

# City of Arlington Annual Water Quality Report

Water Testing Performed in 2021

PWS ID# 02950K



## Continuing Our Commitment

The City of Arlington is pleased to report that your drinking water is of high quality and compliant with all state and federal drinking water laws. We are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water, and to that end, we make more than 16,000 water quality observations and tests every year. This edition of our annual water quality report summarizes only the key findings of testing completed from January through December 2021. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Water Department at (360) 403-3526.



## Where Does Our Water Come From?

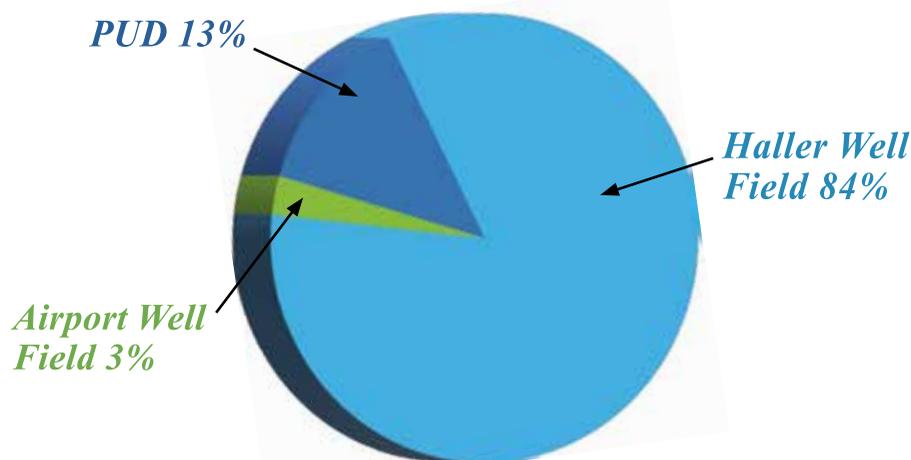
Three primary sources supply water to the Arlington service area. Arlington produces most of its water from the Haller and Airport well fields. The Haller well field naturally filters Stillaguamish River water by drawing it through the riverbank. The Airport well field draws groundwater from a deep aquifer. The origin of both these sources is precipitation that falls across the Stillaguamish Basin and infiltrates the ground surface.

The water we produce is blended with water the City purchases from its third source, Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD). This

water is obtained from the City of Everett's Spada Reservoir near the headwaters of the Sultan River.



The graph shows how each source contributed to our total water production of 1,949 acre-feet in 2021.



ARLINGTON WATER SUPPLY 2021

## HOW IS MY WATER TREATED AND PURIFIED?

### Haller Well Field

Groundwater drawn from our well field located near the Stillaguamish River is treated in several steps at Arlington's water treatment facility. First, raw (untreated) water is pumped from the well field to the treatment plant, where a primary treatment chemical is added that causes small particles to stick together and form bigger particles called floc. Next, polymer is added to aid the filtering process and the water is passed through a clarifying filter where 60% to 70% of the floc is removed. The water then passes through a finishing filter where the remaining floc is taken out, and chlorine is added for disinfection. Finally, we add sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH level, making the water less corrosive to your pipes and plumbing fixtures.

### PUD

Drinking water purchased from Snohomish County PUD is treated at the City of Everett's water treatment plant using a treatment process similar to the process used by Arlington. PUD also draws from two wells near Lake Stevens. Everett and PUD add fluoride to the water for enhanced dental protection.

### Airport Well Field

Water drawn from our well near the Arlington Airport does not require filtration, but we do add chlorine for disinfection.

## Working Hard to Bring You the Best Water in the State — Efficiently



Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for setting national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water, and also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. The Arlington Water Department

continually monitors for these substances and reports our findings to the Washington Department of Health (DOH), who confirms you are receiving clean water. DOH records indicate we consistently provide you with clear, high quality water meeting stringent standards, and have done so for 21 consecutive years!

For more information see:

[www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/RapidRateFiltration](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/RapidRateFiltration)

This report conforms to the regulation under SDWA requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. We are committed to providing you with this information about your water supply because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

## SAMPLING RESULTS FOR 2021

In 2021, the City collected hundreds of water samples and made thousands of measurements to test for biological, inorganic, volatile organic, synthetic organic, or radioactive contaminants. The table below lists only those contaminants that were detected. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. All of the results shown here are less than Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), which are established with a safety margin for the protection of consumer health.

Since we purchase some of our water from the PUD, the table also includes data for the City of Everett's water supply. This information is particularly useful to those in our service area that receive PUD water before it is blended with water pumped from our wells. This includes any service connections along Burn Road, 186th NE Street, 89th Avenue, 91st Avenue, 95th Avenue, and 107th Avenue.

| Regulated Substances  |      |            |              |                            |               |                      |               |   |  |
|---|------|------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---|--|
| Samples were collected in finished water at our sources and/or throughout the distribution system |      |            |              | Arlington Water Department |               | Snohomish County PUD |               | Definitions of these terms are found at the bottom of this page |  |
| Substance (units)   | Year | MCL (MRDL) | MCLG (MRDLG) | Amount                     | Range         | Amount               | Range         | Compliant?  | Typical Sources  |
| Arsenic (ppb)   | 2021 | 10         | 0            | 1.4                        | ND – 1.4      | 2                    | ND – 2        | Yes   | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Barium (ppm)  | 2021 | 2          | 2            | 0.11                       | 0.007 – 0.015 | 0.01                 | 0.004 – 0.014 | Yes   | Erosion of natural deposits, drilling fluids                                       |
| Chlorine (ppm)  | 2021 | (4)        | (4)          | 1.10                       | 0.28 – 1.90   | 0.76                 | 0.31 – 1.31   | Yes   | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Chromium (ppb)  | 2021 | 100        | 100          | 4.8                        | ND – 4.8      | ND                   | NA            | Yes   | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Fluoride (ppm)  | 2021 | 4          | 4            | 0.12                       | 0.05 – 0.67   | 0.55                 | 0.24 – 0.65   | Yes   | Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits            |
| HAAs [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)   | 2021 | 60         | NA           | 16                         | 9–39          | 34                   | 20 – 40       | Yes   | By-product of drinking water disinfection  |
| Nitrate (ppm)   | 2021 | 10         | 10           | 1.46                       | 0.11 – 1.46   | 0.09                 | ND – 0.09     | Yes   | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, and animal wastes; Erosion |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)   | 2021 | 80         | NA           | 25                         | 5 – 71        | 44                   | 14 – 56       | Yes   | By-product of drinking water disinfection  |
| Turbidity (NTU) <sup>1</sup>  | 2021 | TT         | NA           | 0.05                       | 0.01 – 0.05   | 0.09                 | 0.06 – 0.13   | Yes   | Soil runoff, sediment  |

| Lead and Copper   |                           |     |      |                            |                                     |                      |                                     |            |  |
|---|---------------------------|-----|------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from homes throughout the service areas |                           |     |      | Arlington Water Department |                                     | Snohomish County PUD |                                     |            |  |
| Substance (units)   | Year <sup>2</sup> sampled | AL  | MCLG | 90th Percentile            | Homes Above AL/ Total Homes Sampled | 90th Percentile      | Homes Above AL/ Total Homes Sampled | Compliant? | Typical Sources  |
| Copper (ppm)  | 2021                      | 1.3 | 1.3  | 0.63                       | 0 / 30                              | 0.28                 | 0 / 32                              | Yes        | Corrosion of household plumbing<br>Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead (ppb)  | 2021                      | 15  | 0    | 1                          | 0/ 30                               | 1                    | 0 / 32                              | Yes        | Corrosion of household plumbing<br>Erosion of natural deposits |

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Turbidity, a measure of the cloudiness of water, is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

<sup>2</sup> Lead and copper samples are collected from area homes every 3 years. Both Arlington and PUD sampled in 2021 and will sample again in 2024.

## Table Definitions

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

**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 in drinking water 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 a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND:** Not detected.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the clarity, cloudiness, or turbidity, of water.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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

**90th Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 had lead and copper concentrations at or below this level.

## Contaminants That May Be Present In Source Water

- **Microbes** — viruses, parasites and bacteria, from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, pets, livestock and wildlife
- **Inorganic materials** — salts and metals, naturally occurring or from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming
- **Pesticides and herbicides** — from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses
- **Organic Compounds** — synthetic and volatile organic compounds from industrial processes, petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- **Radioactive contaminants** — naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

## Forever is a Long Time

Recently, chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also referred to as “forever chemicals”, have been in the news. Studies have linked PFAS to numerous health risks.

Thousands of PFAS chemicals have been formulated since the 1940s. They are used in numerous everyday items such as microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, non-stick frying pans, fire-fighting foams, paints, cosmetics, dental floss and more. Eventually these chemicals end up in the environment, and are found in drinking water worldwide.

The Arlington Water Utility, your potable water provider, is concerned about PFAS and is monitoring this new information with an eye to the health of our community. As part of an EPA-authorized national study in 2013, the Arlington Water Utility collected and analyzed water samples for six different PFAS compounds. Using the technology available in 2013, we analyzed those samples for PFAS at a scale of parts per billion and did not detect PFAS in any of our water supplies. As a reference, one part per billion is equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic size swimming pool, or equivalent to one second in 32 years.

As part of another National study, the Arlington Water Utility is getting ready to begin another round of PFAS testing. This time water samples will be analyzed for 29 PFAS compounds at a scale of parts per trillion, that’s the equivalent of one drop of water in 1,000 Olympic pools, or equivalent to one second in 31,710 years. We will keep our customers abreast of our findings.

Please rest assured that the water delivered to your tap is always treated at and above the highest federal and state regulations established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington state Department of Health. Bottled water, on the other hand, is regulated by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) and excludes testing for PFAS.



## Water Use Efficiency Information

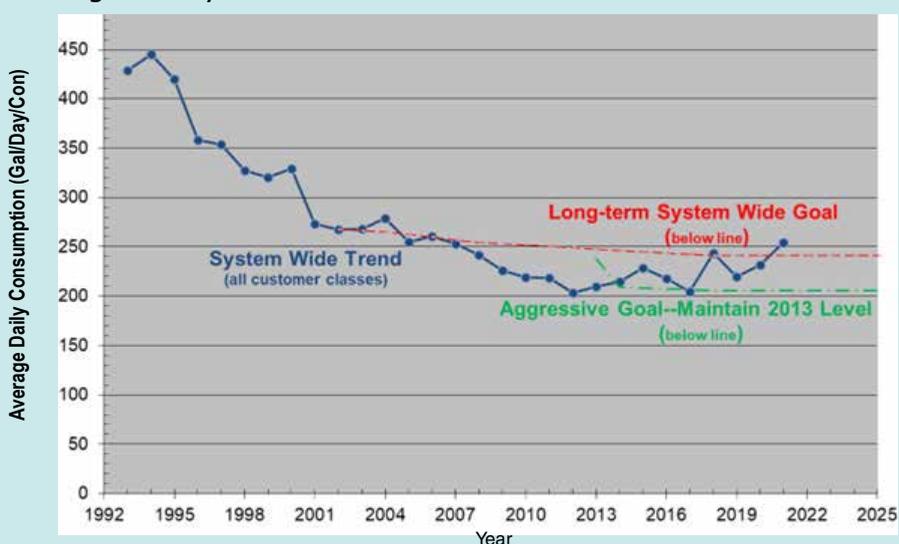
Arlington has made great progress toward Water Use Efficiency (WUE) goals first adopted by the City in 2008, and updated by Council in 2011 and 2016.

### 2021 Arlington Water Use Statistics

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total water into the system (gallons)                     | 579,583,891 |
| Total authorized, quantified uses (gallons)               | 529,411,812 |
| Unauthorized and/or unquantified uses and leaks (gallons) | 58,172,079  |
| Unauthorized and/or unquantified uses and leaks (percent) | 8.7%        |

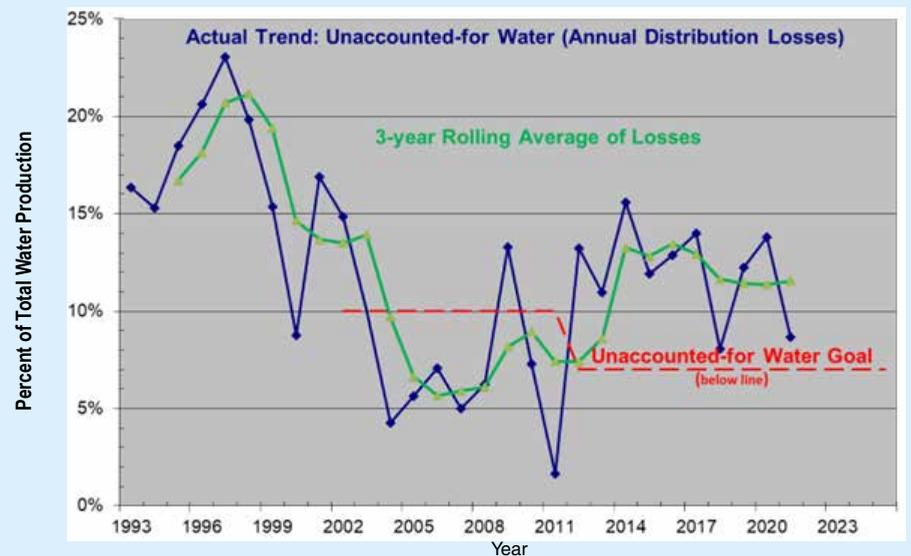
## Average Daily Consumption

This goal attempts to maintain gains in efficiency since 2002 at 2013 levels. While we were successful for several years, economic recovery and increases in urban density as our city grows have increased overall consumption from about 200 to 250 gallons per day per connection. System wide, demands have increased 17% over the past 5 years. This was driven by increases of more than 50% in multi-family housing, and more than 20% in commercial and industrial usage. Overall, we remain on track to reduce the demand for water production by more than 122 million gallons by 2025.



## Unaccounted-for Water

State law requires that we account for at least 90% of the water we make, but we are holding ourselves to 93%-with unaccounted-for “losses” from our distribution system at less than 7%. After several years of searching for leaks and unknown water use, we located and corrected several leaks over the past few years. Losses were reduced to 8.6% in 2021. However, our 3 year rolling average remained above 11% losses, above State limits of 10%, and well above the goal we have set for ourselves.



## Substances That May Be in Your Drinking Water



To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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

small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least

## Important Health Information

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/Centers for Disease Control (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 (800-426-4791).

## Questions and Answers



### I don't have any water.

If your water bill has not been paid: call Utility Billing at 360-403-3421.

Otherwise, call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526.

We'll need to know your name,

phone number, address, how long have you been without water. A water service specialist will contact you to solve the problem.

### I need my water shut off.

If you are stopping service: call Utility Billing at 360-403-3421.

If you are doing repairs: call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526. We'll need your name, phone number, address and when you want the water shut off. A water service specialist will shut the water off, or call you to arrange a time to do so.

### I need my water turned on.

If you are moving in: call Utility Billing at 360-403-3421.

If you are doing repairs: call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526. We'll need your name, phone number, address, and when you want the water turned on. A water service specialist will turn the water on, or will call you to arrange a time to do so.

### I need to report a leak.

Call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526, or the emergency pager at 360-386-5926. Tell us your name, phone number, and the address of the leak.

### If the leak is located:

**In the house:** you will need to call a plumber, but we will send a water service specialist out to turn the water off if needed.

**At the meter box:** we will send a water service specialist out to investigate and repair the leak. They will call you with the results.

**In the street:** we will send a water service specialist out to investigate immediately. Let us know if it is gushing or trickling down the street, gushing up in the air, and/or associated with a hydrant break or construction accident.

### Is there fluoride in my water?

Water we produce has low natural concentrations of fluoride, while the water we purchase from the PUD is "fully fluoridated" for dental protection. While primarily distributed in distinct zones, these sources do blend to create a small area of moderate fluoride concentrations. Only services east of SR 9 and south of about 200th Street receive appreciable fluoride. The City's fluoride brochure compares this range of fluoride levels to the dental needs for children promoted by the ADA. Copies are available on-line, at Public Works Administration, or where utility bills are paid at City Hall.

## Wise Water Stewards

Stop by 154 W. Cox Ave (Haller Park) for free conservation supplies! Nozzles, timers, shower heads, soil moisture meters and more!

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public city council meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. Arlington City Council meets the first and third Monday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 110 E. Third Street, Arlington, WA (enter off of Olympic Avenue near City Hall). For meeting information, call City Hall at (360) 403-3421, or visit our website at [www.arlingtonwa.gov](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov).



## Additional Water Quality Values

| Parameter (units)                        | Range Observed by Source |           |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|
|  | Haller                   | Airport   |
| Alkalinity (mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub> )     | 37 – 54                  | 44 – 85   |
| Chloramines                              | None                     | None      |
| Chlorides (mg/L)                         | 5.2 – 6.6                | 3.5 – 8.4 |
| Electrical conductivity (µS/cm)          | 98 – 111                 | 192 – 221 |
| pH (s.u.)                                | 7.0 – 7.8                | 7.1 – 8.1 |
| Sodium (mg/L)                            | 3.8 – 5.3                | 5.1 – 6.2 |
| Sulfates (mg/L)                          | 4.6 – 6.1                | 11 – 12.8 |
| Total Hardness (mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) | 28 – 40                  | 81 – 95   |



City of Arlington

154 W. Cox Avenue  
Arlington, WA 98223