



CITY OF OTSEGO

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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Residents and Patrons of The City of Otsego,

Recently there has been much talk in the community about the water quality of the City of Otsego Water System. I feel like this would be an appropriate time to address some of the concerns that have been brought to our attention.

I would like to start with our testing. The City of Otsego is tested on an annual basis for some tests. However, the major detailed testing is conducted on a 3-year Drinking Water Monitoring Schedule, the same requirements that all Michigan municipal drinking water systems are held to. This testing is facilitated and regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). 2018 happens to be when Otsego is scheduled to conduct these tests. We are currently in the process of completing this process as soon as possible to provide additional reassurances of the water quality. As for the previous tests (most recently in 2015), I can confidently say that Otsego has met or exceeded all Michigan drinking water requirements. This includes all testing done regarding things such as *Automated Partial Chemistry, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), Complete Metals, Cyanide, SOC- Pesticides, Herbicides and Carbamates, Gross Alpha (Radiological), Radium 226 & Radium 228, Bacteriological-coliforms, Chlorine Residual, Total Trihalomethanes, Haloacetic Acids and Lead Copper for Corrosion Control*. The City of Otsego has always met or exceeded all federal and state drinking water requirements.

I would also like to take some time to discuss the location of our wells. The City of Otsego pulls the water from multiple wells located at Brookside Park. They are wells that go 90-120 feet below the ground surface pumping water that is located within the second aquifer. The water source is and always has been plentiful and safe. Unfortunately many associate the Brookside Park location with the Kalamazoo River, due to its close proximity. One need not to worry, the water you may see flowing in the river is not what is flowing through our city pipes and into your homes and businesses. At no point do those waters meet. If they ever did the testing would show contamination through failed samples.

My hopes are that this may answer some of your questions and resolve any concerns you may have. Going forward, if you were to have any inquiries or questions about our municipal water system; please feel free to call City Hall at 269-694-6146 or Heather Bishop from the DEQ at 269-330-9153. The City of Otsego has and will continue to strive to improve the water quality when possible.


Aaron Mitchell
City Manager