ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT 2015

Water Testing Performed in 2014

In 2014, the City of Gainesville Public Utilities Department conducted over 2,600 laboratory tests for more than 100 drinking water parameters. This report includes information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Your public utilities department is committed to providing the community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2014 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2014. **EPD** requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

Microbiological Contaminants Table

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Gainesville Water System	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	No more than 5% of monthly samples can test positive for coliform bacteria	0	0.9% (Highest Monthly Positives)	NO	Naturally present in the environment

Disinfectants Table

Parameter	MRDL	MRDLG	Gainesville Water System	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0	4.0	1.42	0 – 1.87	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

Inorganic Contaminants Table

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Gainesville Water System	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	.83	0.56 – 1.02	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.45	0.32 – 0.58	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Organic Contaminants Table

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Gainesville Water System	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS) (ppb)	80	n/a	0.042*	0.020 – 0.054	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	n/a	0.025*	0.018 – 0.028	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorite (ppm)	1	0.8	0.182	0.057 – 0.330	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (ppm)	TT	n/a	.82	0.54 – 1.1	NO	Naturally present in the environment

* This number represents the highest locational running annual averages reported during 2013.

Lead and Copper Contaminant Table

Parameter	AL	MCLG	90th percentile value	# of sites above the AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.053	No (0) sites above the AL out of 50 sites sampled.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0.0025	No (0) sites above the AL out of 50 sites sampled.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

2012 Data, No Sampling Required For This Reporting Period

Turbidity Table

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Result	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = <0.3	0	0.054	0.01 – 0.33	NO	Soil runoff and erosion
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = percentage of samples <0.3 NTU	n/a	100%	n/a	NO	

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity to indicate the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Gainesville's Annual Average Hardness - 21.7 ppm
Gainesville's Annual Average Alkalinity – 14.6 ppm

Unregulated Contaminants Table

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Gainesville Water System	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloroform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	5.8	3.4 – 8.2	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process
Dichlorobromo-methane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	2.2	2.2 – 2.2	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process
Chlorodibromo-methane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.4	0 – .8	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0	0 – 0	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process

Contaminants that may be present in source water-before "TREATMENT" include:

In order 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. 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 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Terms & Abbreviations used below:

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Protection Division (EPD): the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

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.

Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. **n/a**: not applicable – **nd**: not detectable at testing limit - **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter - **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter - **NTU**: nephelometric turbidity units, measurement of suspended material in water.

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, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (1-800- 426-4791).

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The Gainesville Public Utilities Department provides water to residential, commercial and industrial customers located within the Gainesville corporate limits, a large portion of unincorporated Hall County and within the corporate limits of the cities of Clermont, Buford, Oakwood, Braselton, Flowery Branch and Gillsville. The Gainesville service area covers approximately 500 square miles. The water system serves a customer base of approximately 48,479 accounts with an estimated 153,000+ users. We welcome your comments and participation on issues that concern our drinking water. Kelly Randall, Director of Public Utilities, may be reached at (770) 538-2400. Don Dye, Assistant Director of Public Utilities, may be reached at (770) 538-2462.

The information contained in this report summarizes your drinking water for calendar year 2013. This information is provided on or before June 1. If you are interested in getting more information about your water quality or this report, please call Horace Gee, Environmental Services Administrator at (770) 532-7462.

The City of Gainesville Public Utilities Department is actively involved in protection of our local water resources and works with various state, federal and local agencies on Watershed Protection issues. In 2003, our community completed a source water assessment. The overall point source susceptibility ratings for both of Gainesville's plants are low.

Gainesville is….

WaterFirst
Committed to Caring for Our Water Resources

City of Gainesville
Since 2008

The City of Gainesville became a WaterFirst Community in 2008. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) evaluates water providers on their proactive approach to water resources. It makes the connection between land use and water quality and quantity. The voluntary program evaluates multiple branches of a utility to include but not limited to:

- Watershed Management and Assessment
- Water Efficiency
- Drinking Water Facility Treatment
- Water Reclamation Facility Treatment
- Stormwater Management
- Water Supply Planning and Protection

We are GIDDE

Gainesville's Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (GIDDE) Program is a vital tool used to hunt for and reduce potential illegal discharges into state waters. Annually, inspections are done on 180 outfalls to determine if a discharge meets water quality standards. Over 900 outfalls were inspected within a five year period. An Environmental Specialist's investigative clues include:

- Clarity and smell - color, cloudiness, odor
- Discoloration – petroleum or natural sheen
- Life - signs of healthy, distressed or dead organisms
- Chemical testing –
  - Temperature – warmth of air and water
  - pH – how basic or alkaline the stream may be
  - Conductivity – the charge of the water
  - Surfactants – indicator of soaps
  - Fluoride – indicator of a potential water leak
  - Fecal coliform – measure of warm blooded mammal waste

Discharges from pipes, ditches, trenches or runoff into our streams, that lead to our drinking water supply, can include:

- Soapy water from residential and private lots
- Fertilizer from over fertilization of a lawn or landscape
- Fecal coliform or E. coli
- Litter thrown from vehicles
- Grass clippings and yard debris

Like us. Find us on Facebook by searching: GainesvilleWaterResources

For more information, visit us at www.gainesville.org/water-resources or call 770-532-7462.