

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

2022 Fulton County



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



David E. Clark, P.E.
Director

I am pleased to share with you this year's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), also known as our drinking water quality report. The results contained in this report will show that Fulton County's drinking water is safe and of excellent quality, having once again met or exceeded all state and federal standards.

At Fulton County, the safety of our drinking water and the reliability of the distribution system is a top priority and for that reason, we use some of the best technology available for water treatment and delivery. Working together with our customers allows us to maintain these priorities by building, maintaining, and protecting our infrastructure while preparing for future needs and concerns. With our customers in mind, we work hard to provide quality services at a fair price, and our water professionals work around the clock to make sure those services are always available.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to review this report, which contains information on Fulton County's water source, treatment and monitoring processes, laboratory results, ongoing projects, and volunteer opportunities. We realize that understanding water quality data can be complicated and that this report may not answer all your questions.

For additional information or inquiries about this report, please contact me at David.Clark@fultoncountyga.gov or call 404-612-7400.

Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Data obtained before January 1, 2021 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations

AWARD WINNING EXCELLENCE

When you turn on a faucet at your home, you're receiving a resource that has travelled hundreds of miles, and is the result of dedicated work by many men and women to make sure you receive clean and safe water. Maintaining our drinking water system involves routine sampling, flushing of water lines, and ongoing maintenance. It is a team effort, consisting of more than 250 hardworking professionals who regularly monitor water quality, testing every stage of the water treatment process to ensure that our water flows reliably from "river to tap."

Our employees, facilities, and programs have consistently been recognized among the water industry for our outstanding water and service delivery. Below is a listing of some of our most recent awards:

American Water Works Association (AWWA)

- American Water Works Association (AWWA)'s President's Award (2015 -2020) ,Tom Lowe AFCWTP
- AWWA Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Director's Award (2009-2021) ,Tom Lowe AFCWTP
- AWWA Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Longevity Award (2021) ,Tom Lowe AFCWTP

National Association of Counties (NACO)

- Achievement Award - County Resiliency Category for the Little River Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF)
- Achievement Award - Civic Education and Public Information Category

Georgia Association of Water Professionals

- Platinum Award, Tom Lowe AFCWTP
- Platinum Award, Big Creek WRF
- Platinum Award, Johns Creek Environmental Campus (JCEC) WRF
- Platinum Award, Camp Creek WRF
- Platinum Award, Little River WRF
- Platinum Award, JCEC and Little River Land Application Systems (LAS)
- Education Program of Excellence in Water and Wastewater
- Public Education - New Media Award

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Our Public Education and Outreach team provides water quality and conservation programs to Fulton County citizens and businesses. We offer a diverse list of programs including guided tours of our facilities, community workshops, and special events to connect residents to their drinking water source, the Chattahoochee River. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we remained committed to delivering virtual school programs, educational events, and volunteer opportunities to all of our citizens. Recently we have resumed in-person events and activities. To learn more, please contact our PEO team at 404-612-7400 or visit our website at www.fultoncountyga.gov/inside-fulton-county/fulton-county-departments/public-works



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

At Fulton County, we believe informed customers are our best allies. We encourage you to participate in the public hearings associated with environmental permitting and reviewing of new facilities and projects. Notice of upcoming meetings are posted at the Fulton County Government Center, as well as under "Upcoming Events" on Fulton County's website at www.fultoncountyga.gov. For more information please contact Corlette Banks at 404-612-7400 or Corlette.Banks@fultoncountyga.gov.

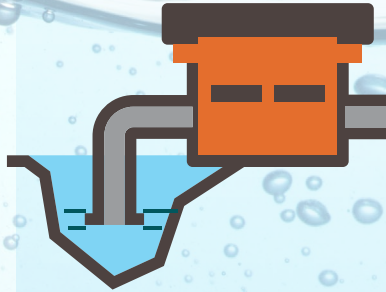
The Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission holds regular board meetings that are open to the public, generally once per quarter. Meeting locations alternate between Atlanta City Hall and the Fulton County Government Center. Please contact the General Manager's office at 678-942-2791 to confirm a meeting date and location.

FROM RIVER TO TAP



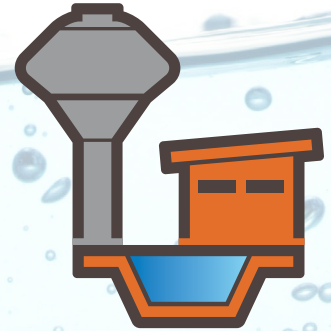
THE RIVER

Fulton County's tap water comes from the Chattahoochee River



THE TREATMENT FACILITY

Your drinking water is treated at the Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant



TREATED WATER STORAGE

After your drinking water has been treated, it is stored in elevated and ground storage tanks until you need it.

WATER SYSTEM OVERVIEW

★ Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant

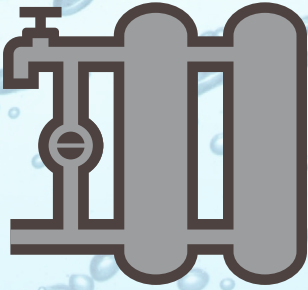
■ Parks

■ Chattahoochee River and tributaries

■ Fulton County Water Service Area



OUR WATER TREATMENT PROCESS



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

After treatment, clean water travels through miles of pipe infrastructure, which is maintained by the Fulton County Department of Public Works.



WATER TESTING

Throughout the process and before final distribution to your homes and businesses, your water is tested for quality assurance.



RESIDENCES AND BUSINESSES

We serve more than 315,000 individuals within our drinking water service area! Cities served are Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton and Roswell.

PROTECTING OUR WATER SOURCES

The water source for Fulton County's drinking water system is the Chattahoochee River, which is closely monitored by the State of Georgia, Fulton County, and several environmental groups. This surface water supply is processed at the Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant (Tom Lowe AFCWTP) located in Johns Creek. The plant produces drinking water of the highest quality and has consistently won numerous awards in the water industry.

Our system is supplied by two drinking water reservoirs with a total capacity of 895 million gallons (mg), which equates to 30 days of supply. Additionally, our system contains:

- 9 elevated storage tanks
- 3 ground storage tanks
- 2 high pressure zones
- 5 pump stations
- 16.7 mg reserve capacity
- 1,200 miles of water mains
- 85,274 water meters
- 25,000 fire hydrants
- 24,892 drinking water tests
- 315,000 population served
- Cities served: Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Roswell

Fulton County, in conjunction with the Atlanta Regional Commission, completed a source water assessment that itemized potential sources of surface water pollution within the watershed areas of our water supply. The Chattahoochee River was found to have a medium risk of potential pollutant loads. The full source water assessment report is available on our website at www.fultoncountyga.gov.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

Monitored in the Water Plant

Residual Disinfection Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
	0.74	0.69 – 0.74	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth
	0.49	N/A	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Technique (TT)	Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
	1.05	1.00 – 1.05	YES	Naturally present in the environment
	0.07	N/A	YES	Soil runoff

Residual Disinfection Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
95% or less U	100% (lowest monthly percentage)	N/A	YES	Soil runoff

Monitored in the Distribution System

Residual Disinfection Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
	1.80	0.03 – 1.80	YES	Water additive used to control microbes

Residual Disinfection Goal (MRDLG)	90th percentile (90% of samples taken were below this amount)	# of samples above action level (AL) (No more than 5 samples above AL allowed)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
	190	0 out of 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
	1.9	0 out of 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Residual Disinfection Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Number of Positive Samples Reported	% of positive samples in the total number of samples collected	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
	4	2.2	YES	Naturally present in the environment
	1	N/A	YES	Human or animal fecal waste

Residual Disinfection Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Level Detected Average	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
	39.0	18.1 - 48.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
	70.0	16.6 - 65.6	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination

For 2022 for the following synthetic organic compounds: Alachlor, Aldicarb Sulfone, Aldicarb Sulfoxide, Atrazine, Benzo (A) Pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlorodane, Dalapon, Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate, Polyethylene Dibromide (EDB), Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxymyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, etc.

Additional copies of this report are available at your public library.

INFORMATION FROM THE EPA ABOUT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



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 it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

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, from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, 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. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Special Notice for Immuno-Compromised Persons

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 people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available on the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



At Fulton County the safety and quality of the water we supply to you is of great importance to us. Our results show that we have been very successful in our treatment process to minimize the tendency for lead to enter the water.

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. The Tom Lowe Atlanta - Fulton County Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components inside homes or commercial buildings. 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 the water for drinking or cooking. Periodically clean out the aerators (screens on the faucet). These screens can trap sediment and debris over time. 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 (800-426-4791) or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Checking for Lead and Copper in Your Water

Fulton County is required to submit samples collected at customer taps to the state once every three years; our last sampling cycle was September 2021. The US EPA has established an "action level" of 15ug/l for lead and 1300 ug/l copper. Our system is in compliance of these limits (See the Lead-Copper results in this report).

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN MY WATER?

The primary way lead and copper can enter drinking water systems is through the corrosion of (1) the plumbing material inside your home or (2) the service line going to your home. If that service line is composed primarily of lead, there is a potential for lead contamination (especially, if corrosive water flows through the line or sits stagnant in it). Fortunately, the North Fulton distribution system has virtually no lead service lines. The internal home plumbing of concern is "copper piping with lead solder" which was banned in Georgia in 1986. Homes built between January 1, 1983 and June 30, 1988 are what we target. To protect you from lead and copper contamination that could occur from your home plumbing, Fulton County uses corrosion control techniques that reduce the water's ability to leach lead and copper from the pipes into the water stream. With these measures in place, any concern about lead in drinking water should be at a minimum.



WATER CONSERVATION: BE WATER WISE



Though rainfall totals in our area have been above average for the last two years, the news about drought in the southwestern U.S. is a good reminder that drought can happen at any time and our region has seen our share of severe ones. The best way to be prepared when a drought comes, is to practice good conservation habits year round. A few simple steps can help you maximize your water efficiency, lower your consumption and reduce your bill.

- **Water wisely:** If you have an irrigation system, install a WaterSense labeled smart irrigation controller and be sure to use a rain shutoff sensor to prevent overwatering. For hand watering, use a hose with a high efficiency shutoff nozzle.
- **Find and fix leaks:** The average American household loses nearly 10,000 gallons of water each year to leaks. By checking for leaks regularly and fixing them promptly, residents can save water and prevent damage to the home.
- **Replace old fixtures:** Conservation technology has come a long way in recent years. By replacing outdated faucets, showerheads, and toilets with high efficiency WaterSense labeled models, homeowners can significantly reduce water use without sacrificing performance.

REVISIONS TO THE LEAD-COPPER RULE

In the upcoming months, Fulton County water utility workers will be in your area digging and probing for service lines. You do not need to be alarmed as they are searching for lead service lines. Why? In December 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it's newest rule in an effort to improve human health: the Revised Lead Copper Rule. The revised rule is the direct result of the Flint Water Crisis and the impact of the crisis on human health. We all have heard about Flint, where thousands of children were exposed to lead in their drinking water when the source water was changed and not properly treated, which ultimately caused lead to leach from the lead pipes into the drinking water. Two major requirements of the rule are: 1) Utilities must compile an inventory of public and private portions of all service lines within their service area by 2024, specifically, identifying those composed of lead. This list will be made available to the public so you, as a Fulton County resident, will be informed if you have lead service lines going to your home. 2) Utilities must sample 20% of elementary schools and childcare facilities in their service area each year for lead. These results and public education must be provided to each sampled facility, the GA EPD, and the local health department.

Fulton County currently has corrosion control measures in place and tests your drinking water at the drinking water plant and throughout the distribution system to protect the community. These new implementations and requirements will just add an extra layer of safety to protect those within our service area.



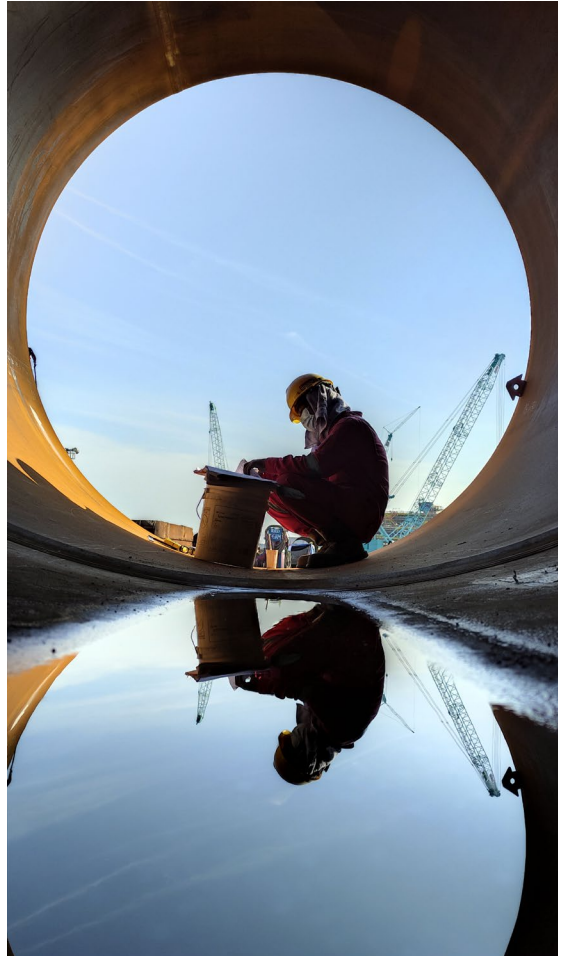
Take our residential water assessment to get personalized recommendations:
<https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/waterqualityreport>

READY AND RESILIENT

A key word in the water industry is “resiliency.” To Fulton County Public Works, resiliency refers to our ability to provide uninterrupted, safe drinking water, while dealing with any number of adverse circumstances. These challenges are most commonly the result of failures, loss of power to the electrical grid, and inclement weather. Any number of unforeseen challenges require a unique blend of solutions, all which are required to minimize the impact on our overall drinking water system and our customers who are dependent on these services. Here at Fulton County, we pride ourselves on our ability to respond to these emergencies, both quickly and efficiently. Our current expectations go beyond reacting to problems and failures. By working together, our goal is to ensure that the County has a resilient water system. This pushes us to be focused on proactive solutions to potential problems before negative impacts are felt by the communities we serve. To accomplish this goal we have identified several projects, some of which are underway, that will improve our system resiliency before problems arise.

- Distribution Master Plan: Report will provide planning horizons for future projects and prioritization of projects based on anticipated needs and future growth.
- New ground storage water tank and pump station: Project will provide additional water capacity to our system and help stabilize water pressures in Johns Creek and Alpharetta service areas.
- New large valve/valve vault: Project will provide the County with the ability to isolate large distribution lines. This ability reduces the amount of potential downtime to facilities where obtaining materials to perform repairs are more difficult.
- Calibration of water model: Computer aided tool that is being calibrated to an operational level to help provide additional insight to system capabilities.

As our community and our region continue to grow, our water and wastewater needs are evolving. By planning ahead for these needs, Fulton County will continue to provide high quality drinking water and efficient, environmentally sound wastewater treatment for all of our customers.





FULTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

141 Pryor Street SW, Suite 6001, Atlanta, GA 30303

www.fultoncountyga.gov/publicworks

404-612-7400

Water testing performed from:

January 1 to December 31, 2021

WSID 1210005

Important information about your drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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