



Est. 1890

# City of Port Orchard



## WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2020

MCCORMICK WOODS WATER SYSTEM, ID#40529

### SECURING A BETTER WATER FUTURE

*City Council meets at 6:30 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at the Robert Geiger Council Chambers, City Hall, 216 Prospect Street. The public is always encouraged to attend. For questions about our water contact the Utility Manager, Jacki Brown, at (360) 876-4991*

The City of Port Orchard boasts a vibrant and active community in one of the most beautiful waterfront scenes of the Pacific Northwest. It is the combination of great people and excellent resources that make the City a desired place in which to be connected. Part of that connection is the precious resource of water that we all treasure so much.

It is a primary focus of the City to not only protect this resource, but to make improvements as we look toward the future. Our water has always been within the federal regulations set by the EPA, however we are striving to not just meet these federal standards but to make every effort to provide the best quality water possible. In doing this we plan to provide exceptional water quality for years to come.

Part of striving for such high water quality standards in-

cludes capital planning both in the short and long term. In 2019, the city completed a major treatment plant designed to remove aesthetically displeasing particles like Manganese. Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral that can be found in water. Although our water is below the Federal standard, it can still cause minor discoloration in drinking water.

Additionally the City is planning to bring some new wells online. Two of these projects are in the construction phase with another being designed

this year. These wells are designed and located in areas that allow us not only to have enough water today, but also for the demand of tomorrow as the City continues to grow. As Mark Dorsey, Public Works Director/City Engineer puts it, **“Water is our most precious resource and as stewards of that water we strive to protect and deliver the best quality drinking water to the people we serve everyday.”** This is a principle that we focus on daily and we hope that it is apparent to you today and as we move into the future.



### Why we publish this report—

Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act over 30 years ago and gave the EPA the job of establishing rules to ensure the drinking water in the U.S. is safe. In 1996, Congress revised these rules and required the drinking water systems to give their consumers important information

about their water. This report is in accordance with the EPA Code of Federal Regulations, National Drinking Water Regulations Parts 141 and 142.

The City of Port Orchard supports this legislation as we feel that it is important to keep our citizens informed

about the water that rely on everyday. In this report you will see information regarding the quality of our water, records that we meet or surpass federal regulations, important updates about our water system, and improvements that are in various stages.



**The City of Port Orchard** uses chlorine to ensure our water remains safe to drink throughout the distribution system. Additionally, we add trace amounts of fluoride to the water to promote dental health. Protecting our water sources is of the utmost importance and to that end, our Wellhead Protection Plan was adopted in 2012. It identifies our well recharge areas and potential sources of contamination and is available for viewing in the Public Works Department at City Hall. The Washington State Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water has rated our wells in the low and moderate susceptibility ranges. Source water assessments for all Class A Community Water Systems in the State are available online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/communityandenvironment/drinkingwater/sourcewaterprotection/assessment.aspx>.

**In Washington State, lead in drinking water** comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead, **flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using it for drinking or cooking.** You can use the flushed water for water plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. **Only use water from the cold water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula.** Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.


**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 Drug Administration and the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

#### ***A message from the EPA regarding water contaminants:***

**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).

**Some people may be more vulnerable** to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/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).

**The sources of drinking water** (both tap 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. 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



***We are pleased to report that your water supply meets and exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.***



## Water Quality Data

The water quality information presented in this table is from the most recent round of testing done according to the regulations. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA, through the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water, requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. The Office of Drinking Water reduced the monitoring requirements for Inorganic, Synthetic Organic, and Volatile Organic Chemicals because the sources are not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for these contaminants was found to meet all applicable standards.

Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	.35	4/17	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (ppb)	15	N/A	-0.5	4/17	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (ppb)	5	N/A	0.3	4/17	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	1.4	9/20	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	13	8/20	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminants with Action Levels rather than MCLs	AL	MCLG	90th % Level	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.02	ND—0.05	8/18	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0.001	ND—0.004	8/18	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

## Definitions

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

**Lead and Copper 90th Percentile**—Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**Parts Per Million (PPM)** - One part per million or one milligram per liter (mg/L) corresponds to one penny in \$10,000.

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

**ND**— Not detected in the sample

## Where your water comes from

The system is supplied by groundwater from four wells located throughout the City that vary in depth from 240 feet to 806 feet below ground level including two flowing artesian wells. In addition, the City periodically purchases water from the City of Bremerton, which is supplied by numerous groundwater wells and their reservoir behind Casad Dam on the Union River. The City also has an emergency intertie with West Sound Utility District's water system.

## Protecting Your Drinking Water

In general, the installation of plumbing in compliance with the plumbing code will provide adequate protection for your plumbing system from contamination.

However, the water purveyor may require (as a condition of service) the installation of a backflow prevention assembly on the water service to provide additional protection for the public water system. A backflow prevention assembly will normally be required where a single-family residence has special plumbing that increases the hazard above the normal level found in residential homes, or where a hazard survey cannot be completed.

To help determine if a backflow prevention assembly is required, the water purveyor may send residential customers a Cross Connection Control Survey Questionnaire. The water purveyor will evaluate the returned questionnaires to assess the risk of contamination to the public water system. Based on the results of the evaluation, the installation of backflow prevention assemblies may be required on services to some customers.

*The City of Port Orchard is proud to serve this beautiful area and all those that come here to live or to visit. Understanding the needs of our region is paramount in establishing a future that provides clean, abundant drinking water for years to come, and that is the future we plan to provide.*

