

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF YOUR UTILITY

## A WORD FROM OUR MAYOR

One of the most important responsibilities our City undertakes is management of our water system. We work around the clock to ensure that the water that comes out of your tap is safe, quality, and reliable, not just for today, but for generations to come.

That is why we continue to make investments in the future of our utility. In 2022, we cut the ribbon on the expansion of our wastewater treatment facility, which will provide the capacity to accommodate our growth as a community. Work has already begun on the expansion of our water treatment facility, as we expand capacity and upgrade how we filter and treat our drinking water. Finally, we are building an emergency intertie with the Bellingham water system so if the worst happens and our water supply is compromised, we will be able to keep providing service while repairs are underway.

We understand that these investments come at a cost to our community, which is why we have worked diligently to secure funding and financing from our federal and state partners, so the burden does not fall entirely on Ferndale ratepayers. We have also expanded our low-income rate assistance program to shield the most vulnerable in our community from difficult rate increases. If you have not qualified in the past, please check with our utility clerk to see if you now qualify for a discount on your utilities.

These projects are generational investments that will provide for our community for years to come. This work will ensure that as we continue to evolve from being a small rural town to the thriving small city we have become, we can rely on our infrastructure to provide safe, quality, and reliable water for everyone in our community.

Greg C. Hansen  
Mayor of Ferndale

The City has implemented mandatory watering restrictions effective June 1st through September 15th. Residents with odd numbered street addresses are mandated to water only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Mondays are non-watering days to allow the City's reservoirs to recharge after the weekend. For more information visit [www.Cityofferndale.org](http://www.Cityofferndale.org) or contact the City at 360-384-4302.

### WATERING EXEMPTIONS:

The Mandatory Watering Restrictions do not apply to the following situations:

- Drip irrigation systems or handheld watering
- Watering of flower and vegetable gardens
- Watering of outdoor potted plants and hanging baskets
- Watering newly planted lawns

MANDATORY WATERING RESTRICTIONS: JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 15						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
✓ ODD	✗ NO WATERING	✓ EVEN	✓ ODD	✓ EVEN	✓ ODD	✓ EVEN



The City of Ferndale is a partner of the Whatcom Water Alliance, a regional water conservation group. The Alliance shares a passion in providing clean and safe water to protect your health, planet and quality of life.



We must all work together to keep our water clean and healthy. To do that, we each need to learn to value water. To learn more, visit [www.watersworthit.org](http://www.watersworthit.org).

WATER'S WORTH IT™ is a trademark of the Water Environment Federation.  
© 2022 Goldstreet Design Agency, Inc. All Rights Reserved

City of Ferndale  
PO, Box 936, Ferndale, WA 98248



Your Comments Are Welcomed!

The Ferndale City Council meets the first and third Mondays of every month at the City Hall Annex Building located at 5694 2nd Avenue, Ferndale, starting at 6:00 p.m. Public comment is taken at the beginning of each meeting.

For more information, please call City Hall at (360) 384-4302.

CITY OF  
FERNDALE

# Water Quality

REPORT 2022

Mayor Hansen  
at the Water  
Treatment Plant



The City of Ferndale water source is a system of three groundwater wells. Two of the wells are completed in the Vashon-Olympia (V-O) aquifer and one well is completed in the Possession-Whidbey (P-W) aquifer. Water in the V-O aquifer appears to be semi-confined to confined by an overlying thick sequence of fine-grained glacial sediments located in the Mountain View and Boundary uplands in western Whatcom County. The P-W aquifer is located at greater depths and is highly confined by overlying low permeability glacial and non-glacial sediments. Water from both aquifers is treated at the City's treatment plant where it is softened and chlorinated (to protect against microbiological contaminants).

## WHY PROVIDE A WATER QUALITY REPORT?

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 material, 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2022

PWSID#24850M

Substance (units)	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source	In Compliance?
RAW WATER (Before Treatment)					
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Range Detected: 0.69 - 1.05 Average: 0.79	TT		Naturally present in the environment.	Yes
REGULATED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT					
Arsenic (ppm) (Tested 2021)	0.001	0.010	0	Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Barium (ppm) (Tested 2021)	0.032	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Copper (ppm) (Tested 2021)	0.027	SMCL =1		Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Nitrate (ppm)	Annual Sample: ND	10	0	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaking from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Free Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Range Detected: 0.34 - 1.09 Average: 0.75	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes.	Yes
REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Copper (ppm) (Tested 2021)	90th Percentile Copper: 0.116 Range Detected: 0.015 - 0.173	Action Level 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	Yes
Lead (ppm) (Tested 2021)	90th Percentile Lead: 0.007 Range Detected: 0 - 0.0175	Action Level 0.015	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	Yes
Total Coliform (presence/absence)	180 samples collected Zero positive samples	≥1 positive samples per month	0	Naturally present in the environment.	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Range Detected: 4.8 - 5.3 Average: 5.1	60		By-product of drinking water disinfection.	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Range Detected: 16.0 - 25.7 Average: 20.9	80		By-product of drinking water disinfection.	Yes

### UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>ppm</b>	Parts per Million	<b>mg/L</b>	Milligrams per Liter
<b>ppb</b>	Parts per Billion	<b>µCi/L</b>	Picocuries per Liter
<b>Action Level (AL)</b>	The concentration of a contaminate that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.		
<b>MCLG</b>	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.		
<b>MCL</b>	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.		
<b>MRDLG</b>	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.		
<b>MRDL</b>	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 (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).		
<b>SMCL</b>	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level: The maximum concentration or level of certain water contaminants in public water supplies set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the public welfare. The secondary levels are written to address aesthetic considerations such as taste, odor, and color or water, rather than health standards. Also see Primary Drinking Water Standards, Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG).		
<b>TT</b>	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.		
<b>ND</b>	Not detected		
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency		
<b>CDC</b>	Center for Disease Control & Prevention		

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4:** Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and decide whether future regulation is warranted. Of the 31 contaminants including pesticides, metals, organic solvents, and alcohols monitored, only manganese (average 0.46 ppb, range 0.40 - 0.52 ppb) and low levels of disinfection by-products were detected as show below:

2020 UCMR4 Data			
	Units	Average	Range
Monobromoacetic Acid	ppb	0.5	0.3 - 0.6
Dibromoacetic Acid	ppb	2.6	2.0 - 3.3
Bromochloroacetic Acid	ppb	0.8	0.4 - 1.8
Bromodichloroacetic Acid	ppb	2.6	2.4 - 3.2
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid	ppb	1.3	0.6 - 2.6
Tribromoacetic Acid	ppb	1.4	0 - 3.3
Haloacetic Acids(5)	ppb	3.0	2.5 - 3.9
Haloacetic Acids (6Br)	ppb	9.2	6.4 - 12.5
Haloacetic Acid(9)	ppb	9.2	6.4 - 12.5



City of Ferndale Water Treatment Plant  
Phone (360) 384-4607 | [www.cityofferndale.org](http://www.cityofferndale.org)  
Mike Olinger - Public Utilities Superintendent



## MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. We are 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 drinking 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>.