

# 2013 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

LYNNFIELD CENTER WATER DISTRICT, LYNNFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

PWS ID# 3164000

## Compliance with Safety and Health Standards

The Lynnfield Center Water District's (the District's) water meets and exceeds all state and federal standards. We test our water regularly through a certified laboratory. During 2012, we collected nearly 1600 water samples in the system that were then tested

for compliance with state and federal health standards. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure that we deliver safe drinking water to our customers.

## Important Drinking Water Information

All sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) including rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells contain some naturally occurring contaminants or substances. 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.

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 the water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health affects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 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 Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in

bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. This report provides you with information about the contaminants found naturally in your drinking water, the levels at which they were found, and the likely source of each contaminant.

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides* may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants* include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants* can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### 2013 Drinking Water Report

This report describes the Lynnfield Center Water District's drinking water sources and treated water quality for calendar year 2012, and programs that protect the high quality of our water supply.

*This publication is mandated by the federal public-right-to-know regulation requiring community water suppliers to provide specific treated water quality information annually to their customers.*

This report includes additional information beyond the minimum federal requirements in order to respond to typical questions our customers ask about the District's water system.

## Vulnerability

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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control 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.

### Customer Views Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Lynnfield Center Water District's water supply system, water quality and other related information please contact the District by calling 781-334-3901. The District's Board of Water Commissioners meets bi-monthly at the District's offices.



Published by the:

Lynnfield Center Water District  
83 Phillips Rd., Lynnfield, MA 01940

# 2012 Treated Water Quality Data

Listed below are 18 substances detected in the Lynnfield Center Water District's drinking water during 2012. The District also does additional testing well beyond what is required by federal and state regulations. Not listed are more than 100 other substances for which we tested that were not detected during 2012, including comprehensive testing for pesticides and herbicides.

| Substance   | Highest Detected Levels              | Range of Detected Levels                                       | Highest Level Allowed (MCL) | Ideal Goal (MCLG) | Source of Contamination  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Regulated at the Water Supply Wells</b>        |                                      |  |                             |                   |  |
| Barium  | 0.039 ppm                            | 0.027 – 0.039 ppm  | 2 ppm                       | 2 ppm             | Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits.                              |
| Chromium  | 2 ppb                                | ND – 2 ppb   | 100 ppb                     | 100 ppb           | Discharge from pulp mills, erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Fluoride <sup>7</sup>                             | 1.1 ppm                              | ND – 1.1 ppm   | 4 ppm                       | 4 ppm             | Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate as Nitrogen                               | 6.9 ppm                              | 0.39 – 6.9 ppm   | 10 ppm                      | 10 ppm            | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic systems; Erosion of natural deposits                                    |
| Combined Radium <sup>1</sup>                      | 1.9 pCi/L                            | 0.3 – 1.9 pCi/L  | 5 pCi/L                     | 0 pCi/L           | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Gross Alpha <sup>1</sup>                          | 1.7 pCi/L                            | ND – 1.7 pCi/L   | 15 pCi/L                    | 0 pCi/L           | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| <b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b> |                                      |  |                             |                   |  |
| Free, Total or Combined Chlorine <sup>3</sup>     | 0.28 ppm                             | 0.08 – 1.40 ppm  | 4 ppm (MRDL)                | 4 ppm (MRDLG)     | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Total Trihalomethanes <sup>3</sup>                | 18 ppb                               | 0.6 – 28.9 ppb   | 80 ppb                      | 0 ppb             | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| Haloacetic Acids <sup>3</sup>                     | 1.28 ppb                             | ND – 5.27 ppb  | 60 ppb                      | 0 ppb             | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| <b>Unregulated Contaminants<sup>4</sup></b>       |                                      |  |                             |                   |  |
| Bromoform   | 6.43 ppb                             | ND – 6.43 ppb  | not regulated               | not regulated     | Component of total trihalomethanes   |
| Bromodichloromethane                              | 10.5 ppb                             | ND – 10.5 ppb  | not regulated               | not regulated     | Component of total trihalomethanes   |
| Dibromochloromethane                              | 8.9 ppb                              | 0.6 – 8.9 ppb  | not regulated               | not regulated     | Component of total trihalomethanes   |
| Chloroform  | 7.97 ppb                             | ND – 7.97 ppb  | not regulated               | not regulated     | Component of total trihalomethanes   |
| Manganese <sup>6,8</sup>                          | 66 ppb                               | ND – 66 ppb  | not regulated               | not regulated     | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Sodium <sup>5</sup>                               | 66.3 ppm                             | 16.3 – 66.3 ppm  | not regulated               | not regulated     | Present in natural water (source water)  |
| Sulfate <sup>6</sup>                              | 29.5 ppm                             | 17.2 – 29.5 ppm  | not regulated               | not regulated     | Erosion of natural deposits (source water)   |
| Substance   | Highest Detected Levels <sup>2</sup> | Range and Number of Sites Above Action Level (AL) <sup>3</sup> | Highest Level Allowed (MCL) | Ideal Goal (MCLG) | Source of Contamination  |
| <b>Regulated at the Customer's Tap</b>            |                                      |  |                             |                   |  |
| Copper  | 1.5 ppm                              | 0.16 – 1.5 ppm<br>2 results > AL                               | 1.3 ppm AL                  | 1.3 ppm           | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives                   |
| Lead  | 17 ppb                               | ND – 17 ppb<br>1 result > AL                                   | 15 ppb AL                   | 0 ppb             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits   |

## Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as is feasible using the best available technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

**90<sup>th</sup> percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

**Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG)** – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action. See: [www.mass.gov/dep/about/organization/orshist.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/about/organization/orshist.htm) for more information.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

## Key to Abbreviations:

**ND** – Not detected

**ppm** (Part Per Million) – One part per million is the equivalent of \$1 in \$1,000,000.

**ppb** (Part Per Billion) – One part per billion is the equivalent of \$1 in \$1,000,000,000.

**pCi/L** – Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water. A picocurie is 10<sup>-12</sup> curies and is the quantity of radioactive material producing 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.

< Less than

± Plus or minus, denoting a range

## Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> No monitoring for these substances was conducted in 2012 because it was not required. Combined Radium and Gross Alpha detected result are from 2011 sampling.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, as required by regulations. Results based on 20 samples.

<sup>3</sup> Highest chlorine level is based on the running annual average of data. Highest trihalomethanes and haloacetic acid levels are based on the highest average annual result. The ranges represent the individual results of all samples collected in 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

<sup>5</sup> The ORSG for sodium is 20 ppm (there is no applicable SMCL for sodium). Sodium sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the sodium levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

<sup>6</sup> The SMCL for manganese is 50 ppb. The SMCL for sulfate is 250 ppm. [There is no applicable ORSG for manganese or sulfate].

<sup>7</sup> EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, our state has set a lower MCL, 2 ppm, to better protect human health.

<sup>8</sup> EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) of 300 ppb and a SMCL of 50 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a 1-day and 10-day HA of 1,000 ppb for acute exposure.

## Important Health Information

**Nitrate:** As shown in the table above, the highest detected level of nitrate was above 5 ppm (50% of the MCL), but below the MCL of 10 ppm. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

**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. Lynnfield Center Water District 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Copper** is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their doctor.

It is possible that copper and/or lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before drinking tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

# Lynnfield Center Water District's Source Water Assessment Program

Where does my water come from? The Lynnfield Center Water District obtains its drinking water from four groundwater wellfields, as shown on the map. The Phillips Road wellfield contains sixty wells. The Main Street wellfield contains a single gravel pack well. There are two wells in the Phillips Road area. The Glen Drive wellfield contains four bedrock wells.

In addition to the wellfields, the District operates two storage tanks, one at Knoll Road and one at Wing Road. The distribution system consists of approximately 48 miles of water mains ranging in size from 2- to 16-inch diameter.

How are these sources protected?

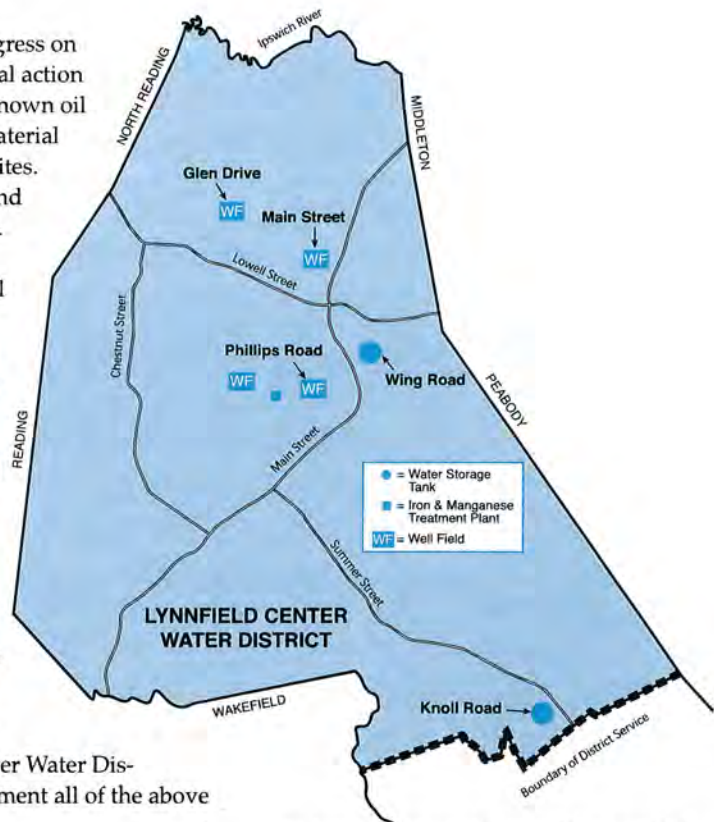
The DEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply sources serving the Lynnfield Center Water District. The SWAP report notes the key issues of: residential land uses and activities; presence of oil or hazardous material contamination sites; and comprehensive wellhead protection planning in the water supply protection areas. The report commends the Lynnfield Center Water District on its existing source protection measures, which include: posting "Public Drinking Water" signs; regular inspections of protection areas; prohibition of non-water-supply related activities within the protection area; development of an "Emergency Response Plan" to deal with spills or other emergencies; and regular inspections of commercial and industrial activities by the Board of Health.

## What can be done to improve protection?

The SWAP report recommends:

- Educating residents on proper disposal of hazardous materials.
- Providing residents with information on environmentally friendly household products.
- Educating residents on septic system care.
- Educating residents on environmentally sound lawn care.
- Providing residents with educational materials on proper storage of liquid petroleum products in above ground storage tanks.

- Monitoring progress on ongoing remedial action conducted for known oil or hazardous material contamination sites.
- Developing a land acquisition plan.
- Coordinating efforts with local officials in North Reading and Peabody to compare existing controls.
- Developing and implementing an Inspection Program for facilities that generate, use, store, or dispose of hazardous/toxic materials.



The Lynnfield Center Water District plans to implement all of the above recommendations.

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance.
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at Town meetings.
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days.
- Contacting the water department or Board of Health to volunteer for monitoring or education outreach to schools.
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use.

## Water System's Susceptibility

The wells for the Lynnfield Center Water District are located within water supply protection areas. The primary recharge areas for the wells are predominantly forested and residential, with a small amount of recreational land use. The SWAP ranks susceptibility of wells by determining the presence of contamination threats within the well recharge areas. The SWAP ranks the Glen Drive wellfield susceptibility as moderate since there is at least one moderate threat land use within the recharge area, and the Phillips Road and Main Street wells susceptibility as high since there is at least one high threat land use within the recharge area. Sources of

moderate threats in the Glen Drive and the Phillips Road and Main Street recharge areas include potential contamination sources such as over-fertilization at golf courses, residential pesticide use/over-application, above ground storage tanks, water treatment sludge lagoons, improper residential fuel oil storage and malfunctioning septic systems. Sources of high threats in the Phillips Road and Main Street recharge area include potential contamination sources such as improper fluid and fuel handling at gas stations and improper handling of underground storage tanks.

## Where can I see the SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Lynnfield Center Water District and online at [www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/nero/3164000.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/nero/3164000.pdf). For more information, call the District at 781-334-3901.

## Water Conservation

Due to the District's permitted withdrawal limit from the Ipswich River Water Basin, the District has had to implement water usage restrictions as required by DEP. The District is actively working to insure the long-term viability of its sources by aggressively promoting water conservation and identifying potential new water supply sources in town.

The average home can reduce inside water use by 18 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) or more.

Some ways to reduce usage include:

- Replace old toilets with low flush (1.6 gallon) and save 10.5 gpcd.
- Install low flow shower heads (2.5 gpm) and faucet aerators (2.2 gpm) and save 3.0 gpcd.
- Replace agitator type clothes washer with tumbler type and save 4.5 gpcd.

As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to evapotranspiration by watering the lawn during midday. We recommend the following tips to minimize outdoor water usage:

- Water between 5 P.M. and 9 P.M. avoid watering on windy days.
- A watered lawn will absorb moisture better when delivered in a few sessions spaced 30 minutes to an hour apart rather than one 30 minute session.

- To determine if a lawn needs watering, walk across the grass, if foot-prints are left, lawn needs watering.
- Install moisture sensors in each irrigation zone to better monitor irrigation needs.

Conserving water saves you money and preserves the District's water supply.

To promote water conservation, the District has a Rebate Program for residential water-savings devices. District customers that replace existing washing machines and/or toilets with eligible washing machines and/or low flow toilets are eligible for rebates. Also to promote water conservation the District has faucet aerators, low-flow shower heads and toilet displacement bottles/dams available to its customers at cost. Contact the District for more information or to obtain Rebate Application Forms, 781-334-3901.

### Water Use Restrictions

Outside use of sprinklers is limited to even calendar days between 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. This restriction is necessitated by the Department of Environmental Protection permitted withdrawal from the Ipswich River Water Basin.

## New Water Supply Source:

The Lynnfield Center Water District has received DEP's Water Management Act Permit and approval to construct a new bedrock wellfield as a withdrawal point. The location of the new withdrawal point is about 3,000 feet northwest of the District's offices at 83 Phillips Road, Lynnfield, MA. Construction began in the summer of 2012 and the new source is expected to be online by summer 2013. This new source will assist the District to meet future water demand and to continue to provide adequate water supply to its consumers. Contact the District if you would like more information about this project.

### Lynnfield's Drinking Water Treatment Process

**Sodium hypochlorite** (chlorine) is added as a disinfectant to kill any germs that may be in the water and to ensure that the water in the distribution system remains safe to drink.

**Fluoride** is added to the water to reduce the incidence of dental cavities, particularly in children.

**Potassium hydroxide** (KOH) is mixed uniformly through the water to adjust pH and control corrosion of lead and copper from household plumbing fixtures.

## 2013 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT LYNNFIELD CENTER WATER DISTRICT, LYNNFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

