

2022 CITY OF BOULDER

Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Boulder 2022 Drinking Water Quality Report summarizes water quality testing results from the 2021 calendar year. The city's goal is to provide customers with safe and high-quality drinking water.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BOULDER'S WATER

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the city's Drinking Water Program at 303-441-3200 or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) at 303-692-3500. For more information about Boulder's water, visit bouldercolorado.gov/services/drinking-water-quality or submit a question to inquireboulder.com.

The City of Boulder's Water Resources Advisory Board meetings are additional opportunities for the public to learn about drinking water. Board meetings are usually held the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. and may be held virtually or in-person. For more information about the board, call 303-441-3208 or visit bouldercolorado.gov/government/boards-and-commissions.

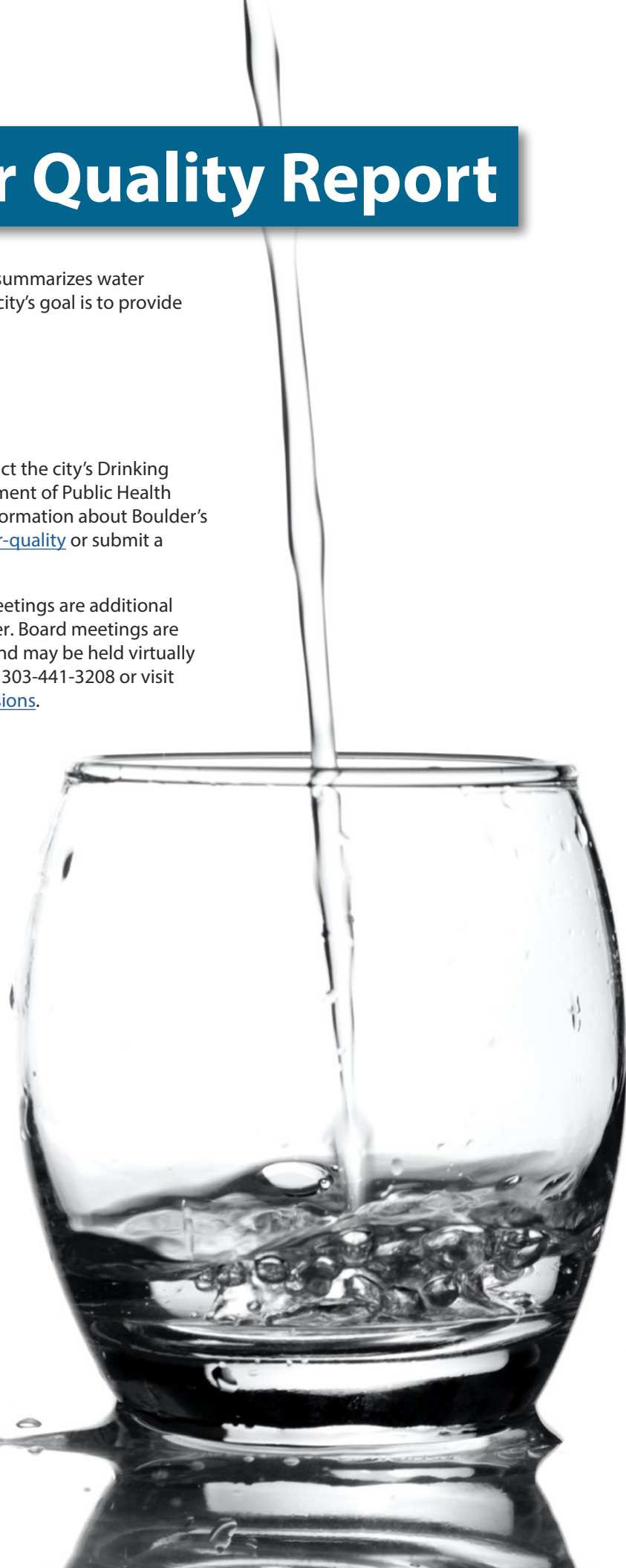
El reporte de la calidad del agua potable de 2022 de la Ciudad de Boulder resume los resultados de los análisis del año 2021. Para leer el reporte en español, visite la página <https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/7922/download?inline>.



City of Boulder
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CITY OF BOULDER WATER SOURCES

The City of Boulder is fortunate to have several high-quality sources of drinking water: Barker Reservoir, North Boulder Creek and Carter Lake. Water used at your home or business may come from any of these sources, depending on the season or availability. Source water protection has long been recognized as a necessary and often cost-effective component of providing clean, safe drinking water. The city closely monitors activities that could affect source water and impact drinking water. The city's Source Water Protection Plan is available at bouldercolorado.gov/services/water-supply-and-planning or on request by calling the Drinking Water Program at 303-441-3200. The protection plan identifies potential contaminant sources that could occur (which does not mean they do occur) and best management practices to protect the city's water supply at its source.

Overall Estimated Susceptibility	Potential Contaminant Sources
High	Stormwater, Floods, Backcountry Recreation, Wildland Fire, Roads, Wildlife, Mining
Moderate	Agriculture, Septic Systems, Atmospheric Deposition, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Hazardous Waste – Illegal Dumping, Residential Practices, Storage Tanks, Wastewater Treatment Discharges, Pesticide Applications, Oil and Gas Development
Low	Business Practices, Hazardous Waste – Permitted, Recreation – Aquatic

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING WATER

All 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. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, have HIV-AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Centers 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances associated with animals or humans. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:



Organic Chemical Contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.



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.



Pesticides & Herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.



Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



Microbial Contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the CDPHE prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

WATER QUALITY DATA TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

- AL Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- LRAA Locational Running Annual Average:** The average of sample results for samples collected at a particular monitoring location during the most recent 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 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 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.
- NE Not Established**
- NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units**
- ppb Parts Per Billion**, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
- ppm Parts Per Million**, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- RAA Running Annual Average:** An average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months or previous four quarters.
- TT Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

How Do You Protect & Conserve Water?

Learn how you can help protect our streams: keepitcleanpartnership.org

Learn how you can save water and money with water conservation: bouldersaveswater.net

DRINKING WATER QUALITY DATA

The City of Boulder routinely monitors for constituents in drinking water according to federal and state laws. The data presented in this report are the result of monitoring for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021, or from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. The CDPHE does not require the City of Boulder to monitor all constituents each year, because the concentrations of some constituents are not expected to vary significantly from year to year or because the City of Boulder's system is not considered vulnerable to that type of constituent. Therefore, some of the data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

Constituents Detected

Constituent	Units	MCL	MCLG	Result	Violation (Yes / No)	Sample Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Barium	ppm	2	2	Average: 0.0115 Range: 0.010 - 0.013	No	2021	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Average: 0.84 Range: 0.21 - 1.40	No	At least 120 samples per month in 2021	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	Average: 0.67 Range: 0.1 - 1.25	No	Daily 2021	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Sodium (not regulated)	ppm	NE	NE	Average: 4.4 Range: 3.3 - 5.5	No	2021	Erosion of natural deposits

Total Coliform Bacteria	Absent or Present	No more than 5% of at least 120 samples can be positive	0	0% (0 samples) were positive	No	At least 120 samples per month in 2021	Naturally present in the environment
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Constituent	Units	TT Requirement	Result	Violation (Yes / No)	Sample Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Turbidity	NTU	Not to exceed 1 NTU for any single measurement	Highest single measurement: 0.16 Range: 0.01 - 0.16	No	Daily 2021	Soil Runoff
	NTU	At least 95% of month's samples must be ≤ 0.3 NTU	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT standard: 100%	No	Monthly 2021	
Chlorine	ppm	At least 95% of month's samples must be at least 0.2 ppm	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT standard: 100%	No	At least 120 samples per month in 2021	Water additive used to control microbes

Constituent	Units	AL	90th Percentile	Number of Sites over AL	Violation (Yes / No)	Sample Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.14	0	No	2021	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	ppb	15	1.7	0	No	2021	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Constituent	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range of All Samples	Highest LRAA	Violation* (Yes / No)	Sample Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NE	23.1	14.1 - 37.5	25.58	No	Quarterly 2021	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	NE	26.3	16.0 - 37.2	29.7	No	Quarterly 2021	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

*Compliance based on LRAA

Disinfection Byproduct Precursor - Total Organic Carbon Removal Ratio

Water Treatment Plant	Compliance Factor (minimum RAA)	RAA	Violation (Yes / No)	Sample Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Betasso Water Treatment Plant	1.0	1.43	No	2021	Naturally present in the environment
Boulder Reservoir Water Treatment Plant	1.0	1.30	No	2021	Naturally present in the environment

LEAD TESTING INFORMATION

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Boulder is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. Boulder implements a **Corrosion Control Program** that treats tap water to make it less corrosive and reduce lead exposure from home plumbing.

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 two 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 Environmental Protection Agency at [tinyurl.com/EPASafeDrinkingWater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).

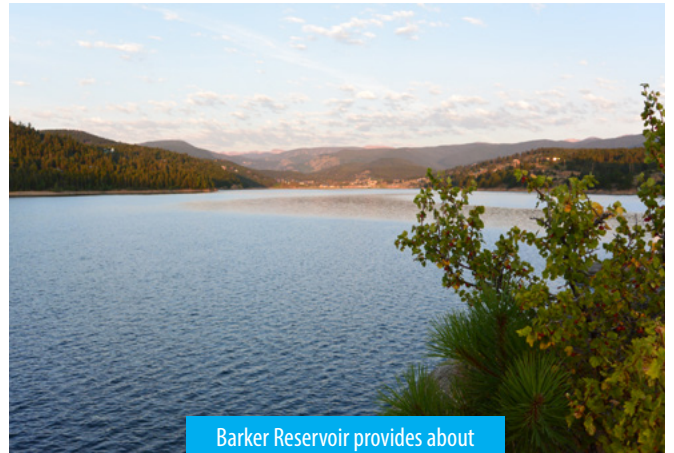
PROTECTING BOULDER'S WATER SUPPLY THROUGH HEALTHY FORESTS



Forest Restoration Creates Healthier Forests

In Colorado, many forested areas are at risk of fast-spreading wildfire, due to overly dense tree stands, encroachment of trees into meadows, tree mortality due to bark beetle and mistletoe infestation, and climate change. The City of Boulder has identified wildfire as a primary threat to the city's water supply and is **working to scale up forest restoration work**.

After identifying areas at high risk for post-fire water quality impacts, city staff have been planning forest health projects in the Barker Reservoir watershed in partnership with the Boulder Watershed Collective and landowners. These projects include thinning overly dense tree stands and removing dead and infested trees. Such efforts contribute to forest health by reducing the spread of bark beetle and mistletoe, restoring forests back to their historic densities, protecting healthy trees, reducing the potential for wildfire spread and severity, and increasing access for first responders in the event of a wildfire.



Barker Reservoir provides about one-third of Boulder's drinking water



Healthy Forests Provide Many Benefits to Streams, Lakes & Reservoirs

They filter contaminants, anchor soils and prevent erosion, keeping pollution out of waterways. With more than 75% of Boulder's source watersheds in forested areas, the city's water supply benefits from these natural services, which contribute to high quality drinking water and reduced treatment costs.



Healthy Forests = Clean Water

Boulder is committed to funding forest health projects that reduce the risk of fast-spreading wildfire in critical source water areas and protect the water supply from negative post-fire impacts.

Digital copies of this report can be found by visiting bouldercolorado.gov/water/water-report. Federal regulations require that this report be distributed to all City of Boulder water customers. The city no longer mails printed copies of the report to all customers, but if you wish to request a printed copy or if you have any questions about this report, please contact the Drinking Water Program at 303-441-3200 or via [inquireboulder.com](https://www.inquireboulder.com).