

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

TX1810001

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012

For more information regarding this report contact:

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

Mike Lund, Assistant Utility Superintendent

409-735-6801

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY is Ground Water

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (409)735-6801.

## 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 pickup substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer, persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Information about Source Water Assessments

The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confident Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Mike Lund, Assistant Utility Superintendent at 409-735-6801.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtstrc=>

Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dwww.tceq.texas.gov/DWWW>

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
2 - 220 NITSCHÉ ST	GW	Y	220 NITSCHÉ ST
3 - ROMERO DR	GW	Y	ROMERO DR
4 - 220 NITSCHÉ ST	GW	Y	220 NITSCHÉ ST
5 - HWY 408	GW	Y	HWY 408

2012 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	1		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:  
 Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.  
 Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09/01/2010	1.3	1.3	0.157	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09/01/2010	0	15	2.4	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:  
 Avg:  
 Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:  
 Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:  
 Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.  
 Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.

## Water Quality Test Results

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MFL million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

na: not applicable.

NTU nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)

pCi/L picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppt parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

## Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2012	13	9.3 - 18.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2012	80	47.8 - 123	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	01/25/2011	0.324	0.0479 - 0.324	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	01/25/2011	0.57	0.35 - 0.57	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2012	0.01	0 - 0.01	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	01/25/2011	5.5	0 - 5.5	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

**Violations Table**

**E. coli**

Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITOR GWR TRIGGERED/ADDITIONAL, MAJOR	05/01/2012	05/31/2012	We failed to collect follow-up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected.
MONITOR GWR TRIGGERED/ADDITIONAL, MAJOR	05/01/2012	2012	We failed to collect follow-up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected.

**Public Notification Rule**

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	10/15/2011	01/02/2012	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

**Total Coliform**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING (TCR), REPEAT MAJOR	03/01/2012	03/31/2012	We failed to collect follow-up samples in response to finding total coliform bacteria in a routine sample. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

**HELPFUL GUIDE TO INDOOR AND OUTDOOR WATER USE**

**START SAVING WATER AND MONEY TODAY**

**\*\*\*\*\*A leaky toilet can waste more than 20,000 gallons of water a year!\*\*\*\*\***

**Try the toilet leak test: Take the lid off your toilet tank and drop a couple of food coloring drops into the tank. Wait ten minutes. If you have a leak, the bowl water will change colors. It may be a bad flapper, it can be replaced inexpensively!**

**Use a high-efficiency showerhead to save water!**

The last time you took a shower, you used about 42 gallons of water. A high-efficiency showerhead installed can save a family of four nearly 34,500 gallons of water each year.

The Source	Water Wasted
Leaking Toilet	<b>90 Gallons per Day                  2,738 Gallons per Month                  32,850 Gallons per Year</b>
<b>10 Minute Shower with Inefficient Shower Head                  2 People in Household</b>	<b>30 Gallons per Shower                  420 Gallons per Week                  21,840 Gallons per Year</b>
<b>Dripping Faucet                  (2 drips per second)</b>	<b>A Slow Steady Drip (.72 Gallons per Hour):                  17 Gallons per Day                  526 Gallons per Month                  6,307 Gallons per Year</b>

**When to water my lawn and outside plants?**

Most landscapes get more water than they need. You can keep landscaping alive even during the worst summer heat with these practical tips:

- ▶ Water lawns only when needed. Putting 1.5 inches of water on your lawn every 5 to 7 days will encourage deep root systems and make for healthier grass.
- ▶ Use native or adapted plants that do well on little water.
- ▶ Mulch plants to hold in moisture and limit weed growth.
- ▶ Install efficient irrigation systems. Avoid sprinklers with fine sprays, which lose much of their water to wind and evaporation.
- ▶ Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, and shrubs.
- ▶ Adjust automatic sprinkler heads so that they water your landscaping, not the pavement or the sidewalks.
- ▶ Water lawns during the early morning or evening hours to prevent evaporation.
- ▶ Never water on windy days.

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**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY EACH MONTH  
 AT 6:00 PM AT CITY HALL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**\*\*Evacuations and Special Health Care Needs: Dial 2-1-1 to register for a ride\*\***

**ADOPT A PET TODAY – VISIT YOUR LOCAL SHELTER OR HUMANE SOCIETY**

**SAVE LIVES - SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS**

**CITY WEBSITE: WWW.BRIDGECITYTEX.COM You can pay your water bill or court fine online.**

Bills are due and payable upon receipt. If payment is not **received** at the City on or before the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month, the bill will be considered delinquent and a fee added. **PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST 10 DAYS IF MAILING OR PAYING WITH A BILL PAY SERVICE.** If the balance is not **received** at the City on or before the 28<sup>th</sup> of the subsequent month, your service will be disconnected and an additional fee will be added. You may request no more than 4 extensions to pay per calendar year – an additional 14 days can be granted without additional fees. A drive-thru depository is available for your convenience 24 hours a day. Direct withdrawal from your bank account on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month is also available. All utility bills from the City are mailed by the 4<sup>th</sup> of each month. **Failure to receive a bill does not entitle payment without penalty.**

Credit and Debit cards are accepted at City Hall – phone payments can not be accepted. You must call to cancel services to avoid any charges to your account. Minimum charges may apply even with no usage.

**Fair Housing Public Service Announcement  
Public Service Announcement:  
Fair Housing, It's the Law**

To promote fair housing practices, the City of Bridge City encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market.

For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's toll-free hotline at 1-800-669-9777.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CITY HAS YOUR CORRECT PHONE NUMBER(S) AND EMAIL ADDRESS.  
409-735-6801**

## SOLID WASTE

The City of Bridge City has contracted with Republic Services, Inc. for automated trash collection services.

### Garbage Procedures:

1. Bagged household garbage must be placed inside the 96 gallon wheeled trash cart (Each City services customer is provided 1 cart at no additional charge).
2. No garbage will be picked up outside of this container.
3. **Cart must be placed at the curbside or edge of road by 7:00 am on scheduled collection day.** Call 409-735-6801 to find out your pick up day. Arrows on the cart lid indicate which side of the cart should face the street, but in general, the handle of the cart should face away from the street. Residents should make certain that the cart is placed between the sidewalk and the street or on the street side of the ditch for ease of collection.
4. Cart must have 24 to 36 inches distance between it and a 2nd cart, pole or structure to allow room for the automated arm on the truck.
5. One (1) extra cart may be requested at a cost of \$5.00 per month – call 409-735-6801 for extra cart. No more than 2 carts per household.
6. If you live on a dead end street – the truck must back down the street to pick up carts. Place carts on the appropriate side of the street (traveling toward the dead end, all carts will need to be on the left side of street). Call 409-735-6801 if you have any questions.

### Recycling Procedures:

A recycling center for residential recycling has been established at the City Public Works Yard located at 220 Nitsche and will be open on Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Closed on Holiday weekends. The recycling center allows residents to recycle larger quantities of materials than the curbside collection.

#### Materials Collected at Recycling Center:

1. Cans – clean aluminum, tin/steel containers
2. Paper – clean, dry, unsoiled newspaper, magazines and phone books
3. Plastic – clean *PETE* & *HDPE* containers (Milk jugs and soft drink containers)
4. Cardboard

### Dumpsters

Dumpsters are available for non-household trash and non-hazardous waste. Dumpsters are located at the City Public Works Yard located at 220 Nitsche and will be open on Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Closed on Holiday weekends. You will need to bring proof of residency (water bill and drivers license). Charges apply (depending on the size of load) and will be billed to your water account.

### Trash Off - Days

The City of Bridge City has two community clean-ups a year. These are usually held in April and November each year. At these, depending on the availability, you can dispose of any unwanted items that can not normally be collected in regular service.

### Bulk Trash

Bulk waste routes will run on a twice monthly basis by request only. Call 409-735-6801 no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month to request this pickup.



**ENCLOSED IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
REGARDING YOUR CITY SERVICES**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

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CITY OF BRIDGE CITY  
P. O. BOX 846  
BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611-0846

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