sources are delivered to Longmont via the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) project, operated by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Water from reservoirs in Grand County

## The sources, reservoirs and plants are shown on the map below.

flows through the Adams Tunnel and is delivered to Longmont through Carter Lake via the St. Vrain Supply Canal and Southern Water Supply Pipeline. During this reporting year, 62% of Longmont’s water came from C-BT sources.

These water sources were treated at the City’s Nelson-Flanders Water Treatment Plant. The Wade Gaddis Water Treatment Plant was not operated in the reporting year.



# WHAT'S IN THE WATER BEFORE TREATMENT?

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.

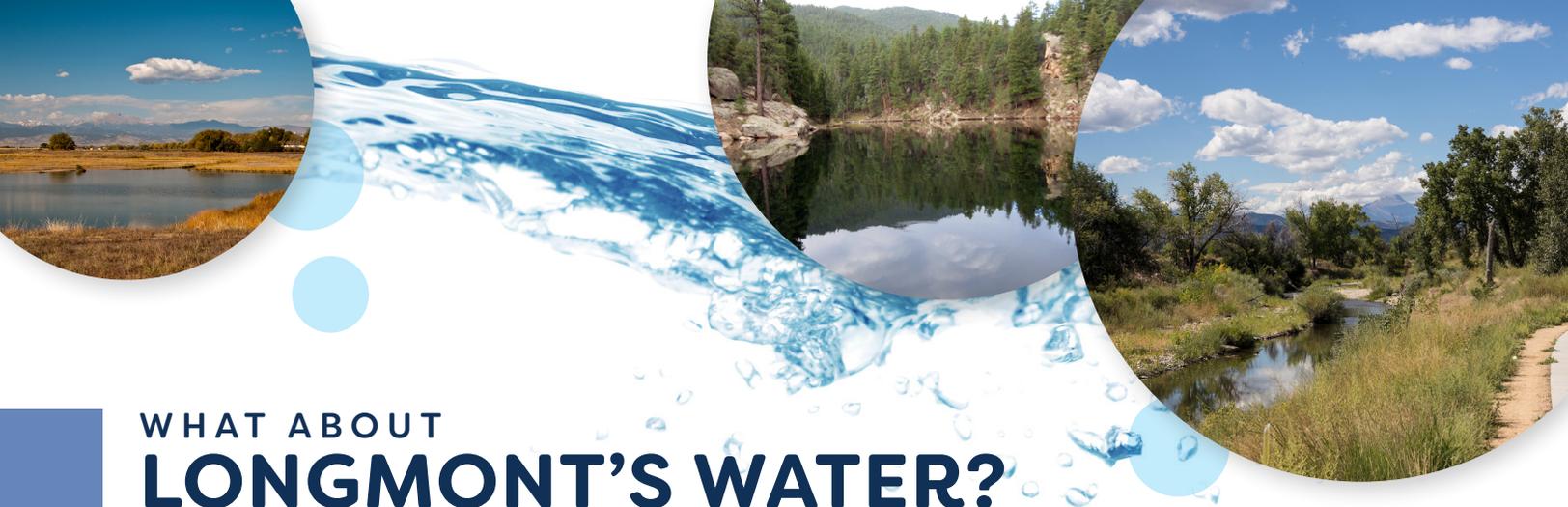
**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

**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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.





## WHAT ABOUT LONGMONT'S WATER?

Longmont is fortunate to have high-quality water sources that originate in mountain watersheds. The North St. Vrain Creek watershed is mainly wilderness and is affected only by naturally occurring elements. Water from the South St. Vrain Creek may be impacted by runoff from abandoned mines. The watersheds that feed the C-BT project may contain contaminants related to recreation, wastewater treatment plant effluents and runoff from pastures. St. Vrain Creek below Lyons is transferred to the treatment plants by irrigation ditches and can be affected by agricultural and livestock activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by Longmont and other public water systems. The City's treatment plants reduce any contaminants in the source waters to levels that meet all Federal and State requirements.

A Source Water Assessment Report for the City of Longmont has been prepared by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). A copy of the report can be obtained by calling 303-651-8416 or by accessing the SWAP website at <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/swap>. The Source Water Assessment Report is a screening-level evaluation of the likelihood that a potential contamination problem could occur, not an indication that potential contamination has occurred or will occur. The assessment results are provided as a starting point for public water systems to evaluate potential

contaminant risks.

The City collects and tests samples of water throughout the watershed as part of its watershed monitoring program. Monitoring locations include reservoirs, St. Vrain Creek and major tributaries. The watershed monitoring program provides important information on Longmont's drinking water sources and assesses the quality of water throughout the watershed. Information on the water sources and upper watershed can be used to help with the operation of the City's water treatment plants to maintain our high quality drinking water. Longmont is also participating in watershed monitoring that is being coordinated by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) to evaluate test methods and levels of emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides, hormones, etc. in our drinking water sources. More information on the NCWCD study can be obtained from NCWCD at <http://www.northernwater.org>.



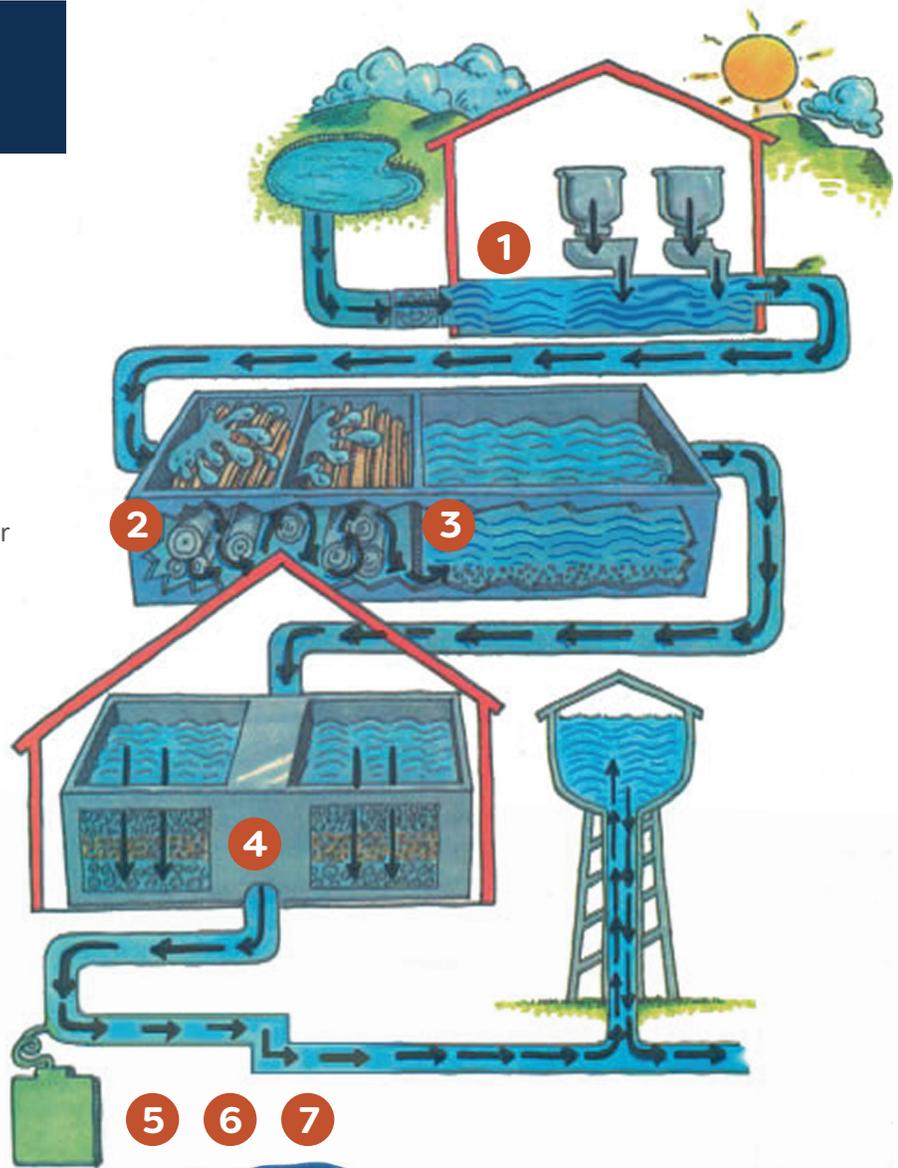


# HOW IS THE WATER TREATED?

Last year, Longmont treated an average of 19 MGD in the summer and 8 MGD during the winter months.

## Steps Involved in Water Treatment

- 1 Coagulation** — Aluminum salts, powdered activated carbon and chemicals called polymers are mixed with the water to make the particles in the water stick together, and to remove taste and odor compounds.
- 2 Flocculation** — The coagulated particles are slowly mixed so that they can collide and form larger particles, known as “floc.”
- 3 Sedimentation** — Water flows through a large tank which allows the “floc” to settle to the bottom of the tank and be removed.
- 4 Filtration** — Water is passed through filters made of sand and anthracite coal to filter out remaining particles.
- 5 Disinfection** — Chlorine is added to kill any remaining bacteria or other disease-causing organisms.
- 6 Fluoridation** — Fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay.
- 7 Stabilization** — Small amounts of soda ash (sodium carbonate) or sodium hydroxide are added to make the water less corrosive to pipes and plumbing.





## WHAT ABOUT BOTTLED WATER?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by Longmont and other public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) limits are intended to provide consumers of bottled water with the same protection for public health as other sources of drinking water. However, the regulations and testing requirements for contaminants in bottled water are much less stringent than for tap water.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Another source of information is the Natural Resources Defense Council, which has tested many brands of bottled water. The results of those tests are available on the internet at

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/truth-about-tap>.

## SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

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 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

## LEAD IN 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 material and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Longmont 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 (800-426-4791) or at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



## WHAT IS IN YOUR TAP WATER?

The City's Water Quality Laboratory, which is State-certified, performs many of the tests on your drinking water. Contract labs are used for tests that the Water Quality Laboratory does not do in-house. 11,030 tests were performed on the City's drinking water last year, 9,537 of which were performed by the City's Water Quality Laboratory. This ensures that the water delivered to your tap meets the standards set by the EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and State drinking water standards. The City of Longmont safeguards its water supplies and once again, we are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other drinking water standard. The following tables show the most recent test results for Longmont's water and the federal and state requirements. The CDPHE allows monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of those contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data in the tables, though representative of our water, is more than one year old. Unless otherwise noted, the results are from tests performed last year.

Definitions of the technical terms in the tables are included at the end of the tables.

## TABLE I - DRINKING WATER QUALITY: REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Table I shows the most recent test results for contaminants that were detected in Longmont's drinking water and have limits set by EPA or CDPHE regulations. Possible sources of the contaminants are noted in the last column. These are not necessarily the sources of contaminants in Longmont's water.

Contaminant	Range of Levels	MCL	MCLG	Probable Source of Contaminant
<b>Inorganic and Physical</b>				
Barium <sup>1</sup>	0.01 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride <sup>1</sup>	0.67 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Turbidity <sup>2</sup>	0.018 to 0.113 NTU 100% of samples <0.3 NTU	1.0 NTU and more than 95% of samples <0.3 NTU	Not Applicable	Soil runoff
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	0.11 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Bacteria and Microorganisms</b>				
Total Coliform Bacteria	Present in 0 out of 1,280 samples	Treatment technique used to trigger follow-up assessments of the water system.	Not Applicable	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli Bacteria	Not Detected		0% Present	Human and animal waste
<b>Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts</b>				
Chlorine <sup>3</sup>	99% of samples > 0.2 ppm in all months 0.14 to 1.43 ppm Max Monthly Average= 1.04 ppm	Treatment Technique Requirement: At least 95% of samples per month > 0.2 ppm 4 ppm (MRDL)	4 ppm (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids	14.5 to 28.3 ppb Max LRAA= 22.3 ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	21.8 to 47.5 ppb Max LRAA= 34.4 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Radioactivity</b>				
Alpha Emitters <sup>1</sup>	<3 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium <sup>1</sup>	<1 ppb	30 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226+228) <sup>1</sup>	<2 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	Source Water: 2.48 to 4.63 ppm Average= 3.23 ppm Treated Water: 1.15 to 1.81 ppm Average= 1.30 ppm Removal: 49.6% to 65.3% Average= 59.2%	TOC is a measure of the effectiveness of a treatment technique used by the water treatment plant to remove organic material. <sup>4</sup>		Naturally present in the environment

## TABLE II - DRINKING WATER QUALITY: CORROSION CONTROL

The City began a corrosion control program in 1987 to reduce lead and copper levels. Sodium carbonate or sodium hydroxide is added at the treatment plants to adjust pH and alkalinity of the water and reduce its corrosiveness.

Parameter	Range of Levels	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Probable Source
Lead	90th percentile= 1.27 ppb Max= 3.01 ppb	90th percentile: 15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	90th percentile= 0.063 ppm Max= 0.102 ppm	90th percentile: 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
pH	7.8 to 8.9 SU Average= 8.2 SU			
Alkalinity	26.8 to 35.7 ppm Average= 29.7 ppm			

<sup>1</sup> Per State monitoring requirements, Inorganic and Physical Metals last tested in 2020, and Radioactivity last tested in 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity is a measure of water clarity and is used to monitor treatment plant performance and interference with the disinfection process.

<sup>3</sup> Chlorine. More than 95% of the samples taken in the City's distribution system in any month must have a residual chlorine level at or above 0.2 mg/L.

<sup>4</sup> The required TOC removal is based on alkalinity of the water. For Longmont, the required level of TOC removal ranges between 35% and 45%.

## TABLE III - DRINKING WATER QUALITY: ADDITIONAL COMPOUNDS

Table III shows test results for parameters that do not have a specific MCL.

Parameter	Range of Levels	Probable Source
<b>Inorganic and Physical</b>		
Sodium	10.9 to 15.1 ppm Average= 12.9 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits and added during treatment
Calcium	5.71 to 7.22 ppm Average= 6.38 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	<1 to 1.4 ppm Average of Detected Results= 1.2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminium	22.4 to 42.5 ppb Average of Detected Results= 29 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits and byproduct of the drinking water treatment process
Total Hardness	18 to 23 ppm Average= 21 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>		
Chloroform	19.2 to 43.4 ppb Average= 26.7 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic acid	6.5 to 13.8 ppb Average= 10.0 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	2.4 to 4.1 ppb Average= 2.9 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Trichloroacetic acid	7.6 to 14.6 ppb Average= 10.5 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that once every five years the EPA issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) required sample collection for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium. Results for all contaminants were below the laboratory's minimum reporting level. For more information please visit [www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule](http://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule).

## Definitions of terms

**90th percentile:** 90% of the samples were below this level.

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

**LRAA — Locational Running Annual Average:** The average of analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

**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.

**NFWTP:** Nelson Flanders Water Treatment Plant

**NTU — Nephelometric Turbidity Unit:** Used to describe the cloudiness of water.

**pCi/L — PicoCuries per Liter:** As a measure of radioactivity.

**pH —** The measure of how acidic or basic the water is, reported in Standard Units (SU). See SU definition for more information.

**ppb — parts per billion:** A measure of concentration of a contaminant. Comparable to one penny in \$10,000,000.

**ppm — parts per million:** A measure of concentration of a contaminant. Comparable to one penny in \$10,000.

**ppt — parts per trillion:** A measure of concentration of a contaminant. Comparable to one penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**SU — Standard Units:** The unit of measure for pH. A pH of 7 SU is considered neutral. A pH less than 7 is acidic and a pH greater than 7 is basic.

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

**WGWTWP:** Wade Gaddis Water Treatment Plant



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **My water smells and tastes like chlorine. Why? What can I do about it?**

All municipal water providers are required by Federal and State regulations to disinfect their water and maintain a residual level of disinfectant throughout the distribution system. In Longmont, the chlorine levels are set at the water treatment plants, which are closer to the northwest portion of the City's distribution system. If you live in one of the neighborhoods on the north or west side of the City, chlorine may be more noticeable than in other parts of town. If you find the taste or odor objectionable, you can use after-market filters or simply let the water sit for a period of time to dissipate the chlorine.

## **Is Longmont's water supply adequate to meet the demands of growth and drought in the future?**

City Council has adopted a benchmark for supply that calls for maintaining sufficient water supplies to meet water demands for 10 years into the future in a 100-year drought. In addition, 10% of our future water supply is anticipated to come through conservation measures, a goal that is supported by the conservation practices outlined in the City's Raw Water Master Plan and the conservation strategies outlined in the Water Efficiency Master Plan. The City also has a water policy (adopted in 1963) that requires growth to "pay its own way" with respect to water. Developers of land annexed to the City are required to provide the water needed to serve the development. The City's existing water resources, the conservation goals and application of the water policy have resulted in a water supply that exceeds demand and meets the City's drought benchmark. For more information on water conservation or the City's water supply, visit the Longmont Water Conservation webpage at [bit.ly/Longmont-Water-Matters](http://bit.ly/Longmont-Water-Matters).

## **Who should I contact if I have concerns about taste, odor or color in the water?**

The City's Water Quality Laboratory responds to water quality concerns and questions. You may call the lab at 303-651-8416 for any additional information.

## **My water sometimes has a yellow or brown color. What's causing this and what can I do about it?**

The yellow or brown water is usually caused by flushing of the distribution system. Flushing of the distribution system is done at least once a year, typically in April, to maintain water quality and to ensure that fire hydrants are operational. The flushing schedules are posted in the newspaper and on the City's website. Local flushing may be done at any time of the year to address specific problem areas. Color in the water from flushing operations is temporary and not harmful. The City recommends that you limit water use and avoid the use of hot water while flushing is being done in your neighborhood. The color can often be eliminated by letting your cold water run for several minutes.

## **I think the water tastes or smells different in the summer and winter, why?**

The changes in taste or odor usually occur in late spring and early winter and are a result of different combinations of water sources that are used to meet seasonal demands. The sources are discussed in the "Where Longmont Gets Its Water" section of this report. The water that is used to meet summer demands generally has higher mineral content and some people notice the difference when the water plants change sources.

## **I have white particles in my water that clog my faucet aerators or settle to the bottom of a glass. What are these and are they harmful?**

White particles in your water may be caused by deterioration of the "dip" tube in your hot water heater. The dip tube is a plastic tube that feeds the cold water to the water heater. The particles are not toxic. You can test for this problem by taking the following steps:

- Remove your faucet aerator.
- Fill pans or your sink separately with cold and hot water.
- Look for white particles that settle to the bottom. If the particles only show up in the hot water, the problem is in your water heater. Either the dip tube or the heater will need to be replaced.



### **Is Longmont's water soft or hard?**

Longmont's water is soft and typically contains only 1-2 grains per gallon of hardness, a very small amount of dissolved minerals. A water softener is not recommended.

### **Why is my water cloudy when it comes out of the tap but clears up after several seconds?**

This is caused by small bubbles of air that are dissolved in the water. Some air is already in the water delivered to your tap and more can be added by aerators in faucets. During the winter, when tap water is colder, there is more dissolved air in the water; as the water warms up, there will be bubbles which clear from the bottom to the top of the glass. If the water stays cloudy even after it has been in a glass for several minutes, please call 303-651-8416 for additional information.

### **There has been a lot of recent publicity concerning the oil and gas industry's practice of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" and its potential effect on water supplies. Is Longmont's drinking water affected by fracking?**

Longmont obtains its water from rural and mountain watersheds that are not affected by the impact of oil and gas drilling operations. As discussed in the "What about Longmont's Water?" section of this report, actual and potential pollutant sources in our watershed are identified in a source water assessment that was completed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Neither CDPHE nor the City has found any sources of contamination of our water supplies from oil and gas wells. In addition, all of our drinking water sources are surface water, not groundwater. Groundwater is more likely to be impacted by drilling or well operations. The Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) has much more information on its website about the oil and gas industry, including locations of wells and discussions of hydraulic fracturing and water quality. For more information, please visit <http://ecmc.state.co.us>.

### **What is the City doing to monitor lead in drinking water?**

The City of Longmont is aware of upcoming adjustments to lead and copper regulations. Currently, lead and copper monitoring requires evaluation of a combination of residences with either a lead component or copper pipe with lead solder. At this time, the City is not aware of any customers with service lines that are entirely made of lead. Any service connections that could have lead components are being replaced as the City renews water distribution lines as part of its ongoing water line replacement program. The City's water treatment corrosion control program minimizes corrosion of plumbing in homes. The concentrations of lead in samples taken throughout

Longmont are below the action levels in the drinking water regulations, as shown in the tables in this report. The City performs lead testing as per drinking water regulations, and is prepared to meet all future regulations regarding lead and copper.

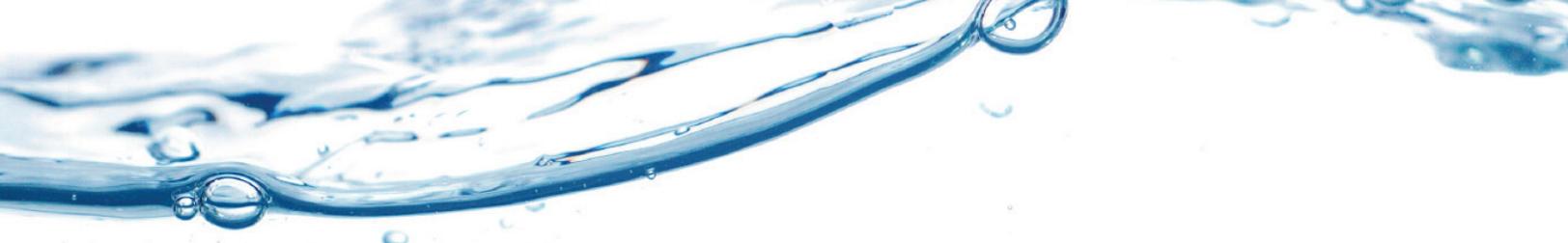
### **Does Longmont test its water for pharmaceuticals or other similar chemicals?**

Longmont has tested for chemicals in the St. Vrain watershed and is also participating in a testing program led by Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, which manages the Colorado-Big Thompson water supplies. Trace concentrations of a few chemicals have been found in the water sources. The sources and significance of these trace levels is unknown. Longmont will continue to monitor scientific and medical information related to the effects of pharmaceuticals and other similar chemicals in our source water. There is currently no evidence that these chemicals have any adverse effects on humans at the very low levels that have been detected. Longmont is fortunate to have water from rural and mountain watersheds that are not affected by urban land uses that could be a source of chemical contaminants. If you have questions, please call Utilities & Public Works at 303-651-8416.

### **Is the water tested for contaminants other than those listed in the Tables in this report?**

Longmont tests for many other contaminants not listed in this report. The Water Quality Laboratory samples and tests for over 50 compounds, including organics, inorganics and metals. The most recent tests showed no detectable levels of these contaminants in Longmont's water.





### **What are Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and have they been found in Longmont's drinking water?**

PFAS are a family of human-made chemicals that are found in a wide range of products used by consumers and industry that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water. Examples of these products are stain resistant carpets, non-stick pans, water repellent and fire retardant clothing, food packaging, and high temperature firefighting foam. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others.

In 2013, as part of EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), Longmont monitored for 6 PFAS compounds. In 2020, in an effort to protect public health and understand PFAS concentrations in drinking water throughout the State, the CDPHE coordinated a voluntary effort to monitor for 18 PFAS compounds in drinking water. Longmont participated in this effort and, in addition to sampling treated drinking water, also sampled each untreated water source prior to treatment. Testing methods for these compounds continue to become more sensitive, and thus far, PFAS have not been detected in Longmont's treated drinking water. As part of the 2023 UCMR, the City sampled and tested for 29 additional PFAS compounds. None of the PFAS compounds were detected.

Longmont will continue to monitor ongoing research regarding the testing methodology and effects of PFAS on human health and the environment. Providing high quality drinking water, and being proactive in doing so, is extremely important.

### **My water has a swampy or fishy smell. What's causing this and what can I do about it?**

Algae are a source of compounds that cause taste and odor and the type and quantity of algae vary in the water sources throughout the year. Water treatment does not completely remove all of these compounds. Activated carbon is used at the water plants at certain times of the year to reduce taste and odor. These taste and odor issues do not necessarily indicate the water is unsafe to consume.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Visit our website at:

[LongmontColorado.gov/Water](https://www.longmontcolorado.gov/Water)

for Water Utilities, Water Resources,  
Drinking Water Quality and Water  
Conservation

**Utilities and Public Works  
Customer Service Center:**

303-651-8416



# CommUNITY Partners Needed

TAKE THE  
SURVEY TODAY



The City of Longmont takes pride in delivering safe, clean drinking water to every person in our community. As your local water experts, we know how lead materials can affect our water quality and our people. We are committed to eliminating any existing lead materials in our water distribution system, but we need your help.

For more information about the health effects of lead, see page 5.

## GATHER

We are currently developing a list of materials for all water service lines in our community. Please complete the survey at [bit.ly/COL-service-line-material-survey](https://bit.ly/COL-service-line-material-survey) or use the QR code on this page to participate in future water quality initiatives. These water quality initiatives may include requesting an at-home kit for sample collection and analysis or conducting an in-home inspection to identify your service line material.

## BUILD

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will require this information from every utility; however, we are taking a proactive approach by including you in the process. Your participation ensures your voice is heard and your family is protected.

Typically, Longmont is responsible for the public side (the water lines we maintain shown in yellow below), not the private side (our customer's water lines shown in orange). We hope to break down that barrier to build a complete picture of the system.

## ENGAGE

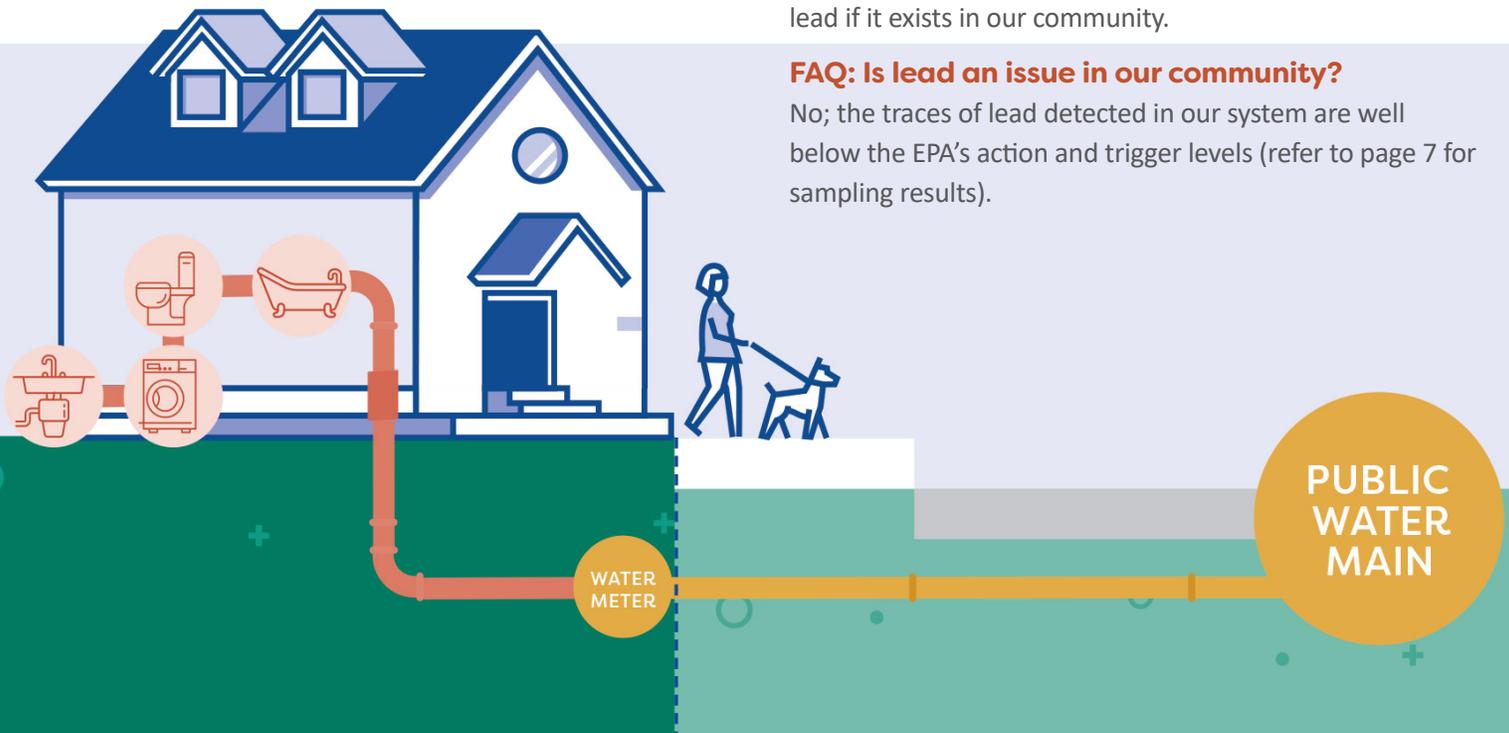
Together, our proactive engagement will bring unity to our water system, protecting our community for generations. Your survey response will be collected to help Longmont understand more about the materials in our system.

## IMPLEMENT

Every survey response is a step closer to a fully implemented action plan. This action plan includes sampling, communication, and verification for residential, commercial, schools, and childcare facilities. Your household's participation may be the key to eliminating lead if it exists in our community.

## FAQ: Is lead an issue in our community?

No; the traces of lead detected in our system are well below the EPA's action and trigger levels (refer to page 7 for sampling results).



## LONGMONT WATER FAST FACTS

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**4.54 billion** gallons were treated during the year.

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**672 million** gallons were treated in the peak month of July.

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**26.4 million** gallons were treated on the peak day.

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**11,030 tests** were done on the drinking water.

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## START CONSERVING!

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The City offers rebates and programs to make conserving water easier for you! Information about our educational programs, including Waterwise Yard Seminars, Sprinkler Assessments and rebates for water-efficient fixtures can be found on our website. We also provide opportunities and incentives to save water at your home with our Garden in a Box and Lawn Replacement programs. Conserving water at your home helps you save money and helps maintain our water supply for the future. Additional information about water conservation and our programs can be found at: [bit.ly/water-matters](https://bit.ly/water-matters) or call us at 303-651-8416.



### General Water Questions?

Call Utilities & Public Works at 303-651-8416 or check our website at [LongmontColorado.gov/water](https://LongmontColorado.gov/water).

### Interested in Public Meetings?

The City of Longmont City Council meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center, 350 Kimbark Street. There are two citizen boards that advise City Council on water issues: the Water Board and the Sustainability Advisory Board. For more information on board meeting times and locations, please visit [bit.ly/Boards\\_and\\_Committees](https://bit.ly/Boards_and_Committees).

Este folleto contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Para solicitar el informe anual de calidad del agua potable de Longmont en Español, marque 303-651-8416.



*When you take care of your garden*  
**ARE YOU TAKING CARE  
OF OUR WATER?**

Well-kept gardens and yards beautify our neighborhoods and improve property values, but how you maintain them can cause pollution of our creeks and waterways.

Grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, pesticides and other pollutants from your yard can end up on driveways, sidewalks, streets and gutters where they can be washed into a storm drain by rain, snowmelt, or water from sprinklers. Storm drains empty into St. Vrain Creek without any treatment, so whatever is in the stormwater can harm aquatic life and affect downstream uses. Allowing pollutants to get into the storm sewer system is like dumping them directly into the creek.

**Here are some things that you can do to keep pollutants from your garden and yard out of the storm sewer system and our creeks:**

➤ **Avoid over-watering**, which can carry pollutants from your lawn, sidewalk and driveway into the storm sewer. Adjusting sprinklers so that you're not watering the street, sidewalk or driveway also helps conserve water!



➤ **Sweep or blow grass clippings** back onto the lawn or vegetated areas or dispose of them as compost or trash. Don't leave them on the street, sidewalk, driveway or gutter. Compost or recycle leaves and other yard waste.



➤ **If you use a lawn or pest control service**, ask them about their environmental options and certifications and make sure they follow these and other best management practices that will protect human health and the environment.

➤ **Do not apply fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides** to areas where they can be washed into the gutter or storm sewer by rain or sprinklers, or when moderate to heavy rain or wind is forecast. Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers sparingly and according to directions. Using the wrong chemicals can damage plants or kill beneficial bugs and animals.



➤ **Avoid using combination fertilizer/weed killer products.** Hand pick weeds when possible, and if you must use chemicals, spot apply them only where they are needed. Do not apply chemicals to bare soil or impervious surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways or streets.

**KEEP  
IT CLEAN**  
*'cause WE'RE ALL  
DOWNSTREAM*

