



## WATER AND SEWER UTILITY A COMMITMENT TO WATER QUALITY

# 2011 ANNUAL OAK CREEK WATER QUALITY REPORT

*WATER QUALITY EXCEEDS REGULATORY STANDARDS*

This report summarizes the water quality provided to customers in 2010. It includes details about where your water comes from, what has been detected in your water and how it compares to regulatory standards. This water quality report will be made public annually by July 1. The Oak Creek Water and Sewer Utility (OCWS) is committed to providing you with useful information.

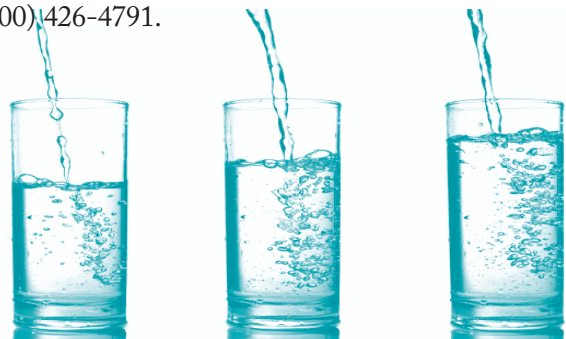
OCWS produces some of the highest quality drinking water in the nation and always looks for new ways to improve. OCWS employees conduct thousands of water quality tests annually to ensure the cleanest, safest drinking water possible flows to customers. OCWS is proud to announce that last year, as in years past, your tap water met and exceeded all federal and state drinking water health standards.

### *SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION AVAILABLE*

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Infants and young children also are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may

be higher than others in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing system. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



### *SOURCE OF OAK CREEK'S DRINKING WATER*

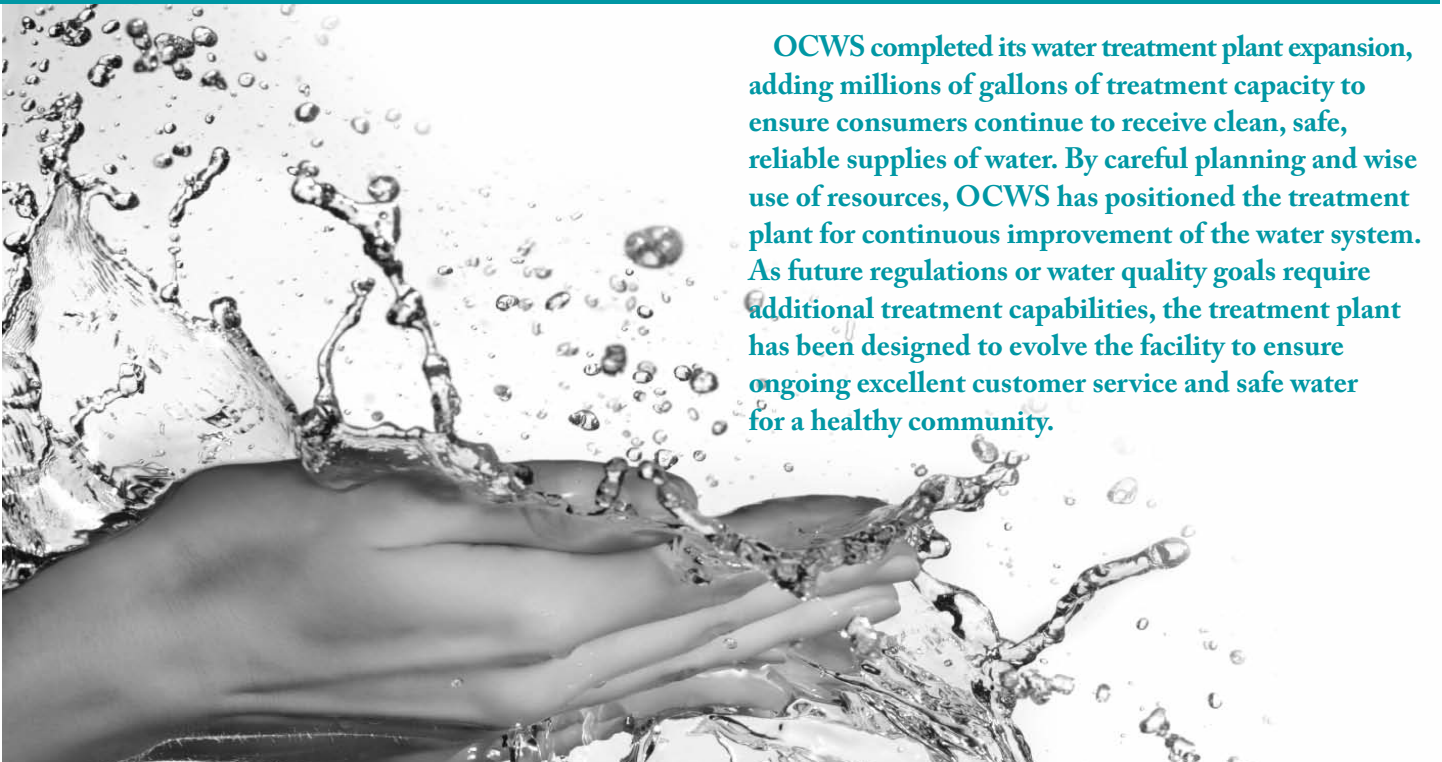
Oak Creek draws its drinking water from Lake Michigan, a surface water source. As water flows through rivers and lakes and over land surfaces, naturally occurring substances may be dissolved into the water. Animals and human activities also may affect the water. These substances then are called contaminants. Surface water sources may be highly susceptible to contaminants.

For example, the following contaminants might exist in "untreated" water: inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; biological contaminants, including viruses, protozoa

and bacteria; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use; pesticides and herbicides; and radioactive materials.

Drinking water—including bottled water—may be reasonably 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## LATEST INITIATIVES



OCWS completed its water treatment plant expansion, adding millions of gallons of treatment capacity to ensure consumers continue to receive clean, safe, reliable supplies of water. By careful planning and wise use of resources, OCWS has positioned the treatment plant for continuous improvement of the water system. As future regulations or water quality goals require additional treatment capabilities, the treatment plant has been designed to evolve the facility to ensure ongoing excellent customer service and safe water for a healthy community.

## TREATED WATER QUALITY

Listed on the next page are contaminants detected in Oak Creek's drinking water during 2010. All detects are less than federal and state regulations allow. Not listed are the other compounds that were tested with no detectable results.

The state allows OCWS to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.



### *How to Read the Annual Oak Creek Water Quality Report*

1. Read the definitions on the next page to better understand this report.
2. Choose a "Substance" on the chart.
3. Check the "Ideal Goal" (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) for that substance.
4. Note the "Highest Level Allowed" (Maximum Contaminant Level).
5. Compare contaminant "Level Detected" in Oak Creek's water supply to the Ideal Goal and the Highest Level Allowed.

## CUSTOMER QUESTIONS WELCOME

Numerous opportunities exist to learn more about the OCWS and water quality. If you have questions about drinking water quality, this report, water treatment

plant tours or water commission meetings, please call the OCWS at (414) 570-8210.

# ANNUAL OAK CREEK WATER QUALITY REPORT

SUBSTANCE	MCLG (Ideal Goals)	MCL (Highest Level Allowed)	LEVEL DETECTED	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
HAA5	60 ppb	60 ppb	13 ppb average Range: 10 - 19 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Antimony	6 ppb	6 ppb	.2 ppb	NO	Natural deposits. Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	.018 ppm	NO	Natural deposits. Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Chromium	100 ppb	100 ppb	1 ppb	NO	Natural deposits. Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Copper Sample Date: 10/14/2008	1.3 ppm	AL = 1.3 ppm	0.23 ppm (90th percentile value) 0 of 31 Results exceeded AL	NO	Natural deposits. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.2 ppm average Range: 1.08 - 1.31 ppm	NO	Natural deposits. Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Lead Sample Date: 10/14/2008	0 ppb	AL=15 ppb	4 ppb (90th percentile value) 2 of 31 Results exceeded AL	NO	Natural deposits. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nickel	100 ppb	100 ppb	1.1 ppb	NO	Natural deposits
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.35 ppm	NO	Natural deposits, fertilizer, animal waste, sewage.
Radium, combined	0 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	1.3 pCi/L	NO	Natural deposits.
Sodium	N/A	Unregulated	8.9 ppm	NO	Natural deposits.
Sulfate	N/A	Unregulated	22 ppm	NO	Natural deposits.
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	Unregulated	7.68 ppb average Range: 5.6 - 9.9 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Bromoform	N/A	Unregulated	.67 ppb average Range: .32 - 1 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chloroform	N/A	Unregulated	9.83 ppb average Range: 7 - 15 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Dibromochloromethane	N/A	Unregulated	4.45 ppb average Range: 2.8 - 6.2 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes, Total	0 ppb	80 ppb	22.6 ppb average Range: 15.7 - 32.1 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Turbidity	N/A	TT = 1 NTU TT < 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	.039 NTU average Range: .03 - .09 NTU	NO	Natural sediment.

## DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant allowed by law in drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk.

**ppm:** Parts per million.

**ppb:** Parts per billion.

**AL = Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow. Action levels are reported at the 90th percentile for homes at greatest risk.

**mrem/year:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter measure the level of radioactivity in water. A picocurie is  $10^{-12}$  curies and is the quantity of radioactive material producing 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.

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

**Trihalomethanes:** chloroform, bromochloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform.

**NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units:** a measurement unit of turbidity, or water cloudiness, which is a good indicator of water quality.

**nd = no detect**

# OAK CREEK WATER UTILITY SERVICE AREA

