



## 2017 (CCR) Consumer Confidence Report January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

The City of Sycamore established a public water supply in 1888. Sycamore serves a population over 17,000. The Sycamore Water Division has met or surpassed all EPA and IEPA drinking water standards. The Sycamore Public Works Water Division is committed to provide safe drinking water and reliable service to our customers.

The source water for the customers of Sycamore is provided from deep well groundwater. The City has five wells that draw water from deep sandstone aquifers. These wells are capable of pumping approximately 7.7 million gallons per day. All wells are equipped with backup generators for emergency conditions. The water pressure for Sycamore's system is provided by two elevated storage tanks with a storage capacity of 2.25 million gallons.

Additional information concerning the public water supply is available by contacting the Water Department at 1-815-895-2548. The Sycamore Water Division office is located at 202 E. Page Street Sycamore, Illinois 60178. Office hours are Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 4pm. The contact person is Mike Swedberg, Public Works Superintendent Water Division. The City of Sycamore's Facility number is # 0370550. Sycamore City Council Meetings are located at 308 W. State Street Sycamore, Illinois 60178 the first and third Monday every month.

The Sycamore Public Works Water Division is providing this report annually to assist you in becoming more knowledgeable about your drinking water. However, according to regulations some contaminants are scheduled to be monitored less frequently than annually. The latest data will be provided in this report.

USEPA has established water quality limits which have been determined to be safe and acceptable. Any contaminants at or above the established MCL (maximum contaminant level) will be noted.

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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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 at (800) 426-4791.

## **Source Water Assessment**

To determine Sycamore's susceptibility to groundwater contamination, information obtained during a Well Site Survey performed by the Illinois Rural Water Association was reviewed. Based on this information, 74 potential sources of contamination were identified within the survey area of this water supply's wells. **The Illinois EPA does not consider the city's source water susceptible to contamination.** This determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the wells; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and the available hydrogeological data on the wells. **In anticipation of the U.S. EPA's proposed Ground Water Rule, the Illinois EPA has determined that the water supply is not vulnerable to viral contamination.** This determination is based upon the completed evaluation of the following criteria during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: the community's wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper site conditions; a hydrogeological barrier exists that should prevent pathogen movement; all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected; monitoring data did not indicate history of disease outbreak; and a sanitary survey of the water supply did not indicate a viral contamination threat. Because the community's wells are constructed in a confined aquifer, which should minimize the movement of pathogens into the wells, well hydraulics were not considered to be a significant factor in the vulnerability determination. Hence, well hydraulics were not evaluated for this groundwater supply. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

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 can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

## **Contaminants that may be present in source water include.**

**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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides** - may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants** - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants** - can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**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. The City of Sycamore 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>.

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Because of favorable monitoring history, and aquifer characteristics, our water supply has been granted a vulnerability waiver for SOC's (Synthetic Organic Compounds) and VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) for some City Wells. The vulnerability waiver reduces the amount of testing that is required at the City Wells.

## Definitions:

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** 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.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.

**Fluoride** - Fluoride is added to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.6 mg/l to 0.8 mg/l.

**Iron** - This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state has set 1.0 mg/l MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving 1,000 or more.

**TTHM's** –Trihalomethanes Acids. By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**HAA5** – Haloacetic Acids. By-product of drinking water chlorination.

## The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**ppb** : parts per billion or (ug/l) micrograms per liter - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**na**: not applicable.

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**ppm** : parts per million or (mg/l) milligrams per liter - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**Picocurie:** (pCi/l) - A Unit of radioactivity. One picocurie represents a quantity of radioactive material with an activity equal to one-millionth of one-millionth of a curie.

2017 Consumer Confidence Report can be reviewed @ [www.cityofsycamore.com/CCR17](http://www.cityofsycamore.com/CCR17)

For questions call Mike Swedberg City of Sycamore  
Superintendent Public Works Water Division 1.815.895.2548  
[mstedberg@cityofsycamore.com](mailto:mstedberg@cityofsycamore.com)

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Note: Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

## Regulated Contaminants

Disinfection and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	12/31/2017	0.6	0.4 - 1.0	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids HAAS	2017	1	0 - 1	No Goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM	2017	6	2.7 – 5.6	No Goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-Products of drinking water disinfection.

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>	<b>Collection Date</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Levels Detected</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Likely source of Contamination</b>
Barium	2017	1.81	0.12 – 1.81	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2017	0.648	0.645 – 0.648	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum Factories.
Iron	2017	0.17	0.117 – 0.17		1.0	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the State regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2017	11.8	9.01 – 11.8			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally deposits; Used in water Softener regeneration.

  

<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>	<b>Collection Date</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Levels Detected</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Likely Source of contamination</b>
Combined Radium 226/228	2017	5	1.82 – 5.3	0	5	pCi/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	2017	9	4.6 – 9.0	0	15	pCi/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

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Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th. Percentile	# Sites Over (AL)	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2017	1.3	1.3	0.442	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2017	0	15	7.32	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

## Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform MCL	Highest # of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total # of Positive of E. Coli or Fecal Coliform samples	Violation	Likely Source of contamination
0	0	0	No	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.