

Athens-Clarke County

# SUMMARY OF YOUR 2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT

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

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This publication contains important information on the quality of your drinking water. For our complete Water Quality Report, including all data required by the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act, visit [acgov.com/CCR](http://acgov.com/CCR).



# Athens-Clarke County is working hard to **protect your water quality**

**4,879,730,000**  
billion gallons of water delivered

AT WATER PLANT DURING TREATMENT PROCESS:

**267** daily tests  
**97,455** annual tests

BY LAB ON TREATED WATER SENT TO HOMES:

**46** average weekday tests  
**1,000** average monthly tests  
**12,002** approximate total annual tests

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



Tiger Brooks, Operations Coordinator,  
J.G. Beacham Water Treatment Plant

## 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).



## WANT MORE INFORMATION ON WATER QUALITY?

- Contact Laurel Loftin at 706-613-3729
- Email [savewater@accgov.com](mailto:savewater@accgov.com)
- Visit [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR WATER

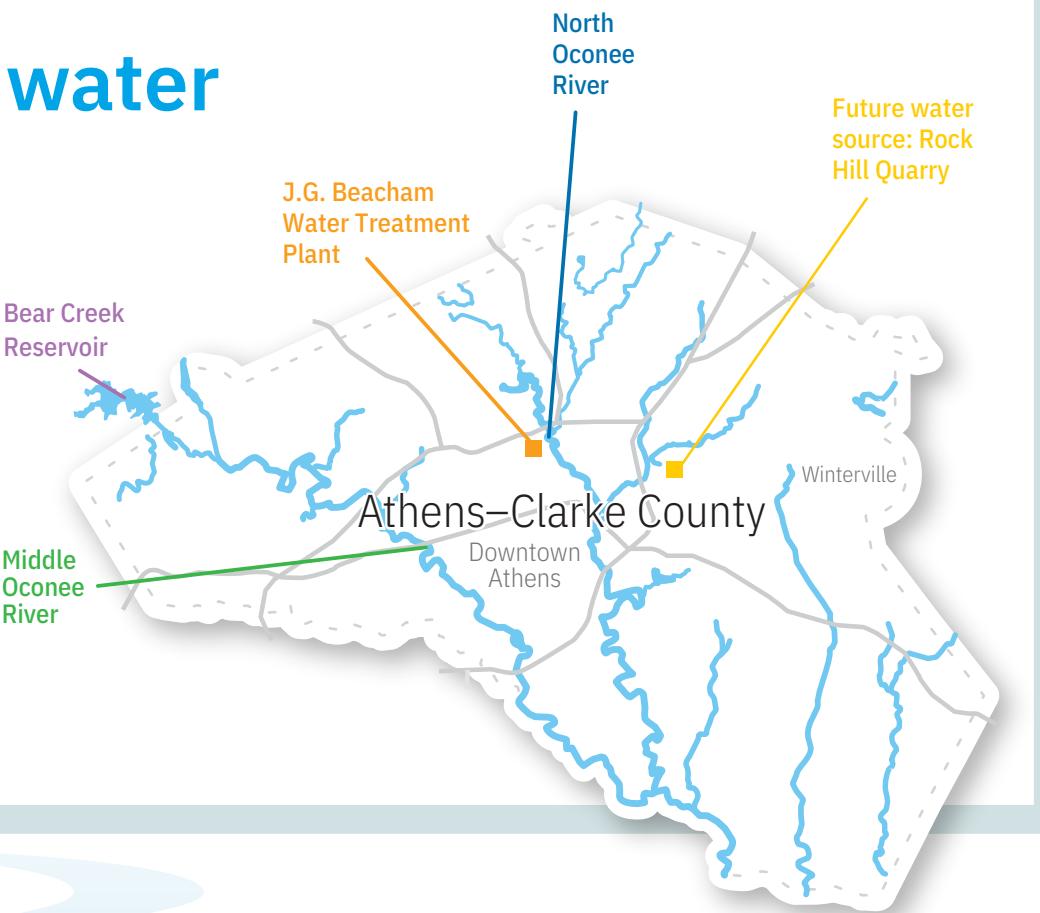
- Never pour hazardous waste down the drain, on the ground, or into storm sewers.
- Limit the use of pesticides or fertilizers, and always follow the label directions.
- Dispose of your medications properly – visit [accgov.com/6344/What-should-I-do-with-old-prescriptions](http://accgov.com/6344/What-should-I-do-with-old-prescriptions)
- Always pick up after your dog wherever they go.
- Never sweep litter or debris into a storm drain.



ENTER TO WIN! 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](http://accgov.com/LittleLilyLookout). Entries are accepted until July 31, 2023.

# Where **your water** comes from

Your drinking water comes from three sources: the Bear Creek Reservoir, the North Oconee River, and the Middle Oconee River. Before ever reaching the faucet, it travels through a carefully monitored, reliable treatment process at the J.G. Beacham Drinking Water Treatment Plant.



## The **water treatment** process

A lot happens to your drinking water before it gets to you. It all begins when we pump water into the water treatment plant from North Oconee River, Middle Oconee River, or the Bear Creek Reservoir.

1

Chemicals are added to make small particles clump together, forming "floc."

2

The floc settles in basins, sinks to the bottom, and we remove it.

4

The treated water is held in a tank called a clear well. Here added chlorine continues disinfection to ensure there are no more harmful organisms.

3

Filters catch any remaining particles so the water becomes crystal clear.

5

Storage tanks safely hold the finished water until it is delivered to homes, organizations, and businesses.

### Turn on your tap with confidence

Dedicated personnel keep the water treatment system running smoothly 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Certified water treatment operators and lab technicians carefully test the source water and finished water to ensure you have safe, high quality drinking water.



# 2022 Summary of Water Test Results

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



## MEASUREMENTS AND TERMS TO KNOW



### Part Per Million (ppm)

1 drop in **13.2 gallons of water** = 1 ppm



### Part Per Billion (ppb)

1 drop in an **Olympic-size swimming pool** = 1 ppb



### Part Per Trillion (ppt)

About 2 drops in **UGA's Lake Herrick** = 1 ppt

**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.

# Summary of 2022 Water Test Results

RESULTS OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY'S PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT  
TESTS OF TREATED WATER SHOWN IN COMPARISON TO EPA STANDARDS.

## Copper\*\*

Amount we found  
**0.036 ppm**

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
AL 1.30 ppm



How it gets into the water:  
Corrosion of household plumbing systems

## Lead\*\*

Amount we found  
**7.5 ppb**

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
AL 15.0 ppb



How it gets into the water:  
Corrosion of household plumbing systems

## Haloacetic Acids

Amount we found  
**21.67 ppb\***

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
60.0 ppb\*



How it gets into the water:  
By-product of drinking water disinfection

## Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS)

Amount we found  
**54.68 ppb\***

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
80.0 ppb\*



How it gets into the water:  
By-product of drinking water disinfection

In 2022, two location tests were above 80.00 ppb. There was no immediate health threat and levels are now acceptable.

Again meeting EPA standards since November 2022\*\*\*

## Chlorine

Amount we found  
**max 2.00 ppm**

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
4.0 ppm



How it gets into the water:  
Water additive for disinfection

\*System-wide running annual average

\*\*EPA regulations require testing every three years; latest testing done in 2021 for copper and lead.

\*\*\*For more detailed info, see the full report at [accgov.com/CCR](http://accgov.com/CCR) or [accgov.com/TTHM](http://accgov.com/TTHM)

## Fluoride

Amount we found  
**max 1.38 ppm**

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
4.0 ppm



How it gets into the water:  
Water additive that promotes strong teeth

The State of Georgia requires fluoridation of our water supplies. We add fluoride during water treatment at 0.7 ppm, the level recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service and Georgia Rural Water Association.

## Filtered Turbidity

Amount we found  
**100.00%  
<0.3 NTU**

Highest EPA Level Allowed  
TT = 1 NTU  
TT = 95% of samples  $\leq$  0.3 NTU



How it gets into the water: Soil runoff

## Nitrate (Nitrogen)

Amount we found  
**0.77 ppm**

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
10.0 ppm



How it gets into the water:  
Runoff from fertilizer use

## Total Organic Carbon

Range of removal  
**0.50–1.1 ppm**

Highest EPA  
Level Allowed  
TT



How it gets into the water:  
Naturally present in the environment

This is a summary of the 2022 results. Scan the QR code to see the full **Water Quality Report** with detailed testing results.



## Ripple Effect Film Project

Local students submit short, water-themed films promoting conservation and water's importance. Everyone is welcome to attend the Blue Carpet Premiere – finalist films debut on the big screen and prizes are awarded. [RippleEffectFilmProject.org](http://RippleEffectFilmProject.org)



## Rivers Alive

Participate in the annual clean-up of our local waterways. For more info, visit [www.acgov.com/riversalive](http://www.acgov.com/riversalive)

Join us.  
**Community  
counts!**



## Athens Water Festival

Learn, splash, and play at our annual water celebration – one of the best family events in town! [AthensWaterFestival.com](http://AthensWaterFestival.com)



## Green Thumb Lectures

The ACC Extension Office offers a variety of free monthly gardening presentations. Learn more and register at [acgov.com/gardening](http://acgov.com/gardening).

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND INSTAGRAM.

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