

Your drinking water is brought to your home by:

Spokane County Water District #3

SCWD#3 operates 7 independent water systems in Spokane County and is dedicated to making sure that every drop of water delivered to your tap is clean and safe for your family. Water District Board Meetings are held weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and public attendance is welcome.

Spokane County Water District #3
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Purpose: This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. Your water utility is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses State and Federal Standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service.

Water Source: Your drinking water comes from the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** (see map, page 2). This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snowpack in northern Idaho and western Montana. It is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River.

The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy. In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not limited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community. Preserving our water sources for the future is a priority for SCWD#3.

To find out more about how you can be an active partner in our efforts visit: www.spokaneaquifer.org/education-awareness

SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year-round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the District.

Water Quality: To ensure that your water is **clean and safe**, we test for contaminants all year long. The Department of Health and 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 Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. **We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations.** While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn't mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health. See table on page 3 for your most recent water sampling results.

Important Note: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants or for more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

ENGLISH

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

RUSSIAN

Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести это для вас или поговорите с кем-то, кто понимает это.

SPANISH

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca por usted o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

VIETNAMESE

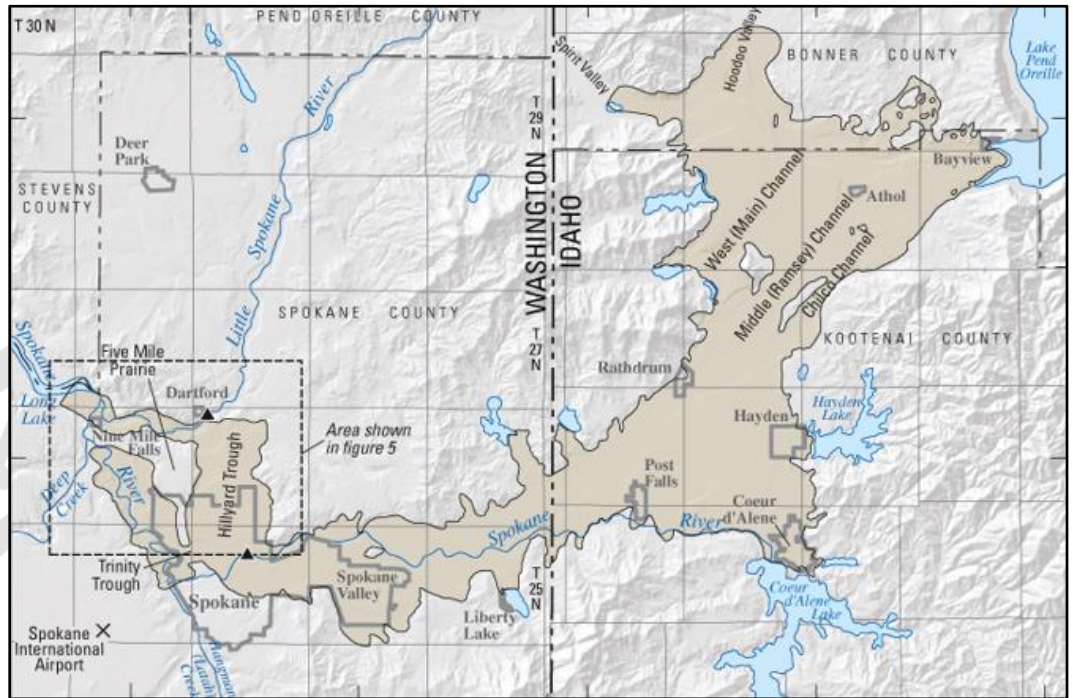
Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Có ai đó dịch nó cho bạn, hoặc nói chuyện với ai đó hiểu nó.

SPOKANE VALLEY RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER

Conservation Tips for Outdoor Watering:

Avoid watering lawns in the heat of the day to reduce water lost to evaporation. The best time to water is before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm. Avoid watering on windy days as wind can distort sprinkler patterns and cause uneven coverage. Also be sure to shut off your sprinklers while it's raining.

For information regarding ways to save water, visit our online website at scwd3.org, follow us on Twitter, visit spokanewateringnerds.org/tips-to-save-water or search "water conservation tips" in your web browser.



Water Use Efficiency: In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are **using water efficiently**. The District set new water use efficiency goals in 2021 (found below) and report our progress annually.

DEMAND SIDE GOAL: Reduce Residential Usage by 1/2 GPD/ERU Each Year

Our goal in 2023 was to reduce residential water use to 511 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU). Currently it's at 493 GPD/ERU so we were able to meet our goal this year, which is an annual savings of almost 11,000,000 gallons of water. The District will continue to run a rate structure that promotes water conservation, continue notifying customers when leak alarms are indicated on their radio read meters, and provide customer education for water saving practices.

SUPPLY SIDE GOAL: Reduce the District's Average Distribution System Leakage Below 9.5% for the Next 6 Years

Our three-year average is currently 8.1% so we were able to meet our goal for 2023. Throughout the year the District located and repaired several leaks around the system and replaced a section of deteriorated pipe with 350 feet of 8" ductile iron water main to help contribute to reaching this goal. As our infrastructure ages, we will continue to set aside an annual budget for leak detection because early detection and prompt repairs are key to keeping our distribution losses to a minimum.

Free Online Bill Pay: SCWD#3 switched online bill pay providers to **xpress BILL PAY**. This change is designed to make online bill pay easier and best of all **it's free!** **xpress BILL PAY** is a secure online bill payment system that offers 24-7 access to your utility account to make payments with credit cards, debit cards, or electronic funds transfers. If you have multiple accounts, **xpress BILL PAY** gives customers the ability to manage all their service provider billing accounts from a single login. **Auto Pay** allows customers to set up automatic payments and not worry about them again. A complete history of payment confirmations, online transactions, and **Water Consumption History** are also provided. Email reminder alerts are sent to customers when bills arrive, when they're due, and when they're paid. Visit the website at www.xpressbillpay.com and sign up today! Or download the mobile app!



From Your Local Water Utility
Spokane County Water District #3
<https://scwd3.org>



SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

| CONTAMINANT | SAMPLE YEAR | UNITS | MCLG | MCL | HIGHEST DETECTION | POSSIBLE SOURCE |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Nitrate | 2023 | ppm | 10 | 10 | 1.76 | Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Barium | 2021 | ppm | 2 | 2 | 0.07 | Discharge of Drilling Wastes; Discharge from Metal Refineries; Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Fluoride | 2021 | ppm | 4 | 4 | 0.14 | Erosion of Natural Deposits; Water Additive Which Promotes Strong Teeth; Discharge from Fertilizer and Aluminum Factories |
| Antimony | 2021 | ppb | 6 | 6 | 0.002 | Discharge from Petroleum Refineries; Fire Retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder |
| Gross Alpha | 2022 | pCi/L | n/a | 15 | 4.83 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Radium 226 | 2022 | pCi/L | n/a | 5 | ND | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Radium 228 | 2022 | pCi/L | n/a | 5 | 0.625 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Synthetic Organic Chemicals | 2022 | ppb + ppt | Varies by chemical | Varies by chemical | ND | Varies by Chemical |
| Volatile Organic Chemicals | 2022 | ppb | Varies by chemical | Varies by chemical | ND | Varies by Chemical |

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (sample taken at the tap)

| CONTAMINANT | SAMPLE YEAR | UNITS | MCLG | AL | 90 TH PERCENTILE | POSSIBLE SOURCE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------|------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Lead | 2023 | ppb | 0 | 15 | 1 | Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits; Leaching from Wood Preservatives. |
| Copper | 2023 | ppb | 1300 | 1300 | 61 | |
| CONTAMINANT | SAMPLE YEAR | UNITS | MCLG | MCL | HIGHEST DETECTION | POSSIBLE SOURCE |
| Total Trihalomethanes | 2023 | ppb | 0 | 80 | ND | By-product of Chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids | 2023 | ppb | 0 | 60 | ND | By-product of Chlorination |
| E.coli Bacteria | 2023 | | 0 | A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E.coli positive | ND | Human and Animal Fecal Waste |

RADON is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5

LEAD: 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. Spokane County Water District #3 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

ABBREVIATIONS:

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

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

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

ND – Not Detected

NA – Not Applicable

pCi/L – Pico Curies per Liter – a unit of radioactivity

90th Percentile – 90% of at-risk homes had this concentration or less of lead/copper.

Ppm – Parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55-gallon barrel or 1 second out of 12 days would represent 1 ppm.

Ppb – Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop of water in a swimming pool or 1 second out of 32 years would represent 1 ppb.

Ppt – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter. About 1 drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 1 second out of 31,710 years would represent 1 ppt.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (COMPLETED IN 2023)

Winger Tank Recoating: In 2023, the District hired a contractor to recoat the exterior of our 500,000 gallon, 100-foot tall standpipe on Winger Road. This project consisted of a high-pressure wash preparation, spot sanding and epoxy priming all pitted and rusted areas, and application of a corrosion resistant paint over the entire outside surface, ladder, and hatches. These improvements are intended to improve the longevity of the tank and reduce the need for replacement. Total cost was \$176,200.

Helena Well #2 Pumphouse: This year staff finished construction of a new pumphouse for our 2,700 gallon per minute well that was drilled in 2022. The well is now operational and will be used this summer to meet irrigation demands during peak watering season and accommodate the new growth we're seeing in the Mead area. Total project cost for the well and pumphouse was \$1,031,000.



Hydrant Lock Program: The District started to implement additional security measures to protect the public water system by adding locks on our fire hydrants. We have been working with surrounding fire departments to offer a solution that ensures the hydrants are still readily available in an emergency while also restricting unapproved access. In 2023, we installed locks on over 140 fire hydrants which is part of a 5-year project to secure every fire hydrant in our water system. If you see someone operating a fire hydrant without a permit or have concerns about someone connected to one, please call our office at [509-536-0121](tel:509-536-0121) and report the problem.

2nd and Freya Water Main Extension: District staff installed 350 feet of new 8" water main on 2nd Ave between Freya and Main Street. This project replaced a depreciated 4" steel waterline in the area and created a redundant loop in the area to improve reliability. This will also allow us to abandon an old 6" steel main in an alley with limited accessibility between 2nd and 3rd Ave at a future date if maximum lifespan occurs.

Future Improvements:

| PROJECT | PURPOSE | TOTAL COST | YEAR |
|---|---|-------------|------|
| Replace Sorrel and Fairview Pump Stations with Single Pump Station | Operational Efficiency/ Reliability/ Capacity | \$750,000 | 2024 |
| Upsize Steel Transmission Main in Fairview and Sorrel to 12" (3,500 LF) | Operational Efficiency/ Reliability/ Capacity | \$1,100,000 | 2024 |
| Install 12" Automated Control Valve from Helena to Farwell Road | Operational Efficiency/ Reliability/ Capacity | \$240,000 | 2025 |
| Replace AC Main in Winger from Stone Lane to Shady Slope (800 LF) | Depreciation | \$230,000 | 2026 |
| Install Backup Generator for Wandermere Booster Station | Reliability | \$50,000 | 2026 |
| Replace AC Main in Stoneman with 18" from Sorrel to Parksmith (1,800 LF) | Fire Flow/ Reliability | \$640,000 | 2028 |



Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
Local Water Utilities United for Safe Drinking Water

