

Conservancy Eliminates Fluoride Treatment

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that has been proven to protect teeth from decay. It's also been linked to some adverse health effects. Fluoride prevents decay after a tooth erupts and its actions are primarily topical, not through ingestion. Fluoride is available in toothpastes, mouth rinses and many bottled waters available commercially. When fluoridation was introduced to local water systems in the 1970s, the Indiana State Board of Health suggested a level of 1.2 ppm. Currently, the recommendation is 0.6 ppm.

Many water systems are beginning to stop the practice of adding fluoride to their water supply altogether. Fluoride is the only chemical added to drinking water for medicinal purposes. All other chemicals that are added to water are intended to treat the water by improving its quality and safety. Fluoride has no such effect on water and some individuals experience hypersensitivities to fluoride.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the regulatory agency responsible for drinking water compliance, does not require fluoride to be added to drinking water systems. Given the decreased levels recommended and the somewhat weak evidence of benefit as well as potential links to adverse health effects, the Battle Ground Conservancy is going to cease adding this chemical to the drinking water.

9/17/2020