

City of Cannon Beach Annual Water Quality Report

This report has been developed to conform with the *Federal Safe Drinking Water Act* requirement that water utilities provide the following information annually. This report describes the City’s water source and water quality from data taken during the 2021 calendar year.

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can 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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that might be expected in untreated water include microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use; and radioactive contaminants.

Cannon Beach’s water source is primarily supplied by springs remotely located in a 1,020-acre forest preserve owned by the City of Cannon Beach approximately one mile east of town. This watershed remains in its natural state and public access is limited and controlled. The natural quality of the spring water is such that it does not require any treatment, other than disinfection, due to its consistent clarity and purity. When demand exceeds the capacity of the spring yield, the water supply is supplemented by drawing from the West Fork of Ecola Creek in the watershed. This additional source of water is filtered and treated at our slow sand filtration facility.

The *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality* has completed a source water assessment report for the surface water portion of Cannon Beach’s drinking water protection area. A copy of the source water assessment report is available at Cannon Beach City Hall.

Spring water quality is far superior to water withdrawn from surface sources such as rivers and lakes. However, when river water is used for human consumption we are required to disinfect the water, no matter how pristine the appearance. The City of Cannon Beach’s slow sand water filtration plant went on-line in June 1995. It uses one of the oldest, yet proven and reliable, technologies. Removal of harmful bacteria and viruses is accomplished without the use of chemicals by filtering the water through our sand filters. The filtering process is biological and physical. No chemicals are needed to enhance the performance of the filters. After filtration, a trace of chlorine disinfectant (0.5 parts per million) is applied to inactivate harmful organisms that, however unlikely, may have survived the filtration process.

Retention of a chlorine residual in the distribution system is required by law and is also necessary to prevent bio-films from forming in distribution piping or from inadvertant contamination of water mains from leaks and repairs. Regulated limits of chlorination range from a minimum of 0.2 ppm to a maximum of 4.0 ppm. **The City does not add fluoride to the water.**

Water quality is monitored by systematic as-well-as random sampling and testing. The City of Cannon Beach tests for many noxious contaminants: the number and kind required by the *United States Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA). Testing is conducted by an independent state certified laboratory. Testing includes measurements of biological, chemical, and radiological contaminant levels. Most tests are analyzed for trace levels in the parts per billion range (sometimes parts per trillion).

Water quality is of paramount importance to the City of Cannon Beach and it is diligently guarded by trained and certified drinking water professionals. The news is good! Cannon Beach water quality gets high marks according to government standards and meets or exceeds all State and Federal standards. The Cannon Beach Water System did not receive any water quality or reporting violations during this period.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants that can be present in water provided by public water systems. The following table shows the results of analysis of Cannon Beach’s water quality conducted by an independent state certified laboratory. Every regulated contaminant that has been detected in our drinking water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. Please notice that the listed contaminants are well below the EPA’s allowable limits.

The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation, the amount detected, and the usual source of the contaminant. Only contaminants with detectable levels are reported here. Contaminants which have been tested for but have no detectable levels are not listed in this report. ***For a list of substances tested for but not detected, contact the City of Cannon Beach.***

Definitions of Technical and Regulatory Terms

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 (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.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** Unit of measurement used to describe water clarity. The smaller the number, the clearer the water.

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million is the equivalent of 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approx. 50 gallons)

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion is equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1,000 bathtubs of water (approx. 50,000 gallons)

Micrograms per liter (ug/L) : For example, a reading of 1 ug/L expresses there is 0.000001 grams of the particular substance in 1 liter of water.

Turbidity: Describes how cloudy the water is. The smaller the number, the clearer the water. Turbidity has no health effects; however, it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Reported Value	Likely Source	Meets Regulations?
Turbidity	0.5 NTU	NA	.019 NTU	Soil runoff and stream sediments	Yes –100% of samples met turbidity limits
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.52 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits	Yes
HHA (Haloacetic acid)	60 ppb	NA	1.1 ppb	Drinking Water Chlorination By-Product	Yes
TTHM (Total Trihalomethane)	80 ppb	NA	11.1 ppb	Drinking Water Chlorination By-Product	Yes

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Lead and Copper

Every three years, the City tests for lead and copper in the tap water of qualifying Cannon Beach homes. The testing is done at the tap because lead and copper can leach into the water from plumbing materials in the home. The EPA requires testing for lead and copper at customers’ taps that are most likely to contain these substances based on the vintage of the home. The EPA requires such testing to be done to ensure water customers are not exposed to harmful levels of lead and copper in tap water that may be found in homes.

To meet EPA standards, 90% of the homes tested have to prove that lead and copper levels are below the EPA’s Action Level. The EPA determined that if the sample results exceeded the Action Level at the 90th percentile, the City must take action to reduce the risk of leaching of lead and copper. The 90th percentile is the highest result found in 90% of the samples when they are listed in order from the lowest to the highest results. As you can see in the table below, the results of the testing were well below the Action Level.

Substance	Action Level	90th Percentile	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Likely Source	Meets Regulations
Copper	1.3 ppm	0.51 ppm	0	Erosion of household plumbing	Yes
Lead	15 ppb	2 ppb	0	Erosion of household plumbing	Yes

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. Neither lead nor copper are used in the City’s distribution system. The City of Cannon Beach is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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* or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

A Note for People with Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised persons such as those 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/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 (1-800-426-4791).

For More Information

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* (1-800-426-4791).

Opportunities for Public Participation

The City of Cannon Beach works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future. The City Council has ultimate authority on your municipal water utility. The City Council meetings are open to everyone and are generally held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The Public Works Committee is a citizen advisory committee that provides public policy advice to the Public Works Department and the City Council. Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Call (503) 436-8066 for more information.

We support the public’s right to know the results of our water quality monitoring. We also recognize that this report is dominated by technical information that does not engage some readers. Please call Public Works at (503) 436–8066 if you have questions about this report or your water service. City publications may be available in an alternate format to persons with disabilities. Please contact the City Manager for more information at (503) 436-8050.

Important Numbers

Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline:	(800) 426-4791
OR Department of Human Services/ Drinking Water:	(971) 673-0405
City of Cannon Beach Public Works/Water Dept.:	Daniel Willyard (503) 436-8082
City of Cannon Beach Public Works:	Trevor Mount (503) 436-8066
https://yourwater.oregon.gov	WS ID Look UP
PWSID# (Public Water System Identification Number):	OR41 00164

Este documento contiene información importante sober su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.