# 2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT PWS#933547 (System #4)

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
General Manager: Kelly Williquette
1225 N. Yardley Street Spokane, WA 99212-7001
(509) 536-0121 https://SCWD3.org

**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, 2024. 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.

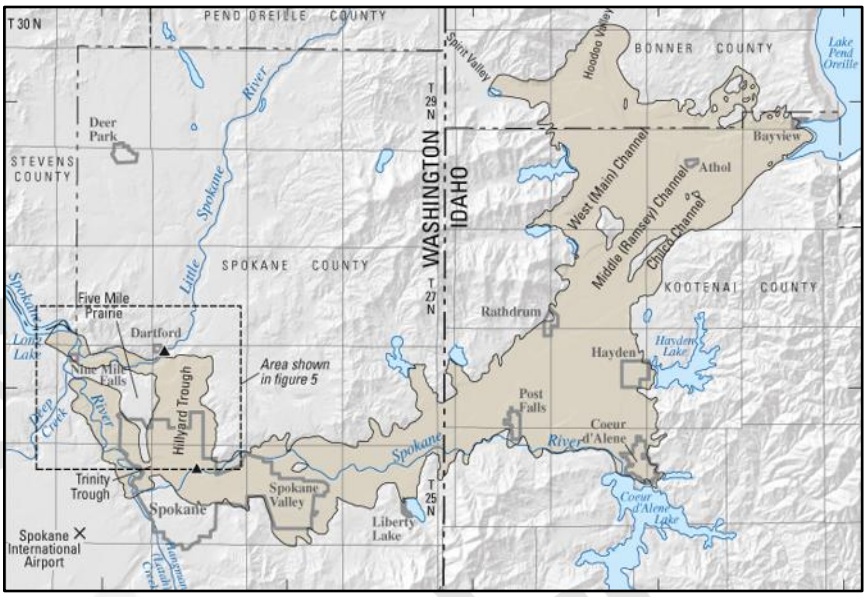
### RUSSIAN
Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести это для вас или поговорите с кем-то, кто понимает это.

### 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.

# WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

**Water Conservation Rebate Program:** In our efforts to promote water conservation and protection of the area's natural resources, we recently adopted a rebate program for the purchase of smart irrigation controllers for customers with in-ground irrigation systems. The rebate offers a credit on customer accounts, up to $100.00, for the proof of purchase and use of **"EPA WaterSense"** labeled controllers within our water district. For more information or ways to apply or terms and conditions, visit our website at **https://scwd3.org/conservation-rebate-program/** or contact our office for a copy of the rebate application.



Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

For other information regarding ways to save water, visit our website at **scwd3.org**, follow us on Twitter, visit outdoorwateringnerds.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

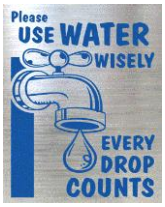
Our goal in 2024 was to reduce residential water use to 510.5 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU) which we were able to meet. This was a reduction of over 62 million gallons of water from last year's customer consumption. The District will continue to run a rate structure that promotes 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 average is currently 9.9% so we didn't quite meet our goal for 2024. We did locate and repair 1 broken AC water main and 2 leaking service lines during the calendar year. We also had record low temperatures last winter that led to many water meters freezing and breaking. Several of which were large (4 inch or greater) commercial services that caused flooding when they broke. We also had a new development that went in last year with a manufactured defect in the pipe gaskets. This led to the discovery and replacement of 25 leaking joints which we feel contributed to a large portion of the District's water loss for the year.

**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 | 2024 | ppm | 10 | 10 | 3.74 | 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 | 2024 | pCi/L | n/a | 15 | ND | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Radium 228 | 2024 | pCi/L | n/a | 5 | 0.055 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Synthetic Organic Chemicals | 2022 | ppb + ppt | Varies by chemical | Varies by chemical | ND | Varies by Chemical |
| Volatile Organic Chemicals | 2024 | 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 | 90TH 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 | 2024 | ppb | 0 | 80 | ND | By-product of Chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids | 2024 | ppb | 0 | 60 | ND | By-product of Chlorination |
| E.coli Bacteria | 2024 | | 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 ppb.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (COMPLETED IN 2024)

**Fairview Waterline Improvements:** In 2024, the District hired a contractor to install 3,180 feet of new 8" ductile iron water main, 1,670 feet of 12" ductile iron water main, replace 40 services, upgrade 19 meter pits, and install 3 new fire hydrants on Fairview Road, Sorrell Avenue, and Red Roan Drive. This project replaced some aged steel water main in the area and connected this neighborhood to our new booster station on Florida Lane. Total project cost was $1,329,070.

**Construction Crew Installing New Pipe on Fairview Road**

**Florida Lane Booster Station:** This year staff finished construction of a new booster station next to the District's 1.6-million-gallon reservoir on Florida Lane. This replaced the Sorrell Lane booster station which had a pumping capacity of 480 gallons per minute (gpm) and the Fairview Road booster station with a pumping capacity of 255 gpm, with a new above-ground pump facility capable of producing 1,600 gpm. We also installed an emergency backup generator at the site so we can continue to provide water during power outages. These improvements significantly improved system operating efficiency and reliability to the area by meeting higher water demands during peak irrigation season and allowing us to now provide adequate fire flow to the neighborhood. In the past, the District used to receive numerous pressure complaints during the summer as the old, below-ground, booster stations would struggle to keep up with demands. This new facility should alleviate those issues and provide a more constant pressure to the area. Total construction cost for the booster station was $591,840.

**New Florida Booster Station**

**4 New 30 HP Motors and 1 New 10 HP Motor Inside the Florida Booster Station**

**Contractor Pushing 30 Inch Steel Casing Under Hastings Road**

**Hastings Avenue Bore:** Last summer the District hired a boring company to install approximately 100 feet of 30" steel casing underneath Hastings Road which will be later used as a conduit to install new 18" ductile iron water main under the road without having to remove and replace the existing concrete road surface. This is the first phase of installing a new transmission main from our two wells at Helena Court to our crossing at US-395 and Perry Road. Once this water main is installed, we'll be able to move water more efficiently out of the residential area surrounding the wells and reduce pressure spikes in the neighborhood by providing a more direct route to our 500,000-gallon reservoir on Winger Road.

**New Developments:** 2024 marked a busy construction season for the District with an addition of 60 single-family homes, 4 irrigation services, 3 apartment complexes and a commercial service to our existing customer base. In addition to this, developers installed over 8,040 feet of new water pipe infrastructure to serve an additional 68 single family homes in the area. Theres also plans to add 2 additional housing developments and another apartment complex in 2025.