

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By
City of Fairburn



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Sincerely,

Derek Hampton

Director of Utilities

City of Fairburn

Where Does My Water Come From?

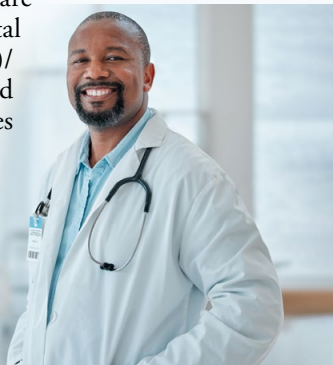
The source of Fairburn's water is the Chattahoochee River, and treatment of this water is provided by the City of Atlanta at two surface water treatment plants, the Chattahoochee Plant and the Hemphill Plant. These two plants supply 75 percent of Atlanta's water system. The water is then distributed through the City of Atlanta's distribution system through 19 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 it remains safe and of the highest quality. Any monitoring violations that occur will be followed by a public notice.

Community Participation

Your city council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 56 Malone Street SW, and on Facebook at City of Fairburn. Your participation and comments are welcome at these meetings.

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, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. 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 epa.gov/safewater.



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 perfluorooctanesulfonic 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 bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call John Martin, Utilities Manager, at (770) 964-2244.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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 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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or as the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. 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.

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

About Our Monitoring Violation

We were informed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources that a significant deficiency (failure to monitor) under the Georgia Rules for Safe Drinking Water for the Fairburn water system had been identified. During a technical review, the Environmental Protection Division determined that Fairburn water system had incurred a failure to monitor violation for failure to submit, analyze, and/or report the required sample results for microbiological (total coliform bacteria) quality analysis for the compliance period of December 1 through 31, 2024. We have already taken the steps to ensure that adequate monitoring and reporting will be performed in the future so that this oversight will not be repeated.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Atlanta Watershed Management and the Atlanta Regional Commission have completed an assessment of potential pollution of surface drinking water supply sources. The results of this assessment can be found on the City of Fairburn website at fairburn.com/sites/default/files/uploads/departments/utilitiesdepartment/swap_atlful_results_0.pdf.

A source water assessment is a study and report unique to each water system that provide basic information about the water used to provide drinking water. 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 water supplies and prioritize protection of drinking water sources. Since its creation in 2001, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District has implemented one of the most comprehensive regional water management plans in the country. It is staffed by the Atlanta Regional Commission 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 northgeorgiawater.org.



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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

2024 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS SAMPLED AT THE TREATMENT PLANTS (HEMPHILL WTP, CHATTAHOOCHEE WTP, AND TOM LOWE ATLANTA-FULTON COUNTY WTP)

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	RESULT	RESULT DESCRIPTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.49 - 0.82	0.73	Highest Monthly Average	No	Naturally occurring mineral; added to promote dental health
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)*	10	0.71 - 1.10	0.97	Yearly Average	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaking from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)**	TT*** = RAA < 2.0 ppm	1.1 - 1.8	1.4	Highest Monthly RAA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU	0.01 - 0.60	0.09	Highest Monthly Average	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% of samples)	TT = 95 % samples <0.3 NTU	NA	99.2%	Lowest Monthly Percentage	No	Soil runoff

* Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together as Nitrogen (N)

** TOC compliance is determined by calculating the Running Annual Average of treated water monthly; RAA > 2.0 ppm is in compliance

*** TT=Treatment Technology

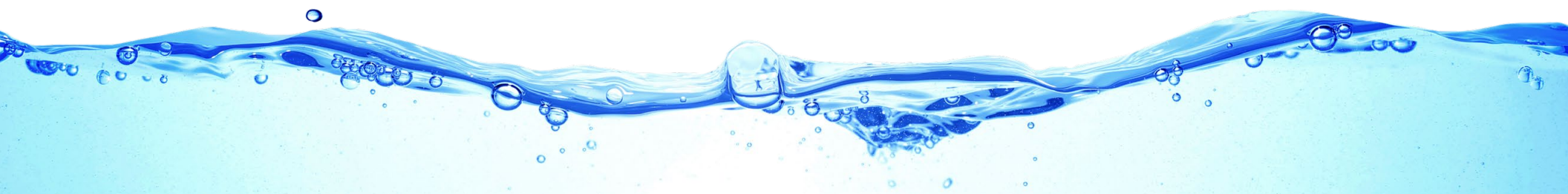
2024 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS SAMPLED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	RESULT	RESULT DESCRIPTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	<0.07 - 2.07	1.11	Highest Monthly Average	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Coliform (% of Samples)	<5 % Positive per Month	0 - 0.7%	0.7%	Highest Monthly Percentage	No	Naturally present in the environment
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	15.4 - 42.0	39.8	Highest Quarterly LRAA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	14.4 - 95.8	78	Highest Quarterly LRAA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

2024 LEAD AND COPPER LEVELS - SAMPLED AT THE RESIDENTIAL TAPS (INCLUDING CONSECUTIVE SYSTEMS)

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	NO. OF RESIDENTIAL TAP SAMPLED	RESULT	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper (ppm)*	AL= 1.30	50	0.14	90th Percentile	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)*	AL= 15	50	1.4	90th Percentile	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

*Triennial Monitoring. No Sites exceeded the Action Level (AL) for Lead and Copper in 2021.



2023-2024 UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS SAMPLED AT SOURCE WATER**						
PARAMETER (UNITS)	SMCL	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	RESULT	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0033 - 0.0048	0.0048	Highest Detected Result	No	PFAS chemicals are found in a variety of consumer and industrial products such as food packaging, fire extinguishing foams, personal care products, etc. They may also be found around the world in water, air, soil, and fish. These chemicals break down very slowly in the environment.
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0064 - 0.0083	0.0083	Highest Detected Result	No	
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0030 - 0.0046	0.0046	Highest Detected Result	No	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0030 - 0.0046	0.0046	Highest Detected Result	No	
*UCMR 5 sampling took place in 4 quarterly sampling events (SE). Data reported here represents SE 1-3 only, SE 4 takes place in 2024.						
**Unregulated contaminant sampling takes place every five years. It helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.						

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.

- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** The unit used to express a measurement of turbidity, or cloudiness of a liquid.
- 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).
- SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.
- TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Lead in Home Plumbing

- Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Fairburn is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.
- Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact John Martin at (770) 964-2244, ext. 351. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

- 2024 CCR Supplemental Information (Revised Lead and Copper Rule)**
The City of Fairburn’s service line inventory is a comprehensive list of all service lines connected to the water system. The inventory details the material of each service line, identifying them as lead, galvanized, or nonlead. This inventory is mandated by the U.S. EPA to identify potential lead service lines and ensure compliance with water quality regulations. The purpose of this inventory is to locate and identify lead pipes that connect the water main to individual homes and buildings, because lead pipes are the primary source of lead in drinking water. To date, no service lines within the City of Fairburn have been found to contain lead. To access the City of Fairburn service line inventory, please submit a written request to the City of Fairburn Utilities Department, 56 Malone Street, Fairburn, GA 30213.