

Athens-Clarke County

SUMMARY OF YOUR 2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

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

This publication contains important information on the quality of your drinking water. For your complete Water Quality Report, including all data required by the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act, visit accgov.com/ccr.



Public Utilities

ThinkAtTheSink.com • 706-613-3729

¿Habla español? Este informe contiene información muy importante acerca de su agua potable. Por favor tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



WATER SYSTEM #0590000 CONSUMER
CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)



I am pleased to share this year's Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as our Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Inside, you'll find results of comprehensive lab tests on Athens-Clarke County's (ACC) drinking water conducted throughout 2023. The journey of your drinking water begins when water is pumped to the J.G. Beacham Water Treatment Plant. Our staff closely monitors as the water travels through a complex treatment process, which is detailed in this report.

ACC's drinking water is delivered to your taps by a dedicated group of professionals whose goal is to ensure the county's drinking water consistently meets or surpasses all state and federal standards. Our team is proud to present this report as a testament to the excellence and reliability of ACC's drinking water system. The staff includes highly trained maintenance mechanics, lab technicians, and operators who keep the treatment system running smoothly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Not only do we deliver an outstanding product to your taps, the J.G. Beacham Drinking Water Treatment plant received the 2024 Best Operated Plant of the Year Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals in the Surface Water 25 million gallons per day (MGD) – 49.99 MGD category. The criteria for this award encompasses all aspects of the facility such as safety, maintenance operations, documentation, and lab operations. Additionally, the ACC Water Conservation Office (WCO) earned its seventh Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award for our work helping consumers and businesses save water, energy, and money by promoting water-efficient products and programs.

We understand the importance of transparency regarding our residents' drinking water and encourage you to review the information in this report. We detail our water sources, treatment process, and laboratory results. Should you have any questions as you review the report, please get in touch with our department at 706-613-3729 or email savewater@accgov.com.

Hollis Terry IV

Hollis Terry IV, Director of
Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department

204 Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities
Department employees are hard at work to

protect your water quality

In 2023...

5,034,590,000
gallons of water were delivered

267 tests were done each day

97,455 tests throughout the year

AT WATER PLANT DURING TREATMENT PROCESS

37 average weekday tests

808 average monthly tests

9,693 total annual tests

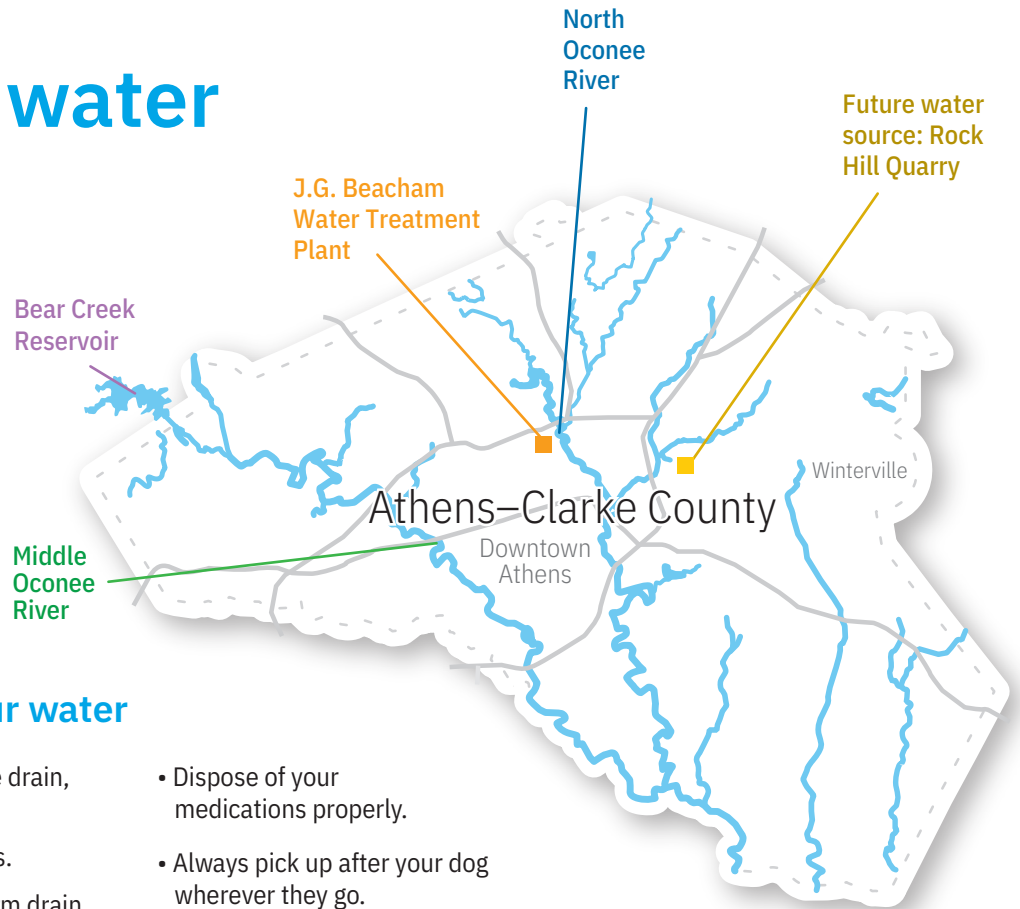
PERFORMED BY ACC ON TREATED WATER SENT TO HOMES

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



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 your faucet, it travels through a carefully monitored, reliable treatment process at the J.G. Beacham Drinking Water Treatment Plant.



You can help protect your water

- Never pour hazardous waste down the drain, on the ground, or into storm sewers.
- Limit the use of pesticides or fertilizers.
- Never sweep litter or debris into a storm drain.
- Dispose of your medications properly.
- Always pick up after your dog wherever they go.

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 the North Oconee River, Middle Oconee River, or the Bear Creek Reservoir.

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.

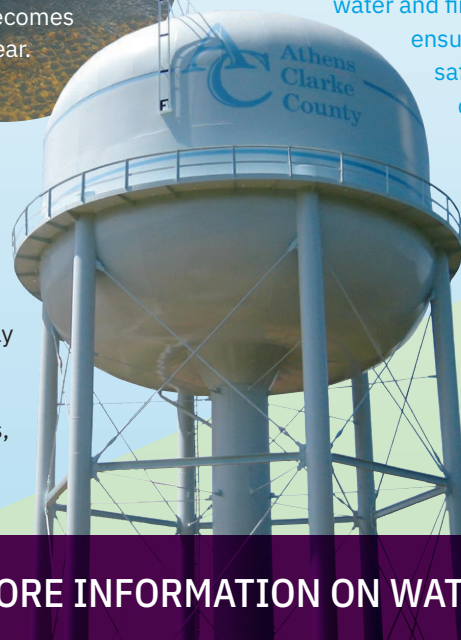
1 Chemicals are added to make small particles clump together, forming "floc."

2 The floc settles in the basins, sinks to the bottom, and is removed.

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

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.

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WATER QUALITY

2023 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

PFAS CHEMICALS

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are long lasting chemicals used worldwide in industry and consumer products. Known as “forever chemicals,” PFAS break down very slowly in the environment and can dissolve in water. PFAS have been found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations around the globe. Studies link some PFAS to harmful health effects. The ACC PUD participated in a Georgia Environmental Protection Division monitoring project and found that all regulated and unregulated PFAS have been below EPA recommended guidelines and/or MCLs. The ACC PUD continues to invest in testing and participate in monitoring projects to ensure we stay below the EPA recommended guidelines and/or MCLs. The ACC PUD is committed to providing safe drinking water and will update our findings in regards to PFAS at www.accgov.com/10543/PFAS.

TERMS TO KNOW

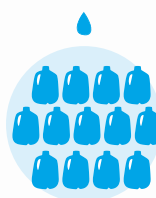
AL (ACTION LEVEL) The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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.

UNDERSTANDING MEASUREMENTS



Part Per Million (ppm)

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

Or, in terms of time, ppm can be thought of as one second in 11.5 days



Part Per Billion (ppb)

1 drop in a **tanker truck** = 1 ppb

Or, one second in 32 years



Summary of 2023 Water Test Results

Copper**

Amount we found
0.036 ppm

Highest EPA
Level Allowed
AL 1.30 ppm



Meets EPA Standards

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



Meets EPA Standards

How it gets into the water:

Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Haloacetic Acids

Amount we found
32.60 ppb*

Highest EPA
Level Allowed
60.0 ppb*



Meets EPA Standards

How it gets into the water:

Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS)

Amount we found
38.60 ppb*

Highest EPA
Level Allowed
80.0 ppb*



Meets EPA Standards

How it gets into the water:

By-product of drinking water disinfection

Chlorine

Amount we found
max 1.78 ppm

Highest EPA
Level Allowed
4.0 ppm



Meets EPA Standards

How it gets into the water:

By-product of drinking water disinfection

*System-wide running
annual average

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

Fluoride

Amount we found
max 1.20 ppm

Highest EPA
Level Allowed
4.0 ppm



Meets EPA Standards

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 ≤0.3 NTU



Meets EPA Standards

How it gets into the water: Soil runoff

Nitrate (Nitrogen)

Amount we found
0.80 ppm

Highest EPA
Level Allowed
10.0 ppm



Meets EPA Standards

How it gets into the water:

Runoff from fertilizer use

Total Organic Carbon

Range of removal
0.20–1.3 ppm

Highest EPA
Level Allowed
TT



Meets EPA Standards

How it gets into the water:

Naturally present in the environment

This is a summary of the 2023 results. Scan
the QR code to see the full **Water Quality
Report** with detailed testing results.



Join us. Community counts!



Rivers Alive

Participate in the annual clean-up of our local waterways. For more info, visit accgov.com/riversalive

Plant of the Year!

The J.G. Beacham Drinking Water Treatment Plant received the 2024 Best Operated Plant of the Year Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals in the Surface Water 25 MGD – 49.99 MGD category. Additionally, they achieved the GAWP Gold Award for not having any permit violations during the 2023 calendar year.



Green Thumb Lectures

The ACC Extension Office offers a variety of free monthly gardening presentations. Learn more and register at accgov.com/gardening.

85 tours

to our four facilities! **1780 participants** included students from local schools, water industry professionals, and the general public.



Facility Tours

The journey of your drinking water is an exciting trip. See the treatment process firsthand through a tour of our plant. Visit ThinkAtTheSink.com for updates about the next public tour or view our engaging tour video.



Athens Water Festival

Learn, splash, and play at our annual water celebration – one of the best family events in town! Save the date for this year's festival – September 7, 2024. AthensWaterFestival.com

Model Water Tower Competition

Students from Clarke Middle School competed at the State Model Water Tower Competition, winning 2nd place overall as well as Best Presentation.



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 by July 31, 2024.

ThinkAtTheSink.com



Public Utilities

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

accgov.com/publicutilities
ThinkAtTheSink.com

This summary contains important information on the quality of your drinking water. The EPA Safe Water Drinking Act requires water systems to distribute an annual Water Quality Report to our water customers.



This is a summary of the 2023 results. Scan the QR code to see the full **Water Quality Report** with detailed testing results.

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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**.