

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



*Presented By*

**Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority**

Your water is SAFE to drink right from the tap

PWS ID#: GA 0770042

## Our Commitment

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Every drop of drinking water provided by Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority (CCWSA) is SAFE to drink right from the tap, and we continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to water quality, please contact Lesley Rathburn, Water Quality Coordinator, at (678) 675-0407.

## Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been completed for our system. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources. The report includes background information and a relative susceptibility rating of higher, moderate, or lower. It is important to understand that a higher susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

If you would like a copy of any utility's source water assessment, please call during regular business hours. CCWSA, (770) 254-3710; City of Atlanta, (404) 982-1468; City of Griffin, (770) 229-6603; Newnan Utilities, (770) 683-5516

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SOURCES TO POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES - 5		
SOURCE NAME	SUSCEPTIBILITY RATING	SWAP REPORT DATE
CCWSA B. T. Brown Reservoir	Low	March 2009
CCWSA Shoal Creek Well #1	High	2019
CCWSA Shoal Creek Well #2	High	2019
CCWSA Shoal Creek Well #3	Medium	2019
CCWSA Shoal Creek Well #4	High	2019
CCWSA Shoal Creek Well #5	Medium	2019
Newnan Utilities Hershall Norred Surface Water Treatment Plant	Low	Unknown
City of Griffin Still Branch Surface Water Treatment Plant	Low	2001
City of Atlanta Hemphill and Chattahoochee Surface Water Treatment Plants	Low	Unknown

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (800) 426-4791 or [water.epa.gov/drink/hotline](http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline).



## We Are Committed to Supporting Our Community!

CCWSA is an active participant in many local organizations including, but not limited to, the Coweta County Special Olympics, Back Pack Buddies, River Life, Rivers Alive, Coweta SilverBells, and Bridging the Gap. CCWSA is also active in the local school systems in an effort to inform students and encourage them to learn more about their drinking water. We actively participate with S.T.E.A.M. programs at the elementary school level, and we host numerous plant tours each year for local schools and civic organizations.



## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Where Does My Water Come From?

The water produced and distributed by CCWSA is collected from several sources: CCWSA B. T. Brown Surface Water Treatment Plant, CCWSA Shoal Creek Wells, Newnan Utilities Hershall Norred Surface Water Treatment Plant, City of Griffin Still Branch Surface Water Treatment Plant, and City of Atlanta Hemphill and Chattahoochee Surface Water Treatment Plants.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## What Are PFAS?

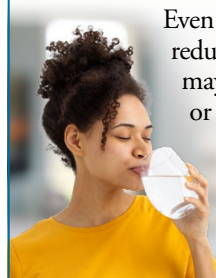
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit <http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8>.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				CCWSA B. T. Brown Water Treatment Plant		Newnan Utilities		City of Griffin			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	1.16	ND–2.20	0.89	0.30–1.5	1.67	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2023	[800]	[800]	30	ND–220	70	ND–140	70	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2023	1	0.8	0.21	ND–0.54	0.19	ND–0.69	0.33	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.7	ND–0.93	0.77	0.64–0.91	0.87	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	27.8	14.8–43.5	3.9	2.87–4.92	27	- 35	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	ND	NA	ND	NA	0.44	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2023	TT	NA	2	NA	0	NA	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2023	TT	NA	1.62	1.00–1.62	1.16	1.04–1.30	2.6	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	46.6	18.6–69.1	23.92	21.23–26.6	38	- 58	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.23	NA	0.17	NA	0.04	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	100	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

### Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

				CCWSA B. T. Brown Water Treatment Plant		Newnan Utilities		City of Griffin		City of Atlanta		CCWSA Shoal Creek Wells			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.083	0/30	0.15 <sup>2</sup>	0/2	0.12 <sup>2</sup>	0/0 <sup>2</sup>	0.15 <sup>3</sup>	0/50 <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	2.4	0/30	2.8	1/	ND	0/0	2.4 <sup>3</sup>	0/50 <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

<sup>2</sup>Sampled in 2023.

<sup>3</sup>Sampled in 2021.

<sup>4</sup>Results of UCMR5 sampling.

## REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				City of Atlanta		CCWSA Shoal Creek Wells				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	1.09	ND–1.93	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2023	[800]	[800]	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Chlorite (ppm)	2023	1	0.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.68	0.55–0.85	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	39.8	17.4–67.0	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.69	0.49–0.81	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2023	TT	NA	1.3	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment	
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2023	TT	NA	1.4	1.0–2.0	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment	
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	64.5	18.2–85.0	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.37	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff	
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	99.7	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff	

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES<sup>4</sup>

		CCWSA B. T. Brown Water Treatment Plant		Newnan Utilities		City of Griffin		City of Atlanta		CCWSA Shoal Creek Wells		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppb)	2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0030	0.0030–0.0030	NA	NA	NA
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0083	0.0064–0.0083	NA	NA	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0043	0.0030–0.0043	NA	NA	NA
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppb)	2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0048	0.0033–0.0048	NA	NA	NA

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**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 contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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