

# ABOUT YOUR water quality

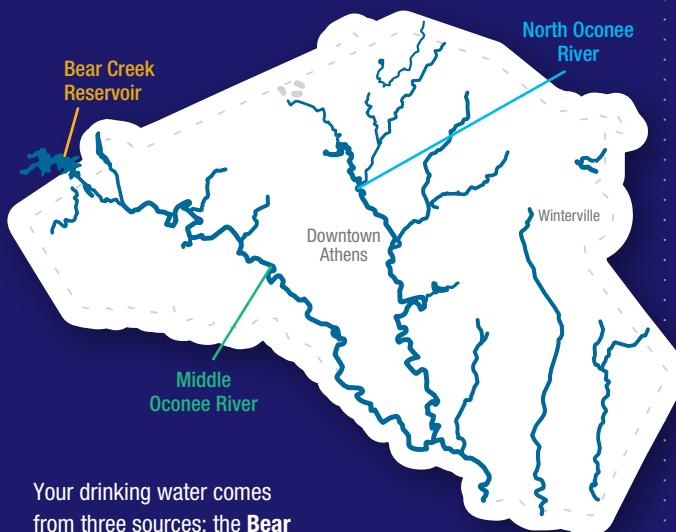
WATER SYSTEM # 0590000  
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE  
REPORT (CCR)

YOUR WATER IS  
SAFE as treated and  
delivered by Athens-Clarke  
County. It meets or surpasses  
all state and federal standards  
for safe drinking water.



Public Utilities

# Working to protect our water sources



Your drinking water comes from three sources: the **Bear Creek Reservoir**, the **North Oconee River**, and the **Middle Oconee River**. Before it ever reaches the faucet, your water travels through a carefully monitored, reliable treatment process.

## SAFEGUARDING OUR RIVERS

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.

## OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUPPORT WATER PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION.



money-saving, water efficient showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet flappers and tablets, and spray nozzles given out in 2019–2020

### WATER-SAVING PROMOTIONS

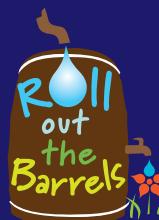


**ripple effect**  
FILM PROJECT

An average of

**50 films**

submitted for promotion of **WATER CONSERVATION** since event began in 2013 – winning films shown on Facebook and YouTube



**189**

ARTIST-CREATED RAIN BARRELS auctioned off at the Roll Out the Barrels event since it began in May 2011



**1,200,000**

estimated gallons of water saved annually with the February WaterSense **SHOWERHEAD GIVEAWAY**

An average of

**1,000**  
attendees to the annual  
**WATER FESTIVAL**



Visit [ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com) for upcoming events and workshops.

# 2020

## ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY WATER TEST RESULTS

This chart shows the findings of Athens-Clarke County's Public Utilities Department (ACC PUD) water testing after treatment and how they compare to national standards. ALL RESULTS MEET OR EXCEED EPA STANDARDS. Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) – the equivalent of one drop of water in 42 gallons
- parts per billion (ppb) – the equivalent of one drop of water in 14,000 gallons

Better than EPA Standard	Substance	Typical Source	Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Level (MCL)	Detected Level (what we found)
✓	Copper*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	1.30 ppm	AL 1.30 ppm	<b>0.052 ppm</b> 0.00 over AL
✓	Lead*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	0.00 ppb	AL 15.00 ppb	<b>1.07 ppb</b> 0.00 over AL
✓	Fluoride	Water additive that promotes strong teeth	4.00 ppm	4.00 ppm	<b>Max 1.09 ppm</b> Average 0.71 ppm (actual range 0.41–1.09 ppm)
✓	Nitrate (Nitrogen)	Runoff from fertilizer use	10.00 ppm	10.00 ppm	<b>0.92 ppm</b>
✓	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	0.00 ppb	80.00 ppb (annual average)	<b>65.85 ppb**</b> Range ND–83.30 ppb
✓	Filtered Turbidity	Soil runoff	0.00 NTU	TT = 1.00 NTU	<b>0.36 (highest single measurement)</b>
				TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.30 NTU	<b>99.69% ≤ 0.3 NTU</b>
✓	Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	0.00 ppb	60.00 ppb (annual average)	<b>35.00 ppb**</b> Range ND–39.00 ppb
✓	Chlorine	Water additive for disinfection	4.00 ppm (MRDLG)	4.00 ppm (MRDL)	<b>Max 2.00 ppm</b> Average 0.80 ppm
Better than EPA Standard	Substance	Typical Source	Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Level (MCL)	Range of Removal
✓	Total Organic Carbon	Naturally present in the environment	N/A	TT	25.00%–48.42% <b>38.44%</b>

\*EPA regulations require testing every three years; latest testing done in 2018. \*\*Annual locational average.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S WATERSENSE PROGRAM

Sustained Excellence Award,  
PUD Water Conservation Office

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF WATER PROFESSIONALS

Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence in Water & Wastewater

Platinum Award, North Oconee Water Reclamation Facility (10th)

Platinum Award, Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facility (10th)

Platinum Award, Middle Oconee Water Reclamation Facility (8th)

Platinum Award, JG Beacham Drinking Water Treatment Plant (13th)

2021 Water Reclamation Facility of the Year, Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facility

J.G. Beacham Water Treatment Plant

13 years with 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.

**ND (NOT DETECTED)**

**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.

Have questions about your drinking water quality?  
Visit [accgov.com/8631/Drinking-Water-Quality](http://accgov.com/8631/Drinking-Water-Quality).

### 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 at left detail the EPA's ideal goal and highest level allowed.

**EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by contacting the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

### 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).**



### COVID-19 AND WATER QUALITY: YOUR WATER IS SAFE

With the use of filtration, UV treatment, and disinfection, our treatment process consistently removes viruses before delivering water to you.



## Public Utilities

accgov.com/publicutilities  
ThinkATTheSink.com

- [facebook.com/lilyanne.phibian](https://facebook.com/lilyanne.phibian)
- [twitter.com/AccWaterWarrior](https://twitter.com/AccWaterWarrior)
- [instagram.com/lilyannephibian](https://instagram.com/lilyannephibian)

All ACC PUD records are available to the public. The Mayor and Commission review and approve all major water and wastewater projects at City Hall meetings. These are open for public comment and televised on Facebook, YouTube, and ACTV Cable Channel 180. Find pdfs of ACC PUD water quality reports at [accgov.com/CCR](https://accgov.com/CCR).

### Would you like more information on water quality?

Contact Laurel Loftin at 706-613-3729, email [savewater@accgov.com](mailto:savewater@accgov.com), or visit [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

¿Habla español? Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



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](https://accgov.com/LittleLilyLookout). Entries are accepted until July 31, 2021.

Printed locally on recycled paper.

This report contains important information on the quality of your drinking water, as required by the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act.

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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