

## UNIT WELL #26

Drilled in 1987, Unit Well 26 has a pumping capacity of 2,250 gallons per minute; however, the pump typically delivers 2,000 gallons per minute through the use of a variable frequency drive. It operates year-round and serves Madison's Far West neighborhoods located west of Gammon Road. It is also the primary well for the Greentree Neighborhood. In 2023, Well 26 pumped 490 million gallons of water compared to its 5-year average of 453 million gallons annually.

Unless otherwise noted, data contained in this report, which is updated annually, are from 2023.

### *Bacteria*

In 2023, four samples were collected from Well 26 and tested for coliform bacteria, an indicator group of bacteria used to determine drinking water safety. Each sample was collected and tested prior to any disinfection. None of the samples had coliform bacteria. The Water Utility chlorinates drinking water to protect against bacteria and viruses that can be present in groundwater and to provide additional protection as the water travels through water mains and premise plumbing.

### *Hardness and Other Minerals*

Like all groundwater, water from Well 26 contains calcium and magnesium that contributes to its hardness (330 mg/L [ppm] or 19 grains per gallon). Other naturally occurring constituents that are present in water from Well 26 can be found in the [Inorganics Table](#).

### *Iron and Manganese*

Water from Well 26 typically contains low levels of iron and manganese although the manganese level can vary depending on well operations. At elevated levels, naturally occurring manganese can stain laundry and plumbing fixtures.

### *Chromium*

Low levels of naturally occurring chromium, including hexavalent chromium, have been found at Well 26. The level is well below the drinking water standard of 100 µg/L for total chromium. More information can be found on the [chromium](#) page.

### *Lead*

Madison's groundwater supply does not contain significant amounts of naturally occurring lead.

## ***Radionuclides***

In 2020, water from Well 26 was tested for radium-226, radium-228, and other gross measures of radiation in water. Combined radium (226+228) measured 1.2 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – well below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 5 pCi/L.

Naturally occurring, radioactive elements are found in rock, soil, water, and air. They derive from the creation of our planet and enter our bodies when we drink water, breathe air, and eat foods that contain them. Everyone is exposed to some level of radiation in everyday life. For example, uranium and thorium are found in rock and soil. In time, they decay to other elements including radium, which later decays to radon gas. Radon is the largest contributor to our daily exposure of radiation from the natural world. More information is available from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ([ATSDR](#)).

See [ATSDR](#) for more information on radon.

## ***Human-made Contaminants***

Madison Water Utility annually tests all of its municipal wells for human-made contaminants that may be present in groundwater. Except for four disinfection by-products (DBP), no other volatile organic compound (VOC) was detected at Well 26 in 2023. DBPs form when chlorine interacts with impurities in groundwater. Chlorine is added to disinfect the water and guard against bacterial growth in water mains.

The [Volatile Organic Compounds](#) table lists the substances that were tested, the results, and how the detected levels compare with the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by the EPA.

### **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**

Six different [PFAS](#) were found at Well 26 in 2023. The combined PFAS level is **estimated at 5.3 ng/L or parts per trillion (ppt)**. In 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources adopted drinking water standards for PFOA & PFOS set at 70 ppt. In April 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency published final federal MCLs set at 4 ppt. Our website, [madisonwater.org](#), has more detailed information about PFAS in drinking water.

## ***Additional Information***

Information on routine [water quality monitoring](#) activities, including current test results and links to additional resources, is available at [madisonwater.org](#). In addition, you can sign-up to receive periodic updates on Madison drinking water quality or the water main flushing program through the [City of Madison](#) website.

If you have questions about the information in this report or on our website, our staff would be happy to answer them. Please call the Water Quality line at 266-4654 weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to view water quality reports for other Madison municipal wells.