



Public Utilities

ABOUT YOUR
water
quality

WATER SYSTEM # 0590000

Your water is safe to drink and meets or
surpasses all state and federal standards.
SEE TEST RESULTS INSIDE.

¿HABLA
ESPANOL?

Este Informe contiene información muy
importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó
hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

YOUR DRINKING WATER COMES FROM 3 surface water sources

1 Bear Creek Reservoir

2 Middle Oconee River

3 North Oconee River

VISIT YOUR WATER SOURCES!
Enjoy our greenway and riverside parks:

 **Dudley Park**

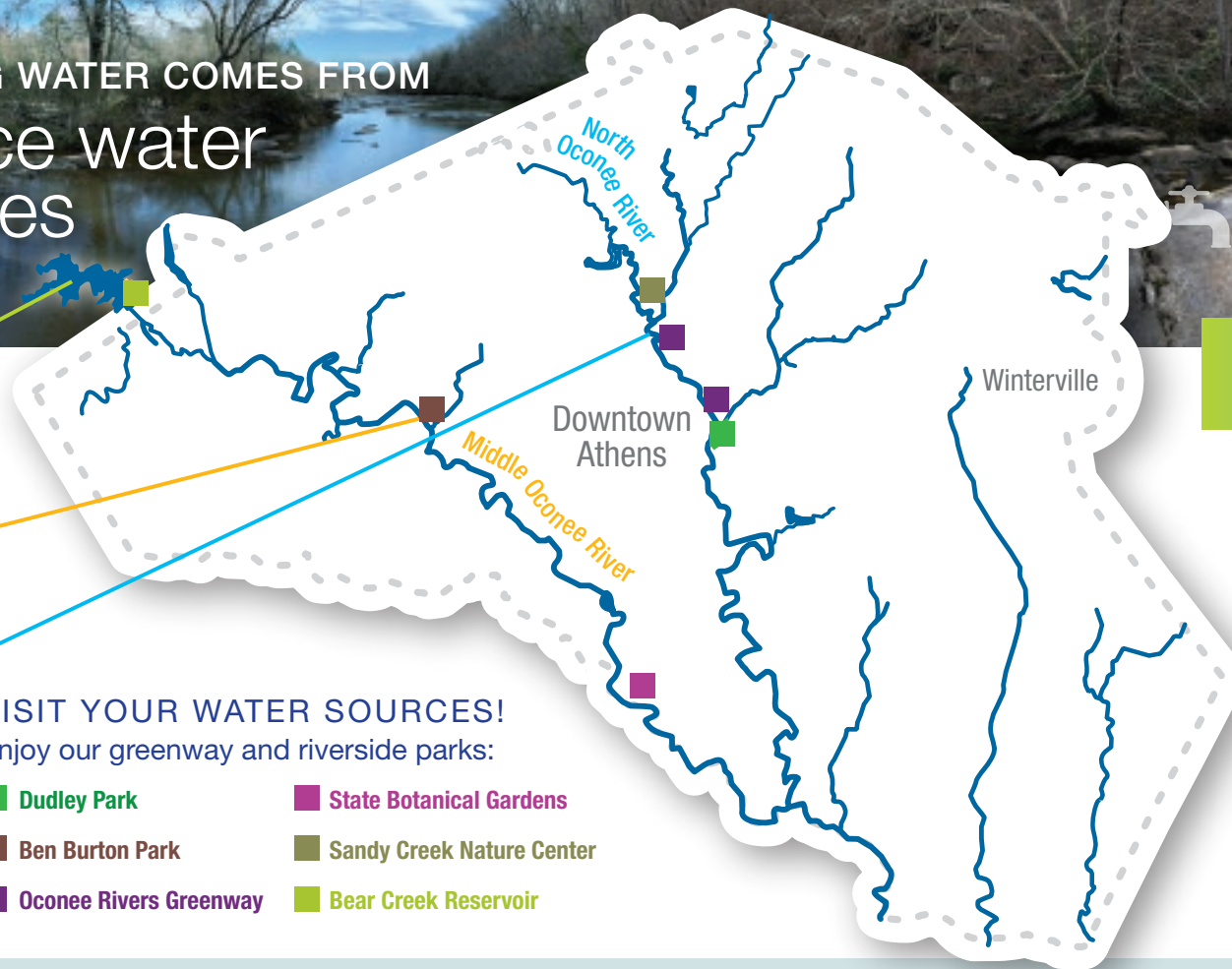
 **Ben Burton Park**

 **Oconee Rivers Greenway**

 **State Botanical Gardens**

 **Sandy Creek Nature Center**

 **Bear Creek Reservoir**



YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR WATER SOURCES!

- Avoid using pesticides and chemical fertilizers.
- Take used motor oil and paints to a recycling center such as CHaRM – accgov.com/charm.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Choose non-toxic household products whenever possible.
- Look for WaterSense labeled products to save water, energy, and money.



2018

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

water test results

The table below shows the findings of Public Utilities Department (PUD) water testing after treatment and how they compare to national standards. ALL RESULTS MEET OR EXCEED EPA STANDARDS.

contaminants measured in parts per million (ppm) – the equivalent of one drop of water in 42 gallons

Better than EPA Standard	Contaminant	Typical Source	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL)	Detected Level (what we found)
✓	Copper*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	1.3 ppm	AL 1.3 ppm	0.052 ppm 0 over AL
✓	Fluoride	Water additive that promotes strong teeth	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.89 ppm (Actual Range 0.65 – 0.89 ppm)
✓	Lead*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	0.0 ppb	AL 15.0 ppb	1.7 ppb 0 over AL
✓	Nitrate (Nitrogen)	Runoff from fertilizer use	10.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	0.86 ppm
✓	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	0.0 ppb	80.0 ppb (annual average)	49.68 ppb (annual average) Quarterly range 0.00–67.55 ppb
✓	Turbidity (Cloudiness)	Soil runoff	0.0	TT = 1 NTU	0.22 (highest single measurement)
				TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	100% ≤ 0.3 NTU

*EPA regulations require testing every three years; latest testing done in 2018.

contaminants measured in parts per billion (ppb) – the equivalent of one drop of water in 14,000 gallons

Better than EPA Standard	Contaminant	Typical Source	EPA Ideal Goal (MRDLG)	Highest EPA Allowed Level (MDRL)	Detected Level (what we found)
✓	Chlorine	Water additive for disinfection	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.79 ppm

Better than EPA Standard	Contaminant	Typical Source	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL)	Range of Removal	Annual Average Removal
✓	Total Organic Compounds	Naturally present in the environment	N/A	TT	30.8%–56.8%	39.63%

IN THE LAB

keeping your water safe

Did you know that our lab technicians are busy keeping your water safe to drink? The Public Utilities Department tests water at the source, throughout the treatment process, and before it travels through pipelines and storage to you. Throughout 2018, our lab technician and lab supervisor performed almost 16,000 drinking water tests! These test results are a critical part of making sure that you have high quality, reliable drinking water.

Working in a water lab is serious business – our technicians are state certified and must pass proficiency tests each year. They report all state mandated test results to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

Thank you, Daphne Little, Lab Supervisor, and Rafael Rivera-Mendez, Lab Technician



16,000

DRINKING WATER TESTS
CONDUCTED IN THE LAB IN 2018



Our J.G. Beacham Water Treatment Plant earned a 2018 Platinum Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals – and has had no Safe Drinking Water Act violations in the past 11 years.

11 years of 0 violations

TERMS TO KNOW

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

MCLG (MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL) 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.

MCL (MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL) The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL)

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG)

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

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

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN WATER?

Pure water is made up of hydrogen and oxygen. However, all drinking water comes from rivers, lakes reservoirs, or wells. These sources are never purely hydrogen and oxygen. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves natural minerals, and is subject to potential “contamination” by a variety of naturally occurring and man-made substances.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general public.

Immuno-compromised individuals, 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.

To ensure that our tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Water Test Results detail the EPA's ideal goal and highest level allowed.



IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

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's Safe drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 private service lines and home plumbing.

ACC PUD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 water for drinking or cooking. 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 or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

PROTECTING OUR WATER SOURCES

In order to protect public drinking water supplies at the source – our rivers, lakes and streams – the State of Georgia established a Source Water Assessment Program. As part of this program, Athens-Clarke County and the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission completed a Source Water Assessment of the Middle Oconee and North Oconee rivers. Both rivers have been ranked with a medium level of pollution susceptibility.

Based on the results of the Source Water Assessment, the county developed a Watershed Protection Plan for safeguarding our water resources. Copies of the report and plan are available at the Public Utilities Department Administration Office, 124 East Hancock Avenue in downtown Athens.

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All PUD records are available to the public. The Mayor and Commission review and approve all major water and wastewater projects at commission meetings held at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public and televised on ACTV Cable Channel 180. For more details visit: accgov.com.

For a pdf of this report and past water quality reports, visit: accgov.com/ccr.

Would you more information on water quality? Contact Laurel Loftin at 706-613-3729, email savewater@accgov.com or visit www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.



Public Utilities

[water](#). [wastewater](#). [conservation](#).

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

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Find the faucet icon hidden in this water quality report and enter to win a bucket of water gifts! Tell us at accgov.com/LittleLilyLookout. Entries are accepted until July 31, 2019.