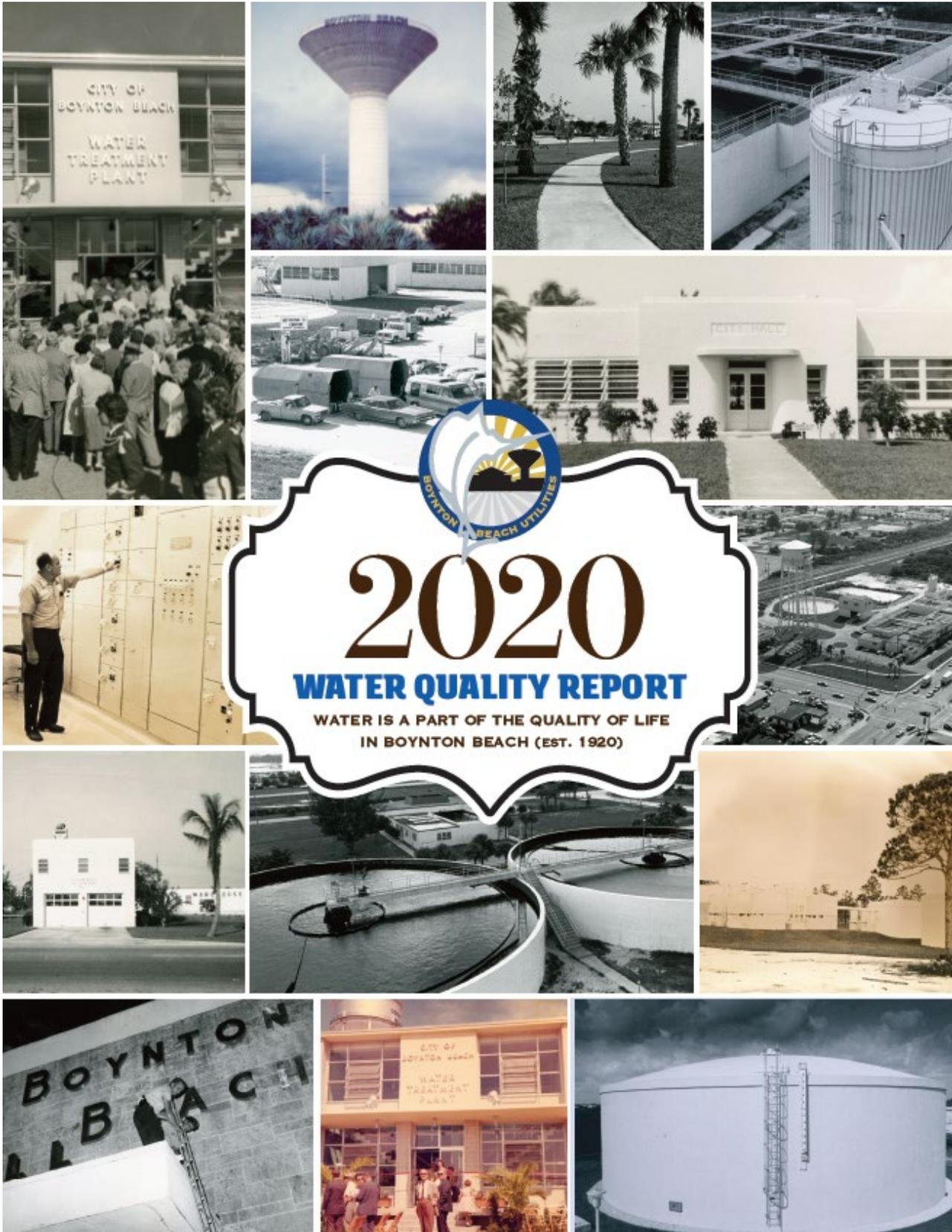


# 2020 Water Quality Report

WATER IS A PART OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN  
BOYNTON BEACH (est. 1920)



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## Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?

The primary goal of Boynton Beach Utilities is to produce the highest quality water in an environmentally responsible manner and at the lowest possible cost. Raw water is pumped from the East Coast Surficial Aquifer by wells that vary in depth from 50 to 250 feet. During our dry season, December through May, we rely heavily on our western wellfield and water that has been stored in our Aquifer Storage and Recovery system (ASR). ASR allows us to store treated water during the rainy season when water is plentiful and use it during the dry season when water is scarce. The City owns 30 production wells. These groundwater wells range in depth between 50 and 240 feet below the ground. These wells are located in environmentally protected zones and the water from these wells is regularly tested to confirm its adequacy.

### West Water Treatment Plant

The West Water Treatment facility is a state-of-the-art plant that utilizes nanofiltration membranes to remove any contaminants that may be found in the raw water withdrawn from the western wellfield. The West Water Treatment facility has the capacity to treat an annual average of 10.4 million gallons of raw water each day.

### East Water Treatment Facility

The 24 MGD East Water Treatment facility utilizes a traditional lime softening/sand filtration process to treat water withdrawn from the city wellfields. This facility also has a Magnetic Ion Exchange process commonly referred to as the MIEX system. This additional step virtually removes all the color and much of the mineral content from the raw water. This process also removes the organic content, reducing the potential for formation of disinfection byproducts and scale buildup within the city's water distribution system.

### Source Water Assessment

In 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment for the City of Boynton Beach's Public Water System. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 12 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the [DEP SWAPP website](#) or they can be obtained from Water Quality Manager, by calling 561-742-6420.

## Water and the Community

### Stormwater Management

Stormwater is excess rainfall that is not absorbed into the ground. As rainfall runs off to nearby canals, lakes, the Intracoastal Waterway and the ocean, it can pick up dirt, debris, chemicals, and other pollutants. These pollutants are carried to the surface waters we use for fishing, boating, and swimming. Intentional dumping and accidental spills into stormwater systems should be reported immediately by calling 561-742-6400. It is important to report dumping because:

- Debris can be harmful
- Nutrients (from leaves, grass, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides) can kill wildlife and cause excessive algae growth
- Bacteria (from pet waste and dead animals) can produce health concerns
- Sediment can harm aquatic organisms and reduce the system's ability to handle potential flooding
- Chemicals, oils, and paints can be toxic to plants and animals

Keep pollution out of our waters!

### Flood Mitigation and Resilience Planning

Flooding in South Florida can result from heavy rainfall, storm surge, high groundwater levels, and high tides. Each fall, unusually high tides ("King Tides") occur as a result of natural variations in atmospheric and oceanic conditions. Boynton Beach's low-lying, coastal communities are vulnerable to tidal flooding which is likely to become more frequent and

severe as sea levels rise. To reduce flooding impacts, Boynton Beach Utilities regularly maintains storm drains and catch basins, and installs tidal valves in affected neighborhoods.

## Reclaimed Water

The City of Boynton Beach is a committed Environmental Steward. That is why the City makes available and promotes the reuse of water. Wastewater generated within the Utility service area is collected and conveyed to the South Central Regional Water Reclamation Facility, where it is treated to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard acceptable for irrigation in public areas. In addition, the reclaimed water then percolates into the ground, replenishing our groundwater system and completing the cycle.

## Energy Efficiency Rebates

The Energy Edge Rebate Program provides rebates up to \$1,500 to City residents and small businesses for eligible energy-efficient air conditioners, doors and windows, solar energy, electric vehicle chargers, and more. Rebates are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while funding remains. Learn how to apply at [Go Green Boynton](#) or contact the Sustainability Coordinator at [HarveyR@bbfl.us](mailto:HarveyR@bbfl.us), 561-742-6494.

## Free Conservation Kits

Boynton Beach Utilities provides free conservation kits to residents of the utilities service area. The kit includes a low-flow showerhead, LED light bulb, replacement toilet flapper, and leak detector dye tablets. Pick up your kit inside City Hall at the Customer Service window; Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm. Questions? Call 561-742-6494.

## 2020 Water Quality Data

Boynton Beach Utilities routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws, Rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31, 2020. Data obtained before January 1, 2020, and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

### Microbiological Contaminants:

Contaminant: 2b. E. coli (at the ground water source)\*

Dates of sampling (month/year): 5/20

Violation (Yes or No): Yes

Total Number of Positive Samples for the Year: 1

MCLG: 0

MCL: 0

Likely source of contamination: Human and animal fecal waste

\*On May 27, 2020, we sampled one of our source wells (Well 19) for the fecal indicator, E. coli. We were notified on May 28 that Well 19 tested positive for E. coli. The well was immediately taken off line and treated. On June 24, we took five additional samples and all samples were negative for E. Coli. The well was then put back into service.

Health Effects: Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

## Inorganic Contaminants:

### Contaminant and Unit of Measurement:

1. Fluoride (ppm)  
Dates of sampling (month/year): 01/20-12/20  
MCL Violation (Yes or No): No  
Level Detected, (Max. Ave. of any one site): 0.15  
Range of Results: 0.06-0.21  
MCLG: 4  
MCL: 4.0  
Likely Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
2. Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)  
Dates of sampling (month/year): 1/20, 08/20  
MCL Violation (Yes or No): No  
Level Detected, (Max. Ave. of any one site): 0.29  
Range of Results: 0-0.5  
MCLG: 10  
MCL: 10  
Likely Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

### Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products:

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement: Chlorine and Chloramines (ppm)  
Dates of sampling (month/year): 01/20-12/20  
MCL or MRDL Violation (Yes or No): No  
Level Detected (RAA): 3.38  
Range of Results: 0.8-4.6  
MCLG or MRDLG: MRDLG = 4  
MCL or MRDL: MRDL = 4.0  
Likely Source of Contamination: Water additive used to control microbes

### Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products:

#### Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement:

1. Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)  
Dates of sampling (month/year): 02/20, 4/20, 07/20, 10/20  
MCL Violation (Yes or No): No  
Level Detected: 18.88  
Range of Results: 1.9 - 25.7  
MCLG: N/A  
MCL: 60  
Likely Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection
2. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)  
Dates of sampling (month/year): 02/20, 4/20, 07/20, 10/20  
MCL Violation (Yes or No): No  
Level Detected: 22  
Range of Results: 2.5 - 35.1  
MCLG: N/A  
MCL: 80  
Likely Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection

## Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

### Contaminant and Unit of Measurement:

1. Copper (tap water) (ppm)  
Dates of sampling (month/year): 11/20  
AL Exceeded (Yes or No): No  
90th Percentile Result: 0.084  
No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL: 0  
MCLG: 1.3  
AL (Action Level): 1.3  
Likely Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
2. Lead (tap water) (ppb)  
Dates of sampling (month/year): 11/20  
AL Exceeded (Yes or No): No  
90th Percentile Result: 2.4  
No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL: 1  
MCLG: 0  
AL (Action Level): 15  
Likely Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

## Information of Lead & Copper

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. (insert name of utility) 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 the [Environmental Protection Agency](#).

## Assessment And Protection Program

### Sources of Drinking Water

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

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) 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.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, by-product of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Regulations

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Important Definitions

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

**FECAL COLIFORM/E. COLI.** Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes.

Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

**LRAA: Local Running Annual Average.**

The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

**MCL: 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.

**MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal.** The level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG: 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.

**ND: Not Detected.** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**ppb: parts per billion.** A unit of measurement equal to one part by weight of a contaminant in 1 billion parts by weight of water.

**ppm: parts per million.** A unit of measurement equal to one part by weight of a contaminant in 1 million parts by weight of water.

**SWAPP.** Source Water Assessment and Protection Program.

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

## Vulnerable Populations

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/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Customer Service Utility Charges

The average Boynton Beach Utility customer (two person household with no irrigation) uses an average of approximately 5,000 gallons of water each month. Monthly customer billing includes charges for water, wastewater (sewer) and refuse (trash and yard debris) collection. In addition, a stormwater management fee is included. A typical utility invoice for use of 5,000 gallons of drinking water, including wastewater and refuse charges is \$78.04.

These services provide for quality of life benefits, including clean and safe affordable drinking water, sewer disposal, clean surface water and streets.

Boynton Beach Utilities Online Bill Pay System provides phone and online options which enables easy access for account management and payments.

### Water Base Facility Charges (BFC)

Pays for the infrastructure needed to produce and distribute the water to our customers.

### Wastewater (Sewer) BFC

Similar to the water BFC this pays for the infrastructure needed to collect, transmit and treat wastewater.

### Water And Wastewater Consumption Charge

Pays for the cost of labor, materials and supplies for water and wastewater usage.

### Refuse Collection Charge (Inside City Limits)

Pays for the cost of collection and disposal of garbage and yard waste.

### Stormwater Charge (Inside City Limits)

Pays for the installation and maintenance of drainage infrastructure (swales, inlets, catch basins, pipes). It includes street sweeping and stormwater treatment areas needed to protect our surface waters from contamination.

## Boynton Beach Utilities Location

124 E. Woolbright Rd.  
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

## Phone Directory

Customer Service & Billing.....	561-742-6300
Emergency Customer Service .....	561-742-6430
After Hours (City holidays, M-Th after 5 pm/Fri after 4:30 pm)	
Water Quality .....	561-742-6964
CDC/EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline .....	800-426-4791

## Commission

Mayor Steven B. Grant, At Large  
Vice Mayor Ty Penserga, District IV  
Cmr. Justin Katz, District I  
Cmr. Woodrow Hay, District II  
Cmr. Christina Romelus, District III  
Lori LaVerriere, City Manager

City Commission meetings take place on the first and third Tuesday of each month and begin at 5:30 PM at Boynton Beach City Hall (100 East Ocean Ave.)

## Covid-19

Please visit our COVID-19 web portal to access Corona virus updates- including press briefing summaries, vaccine information, locations for testing sites and food distribution, and information on business resources.

## Mission Statement

It is the mission of Boynton Beach Utilities to continually improve and maintain a secure, and sustainable infrastructure, while providing reliable high quality, affordable drinking water, reclaimed water, wastewater collection and stormwater management services for all members of the community while continuing to find innovative ways to improve the delivery of services.

## ADA Statement

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate accessible formats upon request by contacting the City of Boynton Beach ADA Coordinator at 561-742-6241; [ada@bbfl.us](mailto:ada@bbfl.us) or (Florida Relay) 1-800-955-8771.