Bark Hill 2025 Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID: 006-0019

Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

The Bureau of Utilities is pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2025. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, provides operational support and prepared this report on behalf of Carroll County and the Bark Hill water treatment plant.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants and establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely completes Sanitary Surveys as part of their ongoing inspection and monitoring program. Carroll County provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact Andrew Watcher, Chief Carroll County Bureau of Utilities 225 North Center Street, Room 218, Westminster, MD 21157 at 410-386-2164.

Public Meeting Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, the Carroll County Commissioners meet regularly and the weekly agenda is available at: https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/commissioners/board-of-carroll-county-commissioners-weekly-agenda/

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How Your Water is Treated:

The sources of Bark Hill's community water supply are two groundwater wells. Well K50 is located behind Francis Scott Key High School and supplies 26 gpm. Well K3 is located south of the High School and supplies 48 gpm. Both wells alternate production into the treatment building, where the pumped water feeds into two softening and one nitrate Ion Exchange units. Sodium Hypochlorite is then added for disinfection before entering the distribution system, enroute to the 100,000 gallon water storage tank on Raywell Avenue.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 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).**

Bark Hill Treated Water Quality Report 2025

Definitions:

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

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.

Mrem - millirem roentgen equivalent in man. A measure of radiation dose.

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

Turbidity - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of "cloudiness" of the water.

pCi/l - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter

ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter

ppt - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

Sources of Drinking Water:

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 activity.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the assessment is available by calling or writing the Bureau of Utilities, Carroll County Government, 225 North Center Street, Room 218, Westminster MD 21157, 410-386-2164.

Special Points of Interest:

The water at the Bark Hill is tested for over 120 different compounds. Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

Service Line Inventory

An initial Service Line Inventory was completed by the Bark Hill Water Treatment Plant and submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on 10/03/2024. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. A copy of the Service Line Inventory Statement is available upon request by contacting utilitiesadmin@carrollcountymd.gov.

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Contaminant	Unit	Meets Primary Standard Yes/ No	State Primary Standard MCL	State Secondary standard SMCL	Highest Level Detected	Range
Regulated at the Treatment Plant						
Nitrate	ppm	Yes	10	10	3.8	3.0 – 3.8
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use and erosion of natural deposits						
Barium (2023 Testing)	ppb	Yes	2000	2000	24	24 - 24
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits						
Regulated in the Distribution System						
Chlorine	ppm	Yes	4	4	1.00*	0.69 – 1.40
Source: Water additive used to control microbes					*Annual Rolling Average	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2023 Sampling)	ppb	Yes	80	N/A	34.6	34.6 – 34.6
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2023 Sampling)	ppb	Yes	60	N/A	9.2	9.2 - 9.2
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection						
Regulated in the Distribution System						
Lead	ppb	Yes	15	0	2.2*	<2.0 – 2.3**
No sites exceeded the lead action level during this monitoring period.					*90th percentile	
Copper	ppb	Yes	1300	1300	91.5*	17 - 110
No sites exceeded the copper action level during this monitoring period.					*90th percentile	

**A "<" symbol signifies a ND or non-detect, meaning the result was below the detection limit for testing

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2025. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. 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. Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Lead Prevention:

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. The Bark Hill Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Jay Janney at jjanney@menv.com for a list of eligible labs. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The 2022 results are available on MDE's website: *https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx*. PFAS sampling was conducted for the Bark Hill Water Treatment System in July, September, and October 2025. The results of these events are found on the next page.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFNA and PFHxS are 10 ppt. PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action. Public water systems have three years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed these MCLs.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR.

July 2025 PFAS Sample Results – Wells K3 and K50

PFAS Initial Monitoring Requirements	Collection Date of Highest Value	Highest Value	Range of Sampled Result(s)	Unit
Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS)	07/16/2025	4.9	4.9 – 4.9	ppt
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	07/16/2025	<1.7	<1.7 - <1.7	ppt
Perfluoroctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	07/16/2025	2.3	2.1 – 2.3	ppt
Perfluoroctanoic Acid (PFOA)	07/16/2025	1.7	<1.7 – 1.7	ppt
Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA)	07/16/2025	<1.7	<1.7 - <1.7	ppt
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA)	07/16/2025	<1.7	<1.7 - <1.7	ppt

Water Conservation:

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference—try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Check for water leaks by the reading your water meter before and after a two hour period when no water is being used in your home. If the reading changes, then there is probably a leak in your home.
- Take a shower! Filling up a bathtub can use up to 70 gallons of water while a shower generally uses 10 to 25 gallons. Taking shorter showers saves even more water.
- Make sure your washing machine and dishwasher are fully loaded before running.
- Are you in the market for a new water fixture such as a faucet, showerhead or toilet? Consider a WaterSense labeled fixture and reduce your water use by 30% percent or more versus standard flow fixtures. Visit *www.epa.gov/watersense* for more information on water efficiency products and methods.

Source: http://www.epa.gov/watersense & http://eartheasy.com