



2016 Annual

# Water Quality Report

Wild Oaks Water System

PWS ID: NY5903479

## Introduction:

New York American Water (NYAW) is issuing this report describing the quality of drinking water supplied to customers of the Wild Oaks Water System. The report summarizes the quality of water NYAW provided in 2016 - Including details about water sources, what the water at your tap contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Last year, your water met all State drinking water standards, and we are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. Although the report lists only those regulated substances that were detected in your water, we test for more than what is reported. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water especially those who may not have received this notification directly (for example people in apartments, nursing homes, school, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact our customer call center at 877-426-6999, or at amwater.com. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

## A Message from the New York American Water President

To Our Valued Customer:

New York American Water is proud to be your local water service provider, and I am pleased to share some very good news about the quality of your drinking water. As you read through our Annual Water Quality Report, you will see that we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality standards. **Better yet, the price you pay for this high-quality water service remains less than a penny per gallon.**

This is an exceptional value when you consider the facilities and technology needed to draw water from the source and treat it, along with miles and miles of pipeline hidden below the ground to bring water to your tap. What's more, our plant operators, water quality experts, engineers and maintenance crews work around the clock to make sure that quality water is always there when you need it.

Delivering reliable, high-quality water service also requires significant investment to maintain and upgrade aging facilities. **In 2016 alone, we invested approximately \$44 million in system improvements across the state; and plan on investing another \$40 million in 2017.**

Because water is essential for public health, fire protection, economic development and overall quality of life, New York American Water's employees are committed to ensuring that quality water keeps flowing not only today but well into the future. We hope you agree that your water service is worth every penny.

Please take the time to review this report. It provides details about the source and quality of your drinking water using the data from water quality testing conducted for your local system between January and December 2016.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Bruce  
President, New York American Water



WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.®

## Where does our water come from?

In general, 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves approximately 610 customers through 223 service connections. Our water source is three groundwater wells under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI) located off Nash Road. The water is treated with chlorine and UV for disinfection. Zinc orthophosphate is also added for corrosion control in order to reduce the amount of lead and copper leached from your household plumbing into the water supply.

The New York State Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state's source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See the section, "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

The source water assessment has rated all three wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials, and one of the wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to nitrates, industrial solvents, metals, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the proximity of a permitted discharge facility (industrial / commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) to the wells and low-intensity residential land use practices in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. The water is disinfected at the well station to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the

assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us at the telephone number provided in this report.

## Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

As NY State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: Total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. The tables presented below depict which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Please refer to the "Water Quality Results" chart for more information.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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, or the Westchester County Department of Health at 914-813-5000.



## Definitions:

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

**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.

**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 Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million = ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/L):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion = ppb).

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**None-Detected (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**PicoCuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity in water.



## Water Quality Results

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (mo/ yr)	Violation Y/N	Highest Level Detected	Range (Low – High)	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium, µg/l	10/16	N	10.0	N/A	2,000	2,000	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride, mg/l	10/16	N	6.9	N/A	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Sodium, mg/l	10/16	N	9.0	N/A	N/A	See Health Effects <sup>1</sup>	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners
Sulfate, mg/l	10/16	N	17.0	N/A	N/A	250	Naturally occurring
Zinc, mg/l	10/16	N	0.058	N/A	N/A	5	Naturally occurring
Nickel, µg/l	10/16	N	3.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Radiological Contaminants <sup>2</sup></b>							
Gross Alpha, pCi/L	08/12	N	0.0874	ND – 0.0874	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits (2 samples)
Radium-228, pCi/L	08/12	N	0.974	0.810 – 0.974	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

### Health Effects:

<sup>1</sup> Sodium (mg/l): Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on a severely restricted sodium diet. Water in excess of 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on a moderately restricted diet.

<sup>2</sup> Radiological constituents were sampled on raw water wells, as per health department requirements.

(a) The State considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

(b) 30 µg/l of uranium is approximately 20.1 pCi/L.

## Disinfectant / Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (year)	Violation Y/N	Average Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), µg/l <sup>3</sup>	2016 (Quarterly)	N	31.5	ND – 45.5	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes], µg/l <sup>3</sup>	2016 (Quarterly)	N	42.7	3.1 – 46.5	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
<b>Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine, mg/l <sup>4</sup>	2016	N	1.65	0.9 – 2.5	N/A	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

<sup>3</sup> The Average Level Detected from the table above for TTHM's and HAA's represent the highest Locational Running Annual Average calculated from the data collected (two distribution locations sampled).

<sup>4</sup> Chlorine residual results in the table above represent averages of samples taken at the treatment plant Point-of-Entry location to the distribution system.

## Lead and Copper (Tap water sampled at homeowner locations)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (year)	AL Violation Y/N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	Range (Low – High)	# of samples exceeding AL	MCLG	EPA's Action Level (AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (mg/l) *	09/15	N	0.810	0.220 – 0.880	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l) *	09/15	N	2.7	ND – 12.0	0	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits

\* The copper and lead levels presented represent the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper and lead values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value, 0.810 mg/l for copper; and 2.7 µg/l for lead. The action level for lead or copper was *not* exceeded at any of the sites tested

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. NYAW is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 (1.800.426.4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### What does this information mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations in 2016. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

### Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

During 2016, our system was in compliance with all applicable New York State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Why Save Water and How to Avoid Wasting It?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire-fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

New York American Water is offering a free 'leak detection kit' for home use. If desired, please call our 24-hour customer call center at 877-426-6999 and request one.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources. For questions concerning this report or your water quality, please contact Michael Nofi, Water Quality Manager, at 516-632-2215; or New York American Water's customer call center at 1-877-426-6999; or on the web at [newyorkamwater.com](http://newyorkamwater.com).





**There's a lot more  
to your water bill  
than just water.**

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not as easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw water from the source. The plant where it's treated and tested. The scientists, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping to build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep water flowing for all of us—today and well into the future. All for less than a penny a gallon.



**WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.  
FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD, TOO, at [amwater.com](http://amwater.com).**

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