

Issued in 2025  
based on 2024 data



Athens-Clarke County

# 2024 Water Quality Report Summary

*Your water is safe to drink right out of the faucet.*

This publication contains important information on the quality of your drinking water. It includes data required by the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act and fulfills the requirement that all water systems distribute an annual Water Quality Report to our water customers.

¿Habla español? Este informe contiene información muy importante acerca de su agua potable. Por favor tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



WATER SYSTEM #0590000 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT SUMMARY  
[www.accgov.com/ccr](http://www.accgov.com/ccr) • 706-613-3729

I'm pleased to share this year's Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which details test results our team conducted throughout 2024 on Athens-Clarke County's (ACC) drinking water. Within the report, you'll see the standards we meet and the ongoing efforts we take to ensure your water is of the highest quality.

From the moment our source water flows into the J.G. Beacham Water Treatment Plant, our dedicated team carefully monitors each step of the treatment process. I am proud to say that your drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

These results reflect the hard work and dedication of our highly trained operators, maintenance mechanics, lab technicians, and distribution crews who keep the system running efficiently 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From source to tap, their knowledge, determination, and passion for public service ensure that your water remains clean, reliable, and responsibly managed.

In 2024, one of the J.G. Beacham Drinking Water Treatment Plant operators received the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Top Operator Award for District 2. He received this recognition for being a moving force in the field and spreading the knowledge of operations to others.

Additionally, the J.G. Beacham Drinking Water Treatment plant received the GAWP Gold Award for achieving 100% compliance



**“We are proud to deliver water that not only meets strict safety standards, but also reflects our deep commitment to public health and environmental stewardship.”**

with all state permits and water quality regulations for the entire calendar year, further showing our commitment to operational excellence and public health.

The Water Conservation Office (WCO) is nationally recognized for their water conservation education and outreach efforts. In 2024, the WCO earned its eighth EPA WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award for helping consumers and businesses save water, energy, and money by promoting water-efficient products and programs.

I encourage you to review this summary and visit our website for the full report. You'll find important information about our water sources, the treatment process, and the results of our regular monitoring and testing. The Public Utilities Department (PUD) will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our community by delivering safe, high-quality drinking water to homes, schools, and businesses. If you have any questions as you review the report, please contact our department at 706-613-3729 or email [savewater@accgov.com](mailto:savewater@accgov.com).

*Hollis Terry IV* Director of Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department

# 230

Athens-Clarke County  
Public Utilities  
Department employees  
are **hard at work to**  
**protect your water**  
**quality**

In 2024...

**5,161,530,000**  
gallons of water were delivered

**260** tests performed each day  
**95,000** tests performed during the year  
AT WATER PLANT DURING TREATMENT PROCESS

**36** average weekday tests

**787** average monthly tests

**9,449** total annual tests

CONDUCTED BY ACC STAFF ON TREATED WATER

Additional samples were sent to private labs and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

## 2024 AWARDS

Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) awarded the **J.G. Beacham Drinking Water Treatment Plant:**

- **Best Operated Plant of the Year Award** (Surface Water, 25-49.9 Million Gallons per Day Category)

- **Top Operator Award**

- **Gold Award for 100% Compliance**

Water Conservation Office:

- **EPA WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award** (for the 8th Time)

- **GAWP Program Education of Excellence Award**

- **GAWP CCR Award** (Large Surface Water Category)

# Where does **your water** come from?

Before reaching your faucet, your water travels through a carefully monitored, **reliable treatment process**.

A lot happens behind the scenes before you turn on your tap. Here's a step-by-step look at your water's journey to your tap:

## 1. COLLECTION

Water is pumped from one of our three sources—Bear Creek Reservoir, North Oconee River, or Middle Oconee River—into the J.G. Beacham Water Treatment Plant.



J.G. Beacham Water Treatment Plant

## 2. COAGULATION & FLOCCULATION

Specialized chemicals are added to the water to bind tiny particles together. These form larger clumps known as "floc."



Filters

## 3. SEDIMENTATION

Floc is heavier than water, so it settles to the bottom of the basin and is removed.

## 4. FILTRATION

The water is passed through filters that trap any remaining fine particles, resulting in crystal-clear water!

Your drinking water  
comes from  
**3** surface  
water  
sources



Clear well

## 5. DISINFECTION

The treated water is held in a tank called a clear well. Here, chlorine that has been added continues to disinfect, ensuring there are no harmful organisms.

## 6. STORAGE & DELIVERY

The treated water is stored in large tanks before being distributed to homes, schools, businesses, and organizations across Athens-Clarke County.



Find the faucet icon hidden in this water quality report and enter by July 31, 2025 to win a bucket of water gifts! Tell us at [accgov.com/LittleLilyLookout](http://accgov.com/LittleLilyLookout)

We test for over **190 substances**. This Water Quality Report Summary shows only what we found in the water after treatment. **If it isn't listed in these test results, we didn't find it.**

Commonly known toxic substances tested for and **NOT FOUND** in your drinking water:

- arsenic
- cyanide
- radium
- barium
- giardia lamblia
- selenium
- cadmium
- legionella
- thallium
- cryptosporidium
- mercury
- uranium

## PFAS CHEMICALS

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are long lasting chemicals used worldwide in industry and consumer products. Known as “forever chemicals,” PFAS break down very slowly in the environment and can dissolve in water. PFAS have been found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations around the globe. Studies link some PFAS to harmful health effects. The ACC PUD participated in a Georgia Environmental Protection Division monitoring project and found that all regulated and unregulated PFAS have been below EPA recommended guidelines and/or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). The ACC PUD continues to invest in testing and participate in monitoring projects to ensure we stay below the EPA recommended guidelines and/or MCLs. The ACC PUD is committed to providing safe drinking water and will update our findings in regards to PFAS at [accgov.com/10543/PFAS](http://accgov.com/10543/PFAS).

## SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The Service Line Inventory is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The PUD has been working since 2021 to identify over 42,000 service lines based on historical records, field verifications, and predictive modeling. The PUD inventory process indicates that there are no lead service lines in the system. All the service lines are non-lead. To access the Service Line Inventory, visit [accgov.com/waterservicelines](http://accgov.com/waterservicelines).



**AL (ACTION LEVEL)** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**NTU (NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT)** is a measurement of the clarity of the water.

**TT (TREATMENT TECHNIQUE)** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**TURBIDITY (cloudiness of water)** has no health effects, but we measure turbidity because it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.



**1 Part Per Million (ppm)**  
= 1 drop in **13.2 gallons of water**

Or, in terms of time, ppm can be thought of as one second in 11.5 days



**1 Part Per Billion (ppb)**  
= 1 drop in a **tanker truck**

Or, one second in 32 years

# Summary of 2024 Water Test Results

Copper	
Amount we found <b>0.086 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed AL 1.30 ppm
0 over AL	
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems	

Lead	
Amount we found <b>3.50 ppb</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed AL 15.0 ppb
2 over AL	
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems	

EPA regulations require testing at least 50 homes for lead and copper every three years. Copper and lead were sampled at ACC homes July 29, 2024–September 12, 2024. Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule occurs when the 90th percentile of all samples collected does not exceed the lead and copper EPA action level.

To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department, please contact Daphne Little at 762-400-7917 or Daphne.Little@accgov.com.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	
Amount we found <b>42.97 ppb*</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed 80.0 ppb*
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> By-product of drinking water disinfection	

Chlorine	
Amount we found <b>max 1.99 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed 4.0 ppm
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> By-product of drinking water disinfection	

Haloacetic Acids	
Amount we found <b>30.70 ppb*</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed 60.0 ppb*
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems	

\*System-wide running annual average.

Fluoride	
Amount we found <b>max 1.28 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed 4.0 ppm
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Water additive that promotes strong teeth	

Filtered Turbidity	
Amount we found <b>0.13 NTU</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed TT = 1 NTU
100.00% < 0.3 NTU	TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Soil runoff	

Nitrate (Nitrogen)	
Amount we found <b>0.37 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed 10.0 ppm
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Runoff from fertilizer use	

Total Organic Carbon	
Annual average removal <b>1.16 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed TT
 Meets EPA Standards	
<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Naturally present in the environment	

This is a summary of the 2024 results. Scan the QR code to see the full **Water Quality Report** with detailed testing results.





Attended or hosted **68 community events** reaching **5,326 adults** and **3,742 kids!**

Gave **84 tours** for **735 adults** and **710 kids**



Hosted **6 presentations** to **148 adults**



Hosted **6 workshops** for **127 adults**

## Making a Splash in our community!

2024 was another busy year! The Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Public Utilities Water Conservation Office staff organized and participated in events, tours, and lessons reaching more than **15,000 ACC residents!**

Water-saving giveaways made an impact, saving thousands of gallons! ACC residents were given:

**4,430 toilet tablets** (for detecting leaks)  
**373 bathroom aerators** • **222 kitchen aerators**  
**340 spray nozzles** • **396 moisture meters**  
**391 showerheads**



Led **28 camp lessons** reaching **87 adults** and **458 kids**



Made **224 classroom visits** reaching **334 adults** and **4,140 kids**



Save the date!

The Athens Water Festival will be September 6, 2025, [AthensWaterFestival.com](http://AthensWaterFestival.com). See more events at [ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com)

Get involved! To volunteer at the Athens Water Festival or with Rivers Alive, please contact [savewater@accgov.com](mailto:savewater@accgov.com).



124 East Hancock Ave.  
Athens, Georgia 30601

**Water Bill Questions**  
706-613-3500

**Administration**  
706-613-3470

**Water Conservation**  
706-613-3729

**To Report a Water Leak**  
706-613-3495

**Emergencies**  
706-613-3481

[accgov.com/publicutilities](http://accgov.com/publicutilities)  
[ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com)

This summary contains important information on the quality of your drinking water. The EPA Safe Water Drinking Act requires water systems to distribute an annual Water Quality Report to our water customers.



This is a summary of the 2024 results. Scan the QR code to see the full **Water Quality Report** with more detailed testing results.



**LEARN MORE** All PUD records are available to the public. Commission meetings, where all major water and wastewater projects are reviewed and approved, are open to the public and televised on ACTV Cable Channel 180. For more details, visit: [accgov.com](http://accgov.com).

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