

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 [acgov.com/CCR](http://acgov.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)

# Director's note



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](mailto: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

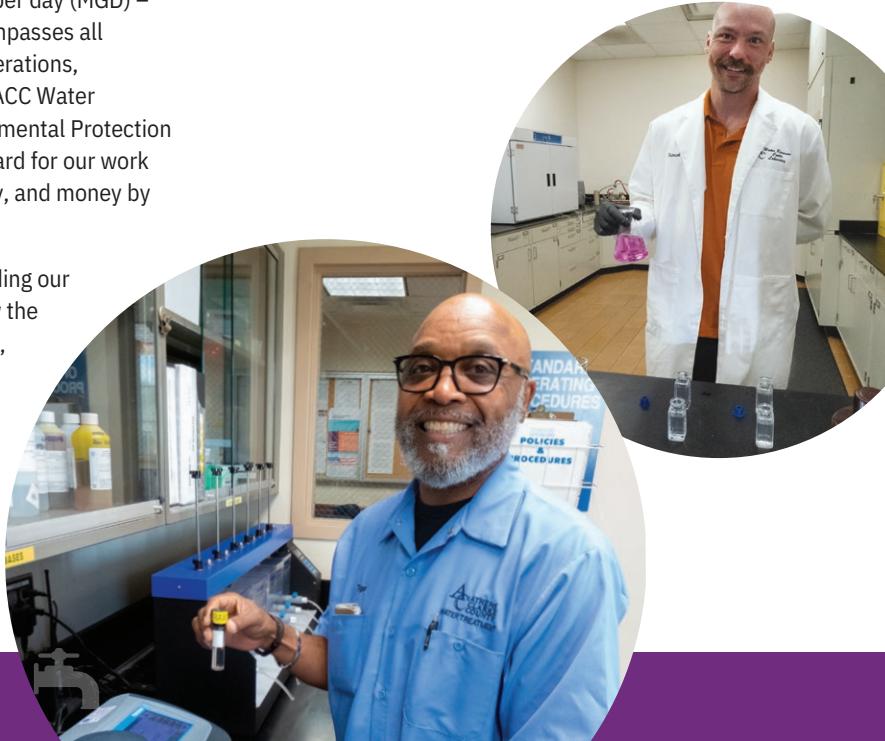
**37** average weekday tests

**808** average monthly tests

**9,693** total annual tests

PERFORMED BY ACC ON TREATED WATER SENT TO HOMES

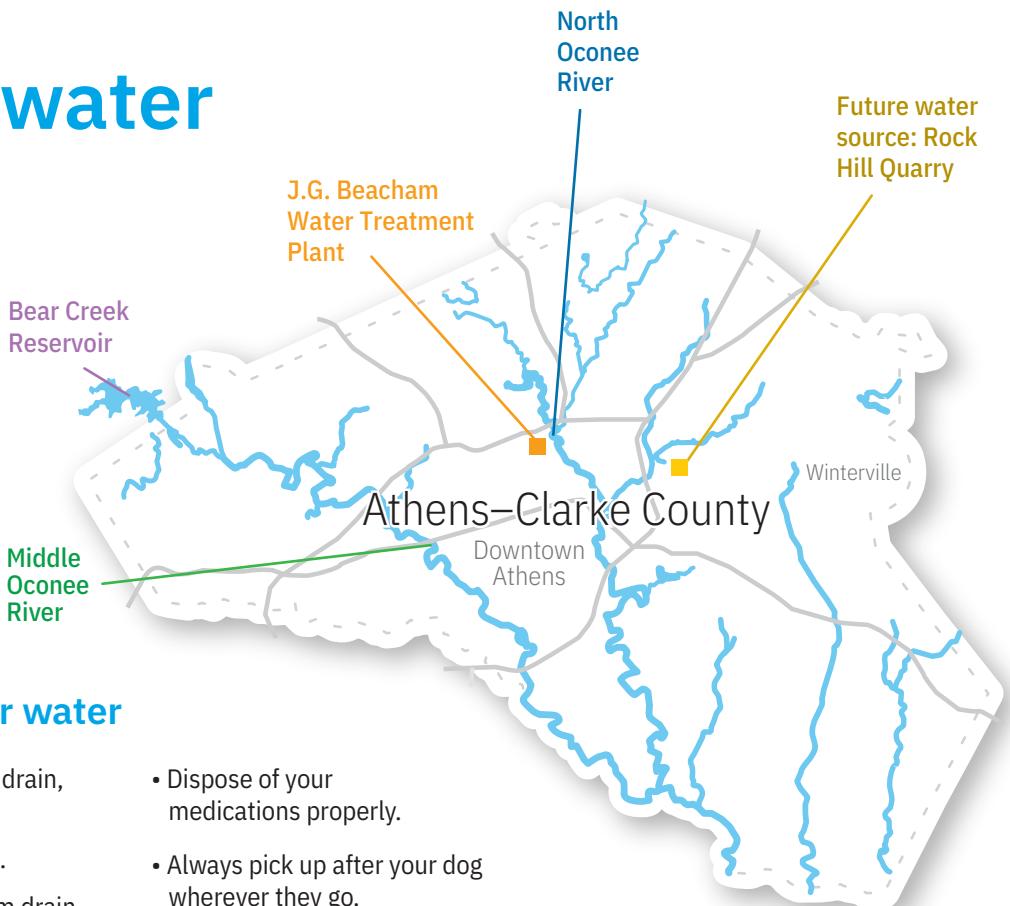
Additional samples are sent to private labs and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.



# 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.

**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.

## 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.



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](http://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



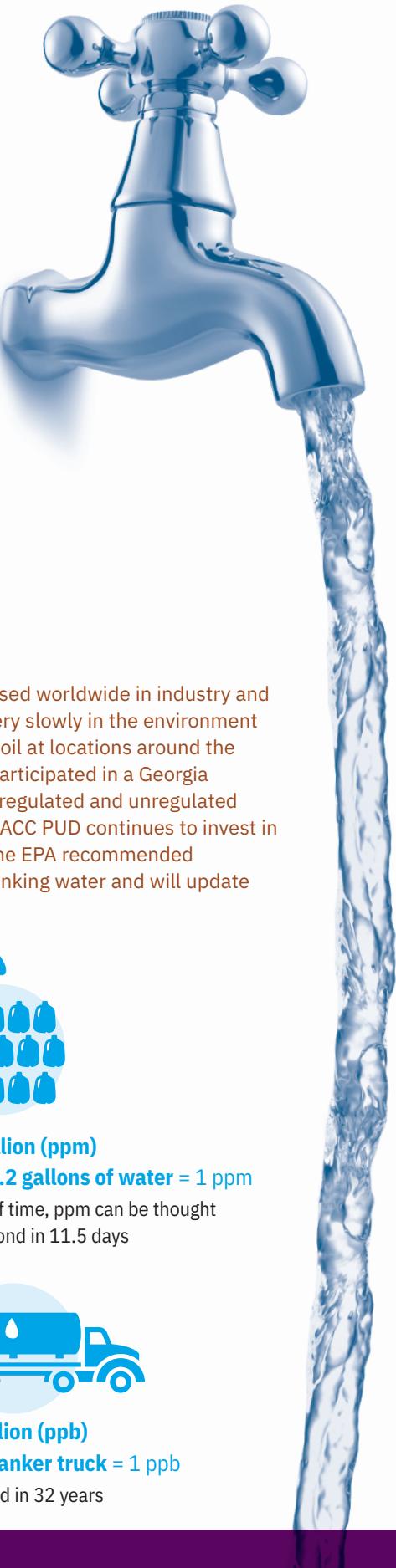
**Part Per Million (ppm)**  
1 drop in **13.2 gallons of water** = 1 ppm

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

<h3>Copper**</h3> <table> <tr> <td>Amount we found <b>0.036 ppm</b></td><td>Highest EPA Level Allowed AL 1.30 ppm</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">✓ Meets EPA Standards</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems</td></tr> </table>	Amount we found <b>0.036 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed AL 1.30 ppm	✓ Meets EPA Standards		<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems		<h3>Lead**</h3> <table> <tr> <td>Amount we found <b>7.5 ppb</b></td><td>Highest EPA Level Allowed AL 15.0 ppb</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">✓ Meets EPA Standards</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems</td></tr> </table>	Amount we found <b>7.5 ppb</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed AL 15.0 ppb	✓ Meets EPA Standards		<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems		<h3>Haloacetic Acids</h3> <table> <tr> <td>Amount we found <b>32.60 ppb*</b></td><td>Highest EPA Level Allowed 60.0 ppb*</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">✓ Meets EPA Standards</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems</td></tr> </table>	Amount we found <b>32.60 ppb*</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed 60.0 ppb*	✓ Meets EPA Standards		<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Corrosion of household plumbing systems	
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<h3>Nitrate (Nitrogen)</h3> <table> <tr> <td>Amount we found <b>0.80 ppm</b></td><td>Highest EPA Level Allowed 10.0 ppm</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">✓ Meets EPA Standards</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>How it gets into the water:</b> Runoff from fertilizer use</td></tr> </table>	Amount we found <b>0.80 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed 10.0 ppm	✓ Meets EPA Standards		<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Runoff from fertilizer use		<h3>Total Organic Carbon</h3> <table> <tr> <td>Range of removal <b>0.20–1.3 ppm</b></td><td>Highest EPA Level Allowed TT</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">✓ Meets EPA Standards</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>How it gets into the water:</b> Naturally present in the environment</td></tr> </table>	Range of removal <b>0.20–1.3 ppm</b>	Highest EPA Level Allowed TT	✓ Meets EPA Standards		<b>How it gets into the water:</b> Naturally present in the environment		<p>This is a summary of the 2023 results. Scan the QR code to see the full <b>Water Quality Report</b> with detailed testing results.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>						
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# Join us. Community counts!



## Rivers Alive

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



## 85 tours

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



## 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.

## 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](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com) for updates about the next public tour or view our engaging tour video.

Find the faucet icon hidden in this water quality report and enter to win a bucket of water gifts! Tell us at [acgov.com/LittleLilyLookout](http://acgov.com/LittleLilyLookout) by July 31, 2024.



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



## 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](http://AthensWaterFestival.com)



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



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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](http://accgov.com).

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