GAINESVILLE
WATER RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2021

WSID 1390001 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

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

This report contains information about the quality of your drinking water, where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The City of Gainesville Department of Water Resources (DWR) is committed to providing the community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water.

YOUR WATER BY THE NUMBERS

400
Sq. miles of service area

60,065
Water accounts

164,356
Users

50.1%
Industrial/commercial water usage

16,000+
Annual water tests

100+
Substances analyzed

19,400,000
Gallons of water consumed a day*

*Water consumption average data from City of Gainesville 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

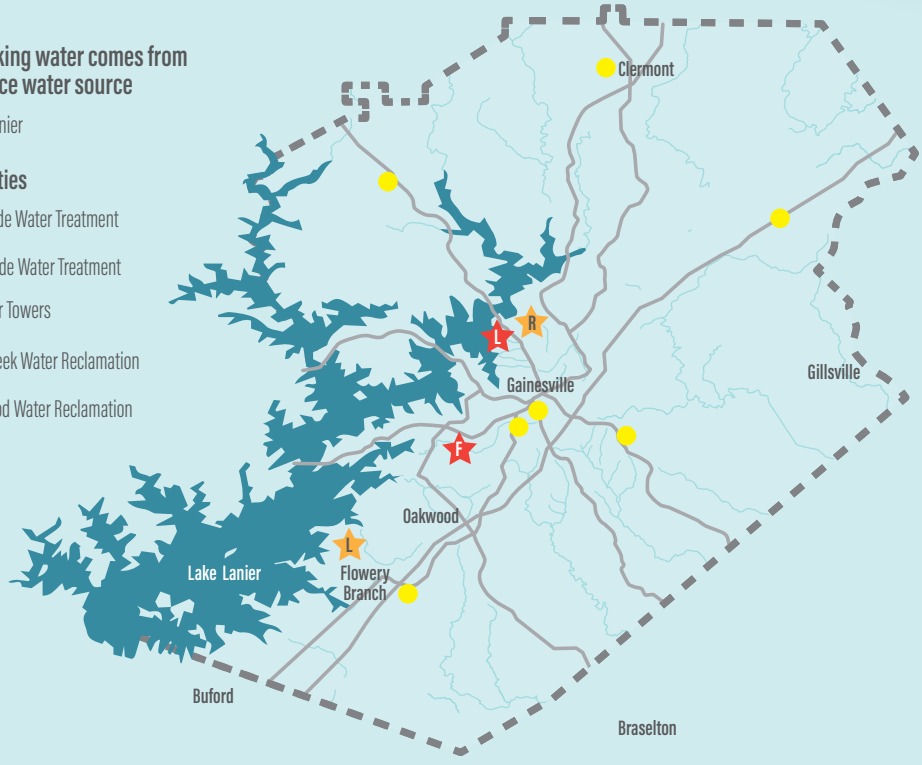
WATER SUPPLY, TREATMENT & DISTRIBUTION

Your drinking water comes from one surface water source

- Lake Lanier

DWR Facilities

- L Lakeside Water Treatment
- R Riverside Water Treatment
- 7 Water Towers
- F Flat Creek Water Reclamation
- L Linwood Water Reclamation



We are pleased to share our 2021 Water Quality Report, which provides information about the quality of our drinking water. It includes data from January 1 - December 31, 2021 confirming that Gainesville's drinking water met or exceeded all standards set by our federal and state governments.

We hope we have presented the information in a user-friendly format that is easy to understand. If you have any questions about this report, contact Ashley Pitts, DWR's Environmental Division Chemist, at 770-532-7462.

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone explain it to you. Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traducalo o hable con aluien que lo entienda bien.

2021 TEST RESULTS

This chart shows the findings of the City of Gainesville Department DWR water testing after treatment and how they compare to national standards. ALL RESULTS MEET EPA STANDARDS. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing completed from January 1 - December 31, 2021.

Regulated Substances/Contaminants and Disinfection Substances

Type	Meets EPA Standard	Substance	Typical Source	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG, MRDLG)	Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL, MRDL, TT)	Detected Level (what we found)
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	✓	**Chlorine**	Drinking water disinfectant	MRDLG 4.0 ppm	MRDL 4.0 ppm	1.52 ppm (Actual range 0– 2.11 ppm)
	✓	**Chlorite**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	0.8 ppm	1 ppm	0.19 ppm (Actual range 0.01 – 0.45 ppm)
	✓	**Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	N/A	60 ppb	18.4 ppb[1] (Actual range 14.4 – 21.7 ppb)
	✓	**Total Organic Carbon (TOC)**	Decay of naturally occurring organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources	N/A	TT	1.05 ppm (Actual range 0.53 – 1.10 ppm)
	✓	**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	N/A	80 ppb	28 ppb[1] (Actual range 17 – 41 ppb)
Inorganic Contaminants	✓	**Barium**	Erosion of natural deposits	2.0 ppm	2.0 ppm	0.11 ppm
	✓	**Fluoride[2]**	Water additive that promotes strong teeth	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.61 ppm (Actual range 0.10 – 0.89 ppm)
	✓	**Nitrate/Nitrite[3]**	Runoff from fertilizer	10.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	0.44 ppm (Actual range 0.35 – 0.52 ppm)
Microbiological Contaminants	✓	**Total Coliform Bacteria (+/-)**	Naturally present in the environment	0.0 %	5 % of monthly samples are positive	0.15 % monthly samples positive (Actual range 0 – 2%, Average 0%)
	✓	**Turbidity (NTU)**	Soil runoff & erosion	N/A	TT = 1 NTU	TT = 95 % of samples at ≤ 0.3 % (Highest value reported 0.28 %)
Inorganic Contaminants	✓	**Copper[4]**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	0.0 ppm	AL 1.3 ppm	0.06 ppm 0 over AL (Actual Range 0 - 0.15 ppm)
	✓	**Lead[4]**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	0.0 ppb	AL 15.0 ppb	3 ppb 1 over AL

1 This number represents the highest locational running annual averages reported during 2021.
2 Fluoride is added to water to help promote dental health in children.
3 Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together.
4 Gainesville is required to test a minimum of 50 homes for lead and copper every three years. The last testing occurred in 2021 and the next testing will take place in Fall 2024. Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule is based on obtaining the 90th percentile of the total number of samples collected and comparing it against the lead and copper action levels. To have an exceedance, the 90th percentile value must be greater than 15 ppb for lead or 1.3 ppm for copper. Of the homes tested in 2021, 1 site exceeded the action level (AL) for lead. No sites exceeded the action level for copper.

Unregulated Contaminants (2019 data)[5]

Meets EPA Standard	Substance	Typical Source	EPA Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL)	Detected Level (what we found)
✓	**HAA9 Group**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	N/A	N/A	Average 20 ppb (Actual range 9 – 28 ppb)
✓	**Manganese**	Naturally present in the environment	N/A	N/A	Average 2 ppb (Actual range 1 – 4 ppb)
✓	**Total Brominated HAAs**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	N/A	N/A	Average 4 ppb (Actual range 2 –6 ppb)
✓	**Total Haloacetic Acids**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	N/A	60 ppb	Average 16 ppb (Actual range 8 –23 ppb)
✓	**Total Organic Carbon (TOC)**	Decay of naturally occurring organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources	N/A	TT	Average 1.84 ppm (Actual range 1.20 – 2.35 ppm)

5 The last testing occurred in 2019 in accordance with EPA regulations. The next testing will take place in 2025.

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.

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.

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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal) 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.

N/A (Not Applicable) Does not apply.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) A measurement of the clarity of the water which indicates the effectiveness of the filtration system.

ppm (parts per million) The equivalent of one drop of water in 42 gallons.

ppb (parts per billion) The equivalent of one drop of water in 14,000 gallon.

TT (Treatment Technique) A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

Water Quality Parameters	Annual Average
Hardness	22.9 ppm
Alkalinity	15.4 ppm
pH	7.86 std units

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN THE WATER?

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants 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.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population including immunocompromised persons, some elderly, and infants. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead in drinking water can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Gainesville's water system 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. Contact Gainesville Water Resources at 770-532-7462. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

CARBON TO COMBAT TASTE & ODOR

Events of taste and odor can be attributed to a cycle known as "lake turnover." Lake turnover typically occurs during Spring and Fall when temperature changes alter the density of surface water causing it to switch places with the water below, "turning over" the lake's layers.

The Riverside Drive and Lakeside Water Treatment Plants have installed a Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) feed system. They send activated carbon into the raw water as it is being pumped from the lake. Absorbing taste and odor compounds is what PAC does best. It helps to keep your drinking water tasting great, removing unpleasant or bad tastes it may have had otherwise.

FAQs

Is my water hard or soft?
Our water is generally considered soft, averaging 23 ppm for 2021. This is about 1.5 grains per gallon.

Is there fluoride in the water?
Yes, fluoride is added at an average of 0.61 ppm for the year 2021. It is sufficient to prevent tooth decay in children. No additional fluoride supplements are needed.

Is there sodium in the water?
Yes, sodium was detected at 5.6 ppm for the year 2021.

CONTACTS

gainesville.org/water-edu facebook.com/GainesvilleH20

Environmental Services Division

Comments or questions regarding information found in this report: Ashley Pitts, Chemist, at 770-532-7462.

Records & Reports

The Mayor and City Council review and approve all major water and wastewater projects at Gainesville City Council meetings which are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at 701 Queen City Parkway in Gainesville. These meetings are open to the public. Agendas and notices are posted on our website: gainesville.org.

This report and past water quality reports: gainesville.org/publications-awards.

Safewater Drinking Hotline

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants available at www.epa.gov or 1-800-426-4791.

Lead Information www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Water Resources is committed to providing the community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water and it shows. Here are just a few recent awards that DWR has received:

- 2021 STREAM Award for Excellence in Watershed
- 2022 GAWP Education Program of Excellence Award
- 2022 GAWP/GWWC Fox McCarthy Award
- GAWP Plant of the Year Award in Advanced Treatment 3.0 to 5.9 MGD to Linwood WRF
- GAWP District 2 Wastewater Top Op Award to Aaron Akemon at Flat Creek WRF
- Drinking Water Facility Gold Awards City of Gainesville, Riverside Water Treatment Plant
- Drinking Water Facility Platinum Awards Lakeside Water Treatment Plant – **18 years in a row!**

PROTECTING OUR WATER SOURCE

In 2020, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District completed a source water assessment. The overall point source susceptibility ratings for both of Gainesville's water treatment plants are low. This full report is now available and can be obtained by calling 770-532-7462.

Get Involved

DWR welcomes public participation. Stay in the know of upcoming workshops and cleanups by following us on Facebook @GainesvilleH20.

Toilet Rebate Program

$75 rebate when you replace a qualifying inefficient fixture with a WaterSense labeled toilet. Review program and additional requirements: gainesville.org/water-edu or 770-532-7462.

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