

Where Does My Water Come From?

Your water comes from *Lake Sidney Lanier* and is treated at the Riverside Water Treatment Plant on Riverside Drive in Gainesville and at the Lakeside



Water Treatment Plant located on Jim Crow Road near Flowery Branch. Water from lakes and rivers is known as *surface water* because it travels

across the surface of the earth as it collects in ditches, streams and, ultimately, larger bodies of water. Treatment performed at our water treatment plants includes removal of contaminants and disinfection. Gainesville has an intergovernmental agreement with Gwinnett County to provide water to our customers in case of emergency. From time to time, we may purchase water from their system. Information on Gwinnett County water can be obtained by calling (770) 614-2080.

Lead in Drinking Water 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 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426 4791)** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT 2011

Water testing performed in 2010

Proudly Provided By:



Community Water System
Identification Number
13900001

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Water Testing Performed in 2010

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 46,550 accounts with an estimated 130,000+ 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. Tim Collins, Assistant Director of Public Utilities, may be reached at (770) 538-2454.

The information contained in this report summarizes your drinking water for calendar year 2010. This information is provided on or before July 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.

Creekwalking 101

In 1987, Gainesville's Public Utilities Department began the Environmental Monitoring



Program to decrease collection system overflows and reduce pollutants into state waters. Although terms change over time, this group is still known as "Creekwalkers". The group walks streams from the entrance into Lake Lanier to the headwaters looking for pollution sources. They collect data (chemical and biological) to determine trends of water quality changes on streams throughout Gainesville/Hall County.

Watershed Restoration



Flat Creek is an impaired waterbody due to lack of buffers, stormwater runoff and impervious area. However, this stream is going through some water quality and habitat changes. Work was completed on a stream reach above 757 Queen City Parkway to help restore the stream to promote increased water quality and habitat. Work was approved for another upstream project to continue environmental enhancement.

Pollutants can stop with you!

Stormwater runoff is an issue that you can help eliminate. Did you know:



1. The City of Gainesville storm drain system is not connected to sewer. It enters rivers and streams. Storm drains should only contain rainwater. Never place items for pick up on the drain and never place grass clippings in or near the storm drain.
2. Don't over-fertilize your lawn.
3. Pick up after your pet.
4. Repair automobile leaks and place waste in the proper containers to be disposed of.

Outreach Programs



1. Environmental: Gainesville has programs volunteers can participate in including: storm drain stenciling, monitoring, plant tours and presentations for the community.
2. Water Efficiency: From home water assessments, plumbing retrofits, requested presentations or current outdoor water scheduling questions, this group can provide some possible solutions. Never be a water waster, rather a water saver!

For more information, call 770-532-7462 or access www.gainesville.org.



In 2010, the City of Gainesville Public Utilities Department conducted over 2,500 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 2010 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, 2010. 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	1.8% (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	1.44	0 – 2.04	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	.89	0.61 – 1.06	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.41	0.33 – 0.49	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	30.1*	0 – 58	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	n/a	17.8*	2.2 – 12	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorite (ppm)	1	0.8	0.260	0.088 – 0.52	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)(ppm)	TT	n/a	1.01	0.52 – 1.5	NO	Naturally present in the environment
* This number represents the highest quarterly rolling annual average reported during 2010.						
Lead and Copper Contaminant Table						
Parameter	AL	MCLG	90 th percentile value	# of sites above the AL	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Copper (ppm)*	1.3	1.3	0.064	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	4.2	No (2) sites above the AL out of 50 sites sampled.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
*2009 Data - No Lead and Copper samples were taken during 2010.						
Turbidity Table						
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Result	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = <0.3	0	0.063	0.02 – 0.25	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.						
Unregulated Contaminants Table						
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Gainesville Water System	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloroform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	24.4	5.5 – 58	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process
Dichlorobromo-methane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	4.4	1.8 – 7.2	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process
Chlorodibromo-methane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.6	0 – 1.8	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
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	8.4	3.1 – 12	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	6.5	2.2 – 10	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination process

Terms & Abbreviations used above:

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.

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.



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



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).