

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

CITY OF FAIRBURN WATER SYSTEM (WSID# 1210004)

56 Malone Street * Fairburn, Georgia 30213 * (770)964-2244
This Report includes data collected between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

The City of Fairburn is pleased to report that last year, as in years past; your drinking water met or exceeded all required U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The 2016 Water Quality Report provides our customers with detailed accounts of all the monitoring and testing results gathered from the previous year. Our employees are committed to providing you with safe dependable tap water on a year round basis and are proud to provide this information. For more information about your water or this report, please call John Caldwell at 770-964-2244.

The source of Fairburn's water is the Chattahoochee River and treatment of this water is provided by the City of Atlanta. Atlanta treats raw water from the Chattahoochee River at two surface water treatment plants, the Chattahoochee Plant and the Hemphill Plant. These two plants provide 75% of Atlanta's drinking water. The rest of Atlanta's water comes from the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant, which primarily serves the northeast area of Atlanta's Water System. The water is then distributed through the City of Atlanta's distribution system through nineteen master meters located at various points around Fairburn. Water received by Fairburn has met or exceeded all required water safety and quality standards set by state and federal agencies. Once the water is in the City of Fairburn's system additional testing is performed to ensure the water remains safe and of the highest quality. Any monitoring violations that occur will be followed by a public notice.

SOURCE WATER ASSESMENT

The City of Atlanta Water Works and the Atlanta Regional Commission have completed an assessment of potential for pollution of surface drinking water supply sources. The results of this assessment can be found on the City of Fairburn website.

A source water assessment is a study and report, unique to each water system that provides basic information about the water used to provide drinking water. The Source Water Assessments:

- Identify the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water.
- Identify potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies, and
- Provide an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

This information can help communities understand the potential for contamination of their drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

Since its creation in 2001, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) has implemented one of the most comprehensive regional water management plans in the country. It is staffed by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and includes 15 counties and 92 cities, including the City of Fairburn. It is the only major metropolitan area in the country with more than 100 jurisdictions implementing a long-term comprehensive water management program that is required and enforced. For more information please visit <http://northgeorgiawater.org/>

INFORMATION ABOUT CONTAMINANTS

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

- **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 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, stormwater runoff and residential uses;
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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 results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which 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.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite that is found in surface water throughout the United States. When ingested, it can cause symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life-threatening illnesses. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested for it to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Source water monitoring indicated the presence of these organisms in the Chattahoochee River, which is Atlanta's raw water supply. Beginning January 2006, our source water at Hemphill WTP and the Chattahoochee WTP has been monitored for Cryptosporidium.

