



## Service Department

The Bellbrook Service Department oversees numerous public works operations within the City, including the water system, roadways, stormwater, and snow removal.

The Bellbrook Service Department operates and maintains the water system serving the City and parts of Sugarcreek Township. Currently, the City has one employee with a Class 2 Operator's License and five employees with a Class 1 Operator's License.

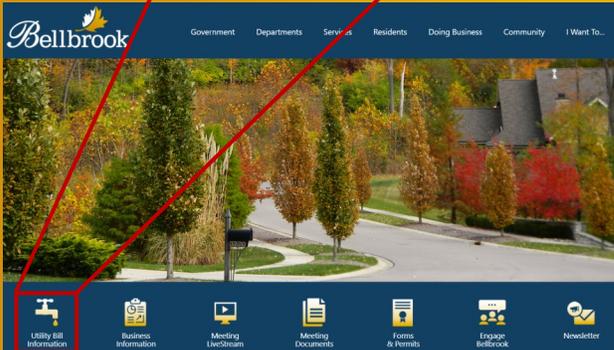
The Ohio EPA requires the City to have a minimum of one employee with a Class 1 Operator's License. The water system serves over 9,200 people in the City and Township. The Department also maintains City streets, storm sewers, and City buildings.

## Utility Billing Office

The City of Bellbrook provides water and waste collection for Bellbrook and water (no waste collection service) for portions of Sugarcreek Township. The Utility Billing Office issues quarterly bills for these services.

For questions regarding your water or waste collection services, please contact the Utility Billing Office at (937) 848-4638. You can also visit the Utility Billing page on our website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org) under "Utility Bill Information."

The Utility Billing Office is located on the second floor of the City Administration Building at 15 East Franklin Street. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. A payment drop box is located by the double doors at the front entrance to the building and is available 24/7.



## City of Bellbrook Water Quality Report

March 2024

### 2023 Water Quality Report Overview

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all community water systems to provide a water quality report to their customers annually. The Bellbrook Water Department is proud of the fine drinking water it provides and is pleased to show that it meets all water quality standards. This annual water quality report shows the source of water, lists the results of tests, and contains important information about water and health. The Bellbrook Service Department will notify you if there is ever any reason for concern about your water. The City of Bellbrook has a current, unconditioned license to operate the water system.

This water quality report reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2016. All water systems were required to comply with the Total Coliform Rule from 1989 to March 31, 2016, and be in compliance with the Revised Total Coliform Rule on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes E. coli bacteria. The EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, it requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the public water system.

### Water Source

The source of Bellbrook's drinking water is groundwater that is pumped from wells drilled into the aquifer that lies beneath the City. This aquifer extends the length of the Miami Valley. Residents are strongly encouraged to report activity or spills that could cause contamination of the aquifer by calling (937) 848-8415 (for after-hours, please call (937) 848-8484). The aquifer has a high susceptibility to contamination due to its sensitive nature and the existing potential contaminant sources identified. This does not mean that the well field will become contaminated, only that conditions are such that the groundwater could be impacted by potential contaminant sources.

Future contamination can be avoided by implementing protective measures. More detailed information is available in the City's Wellhead Protection Report and Susceptibility Analysis, which can be obtained by contacting Bellbrook's Service Director, Ryan Pasley, at (937) 848-8415.

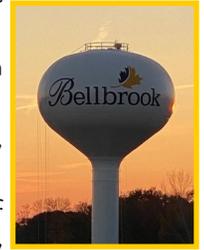
### Required Additional Health Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protections for public health. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The main sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) are groundwater and surface water, which 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 human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

## Required Additional Health Information Continued

- 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from various sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as individuals with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and EPA guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants (which, while rare, are more likely to be found in surface water sources than in the groundwater used here) are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. Additional information is also available through this hotline telephone number.



If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention

span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

The City of Bellbrook is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for thirty seconds to two 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at [www.epa.gov/dwlabcert](http://www.epa.gov/dwlabcert) or by calling (614) 644-2752. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular City Council meetings are scheduled at 7 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 15 East Franklin Street (second floor). The Service Director is happy to answer any questions about Bellbrook's water quality. Please call the Bellbrook Service Department at (937) 848-8415. For further information, go to the EPA Ground Water & Drinking Water website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Water Quality Data Table Definitions

Listed are the tests in which any level of contaminant (regardless of how small the amount) was detected in Bellbrook's drinking water for the most recent date up to and including 2023. All detected levels are far below the allowed limits. Not listed are over 200 other tests in which no contaminants were detected. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with EPA regulations by the Bellbrook Service Department. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined here:

**Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L):** units of measure for the concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L):** units of measure for the concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

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

**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.

**Action Level (for Lead and Copper):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest residual disinfectant level allowed.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of residual disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

## 2023 Water Quality Data Table

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Year of Detection	Range of Detection	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products</b>							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.29	2023	1.03 to 1.29	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	6.3	2023	ND (no detection) to 6.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	34.4	2023	20.4 to 34.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride (ppm)	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	1.31 mg/L	2023	0.183 to 1.31	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10 mg/L	10 mg/L	0.5 mg/L	2023	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2 mg/L	2 mg/L	0.103 mg/L	2023	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	0.2 mg/L	0.2 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	2023	NA	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic & fertilizer factories
Arsenic	10 ug/L	10 ug/L	< 3 ug/L	2023	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Nickel	100 ug/L	100 ug/L	< 5.0 ug/L	2023	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from electroplating, stainless steel, and alloy products; Mining and refining operations
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>							
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	14.5	2023	8.6 to 14.5	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromo-dicholoromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	10.7	2023	6.4 to 10.7	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromo-chloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	6.5	2023	4.0 to 6.5	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	NA	NA	2.8	2023	1.5 to 2.8	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	NA	NA	2.0	2023	ND (no detection) to 2.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	NA	NA	4.3	2023	ND (no detection) to 4.3	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## 2023 Water Quality Data Table Continued

Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual results over the AL	90% of test levels were less than	Year of Detection	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminants	
<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	0	< 2.0	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
	0 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	N/A	0.27	2023	No	Erosions of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems	
	0 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm						
Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Year of Detection	Range of Detection	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Microbiological</b>							
Total Coliform	Negative	Positive	No positive results	2023	Positive or negative	No	Sampling error or naturally present

## PFAS Sampling Information

In 2022, our PFAS was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Results from this sampling indicated that PFAS were detected in our drinking water below the action level established by Ohio EPA. Follow-up monitoring is being conducted. For more information about PFAS and to view our latest results, please visit [www.pfas.ohio.gov](http://www.pfas.ohio.gov).

### What is PFAS?

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), which is used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel.

PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing. The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (Ohio Department of Health, 2019).

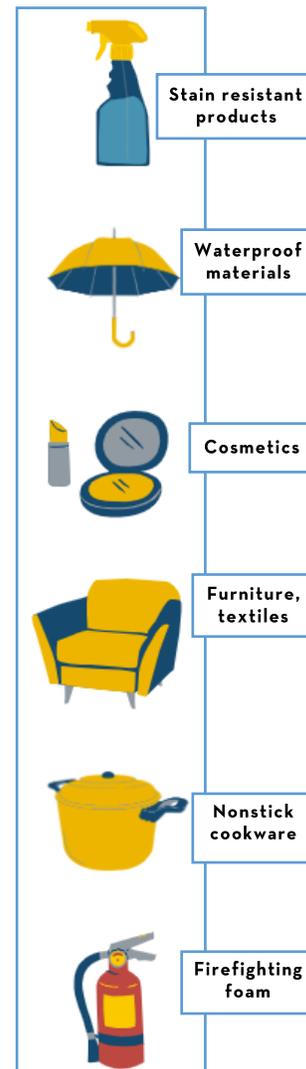
### What levels of PFAS are in the water, and how did they get there?

PFAS have been detected in the water resources where Bellbrook wells pump water for distribution; however, the levels detected are below the Ohio EPA Action Levels. PFAS can enter drinking water at sites where they are made, used, disposed of, or spilled. PFAS can be found in the air near manufacturing facilities and can enter rainwater. PFAS are very mobile and can be transported through rainwater run-off and enter surface water (lakes, ponds, etc.) or seep through the soil and migrate into groundwater (underground sources of drinking water). Because PFAS are very long-lasting and are not easily broken down by sunlight or other natural processes, they may remain in the environment for many years (Ohio EPA, 2020).

### Are there other sources of PFAS, and can they be prevented?

Completely stopping exposure to PFAS is not practical because they are so common and present throughout the world. PFAS exposure through drinking water can be reduced by treating the water using reverse osmosis or certified carbon filtration units or by using an alternative source of water that is not contaminated.

In general, dermal contact with water is not a health concern because PFAS are not readily absorbed through the skin. Using water that contains PFAS for showering, bathing, laundry, or household cleaning is generally safe. Because many household products like carpeting and upholstery contain PFAS, ingestion of household dust can also be a route of exposure, especially for infants and young children, through hand-to-mouth contact. Dust household surfaces regularly to lower the amount of dust in the house. PFAS are also present in many consumer products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and goods that are made to be waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. Learning about the presence of PFAS in consumer products and avoiding or limiting exposure to these products can help reduce PFAS exposure (Ohio EPA).



## Water Rates Remain Unchanged

Per Bellbrook City Council, water rates did not increase in 2024. This is the fourteenth consecutive year that water rates have remained unchanged. According to the annual *City of Piqua Water and Sewer Rate Survey*, the City of Bellbrook is currently below average in terms of what residents pay for water service.

## Common Water and Utility Billing Questions

### How and where can I pay my bill?

- Pay by mail: Mail to PO Box 285, Bellbrook, OH 45305. Please include the bill stub with your payment.
- Pay in person: The Utility Billing Office is located on the second floor of the City Administration Building at 15 East Franklin Street.
- Pay by drop box: The drop box is located outside the front set of double doors of the City Administration Building at 15 East Franklin Street. Please include the bill stub with your payment.
- Pay online: Visit [www.invoicecloud.com/bellbrookoh](http://www.invoicecloud.com/bellbrookoh). You can register for an account or make a one-time payment. Input your full account number and last name in all caps to access your account.
- Pay by text: Visit [www.invoicecloud.com/bellbrookoh](http://www.invoicecloud.com/bellbrookoh). You may enroll in Pay by Text when making an online payment or by logging into your account and selecting the Pay by Text option. A confirmation will be sent to complete your enrollment.
- Pay by phone: Call (844) 956-1380 and follow the prompts. You will input your full account number, only omitting the dash.

### Do you offer paperless billing?

Yes, you can receive utility bills by email by visiting [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org) and clicking the "Utility Bill Information" icon. Current and past statements are available to view.

### What is the hardness of our City water?

Elements that contribute to water hardness are calcium and magnesium. The City's water hardness is about 23.8 grains per gallon or 408 milligrams per liter.

### What could cause a high water bill?

During summer, many residents' water usage increases both inside and out. More bathing, laundry, filling swimming pools, and watering lawns and gardens can be factors in a higher-than-average water bill. Undetected leaks can also be a determinant in a higher-than-average bill. Check your toilets, water softeners, and other plumbing fixtures, including outside faucets and hose bibs. It may be necessary to have a plumber inspect your plumbing system. For more information, please see the Common Causes of High Usage informational page on the City's website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/utilities\\_usage](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/utilities_usage).

## Water Quality Data Table Abbreviations

Table Key	
AL = Action Level	TTHM = Total Trihalomethanes
MCL = Maximum Contamination Level	HAA5 = Haloacetic Acids
MCLG = Maximum Contamination Level Goal	* = 20 samples, none above AL
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	** = 20 samples, none above AL
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	*** = Added together not to exceed 80 ppb for TTHMs
Ppm = parts per million OR milligrams per liter (mg/l)	**** = Added together not to exceed 60 ppb for HAA5
Ppb = parts per billion OR micrograms per liter (ug/l)	NA = Not Applicable



## Hydrant Flushing

The annual fire hydrant flushing will occur in the fall. Dates and times will be announced in the August edition of the City Newsletter and on the City's website.

The purpose of water system flushing is to verify the safe operation of hydrants and valves, remove accumulated sediment/mineral buildup in the bottom of our water mains, flush stale water from dead-end streets, restore/help maintain a chlorine residual throughout the water system, and continue maintaining a clean water supply.

The water flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water and a possible reduction in water pressure. Water discoloration is not a health risk. The Service Department recommends restricting your water usage and setting water softeners to bypass. The discolored water may stain your laundry, especially white materials, as well as the possible staining of plumbing fixtures. Therefore, please avoid doing laundry during the noted flushing period.

Before washing clothes, including times after the hours stated in this notice, please check the cold water for possible discoloration. If the water is discolored, let the cold water run for a minute (or two) and see if it begins clearing. If the water does not clear at that time, try again later. Unfortunately, the City cannot guarantee the possibility of discoloration even during the evenings and other times of the day as the water system has been disturbed. The City also cannot guarantee when a specific neighborhood's hydrants will be flushed. Therefore, please check your water carefully before doing laundry and inspect the laundry before it is dried. If discoloration of laundry occurs, a special detergent is available from the City. For more information, call the Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638.

# Bellbrook

Service Department  
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Bellbrook, Ohio 45305  
(937) 848-8415

Administration & Utility Billing Office  
15 East Franklin Street  
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(937) 848-4638—Utility Billing

[www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org)