

2023

WATER QUALITY REPORT



FULTON
COUNTY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



David E. Clark, P.E.
Director

I am proud to share with you this year's drinking water quality report also known as our Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). It serves as a reminder that in the midst of a world filled with uncertainty, one thing remains constant: the quality of your drinking water and the reliability of our system. The results contained in this report will show that Fulton County's drinking water is safe and of excellent quality, having once again met or exceeded all state and federal standards.

At Fulton County, we use some of the best technology available for water treatment and delivery to ensure the quality and safety of our drinking water. Working together with our customers allows us to set priorities for building, maintaining, and protecting our infrastructure while preparing for future needs and concerns. With our customers in mind, we work hard to provide quality services at a fair price, and our water professionals go above and beyond to make sure those services are readily accessible and available.

Please take a few minutes to review this report, which contains information on Fulton County's water source, treatment and monitoring processes, laboratory results, ongoing projects, and volunteer opportunities. We realize that understanding water quality data can be complicated and that this report may not answer all your questions.

For additional information or inquiries about this report, please call me at 404-612-7400 or contact me via email at David.Clark@fultoncountyga.gov.

Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Data obtained before January 1, 2022 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations.

AWARD WINNING EXCELLENCE



When you turn on a faucet at your home, you're receiving a resource that has traveled hundreds of miles, and is the result of dedicated work by many men and women to make sure you receive clean and safe water. Maintaining our drinking water system involves routine sampling, flushing of water lines, and ongoing maintenance. It is a team effort, consisting of more than 250 hardworking professionals who regularly monitor water quality, testing every stage of the water treatment process to ensure that our water flows reliably from "river to tap."

Our employees, facilities, and programs have consistently been recognized among the water industry for our outstanding water and service delivery. *Below is a listing of some of our most recent awards:*

American Water Works Association (AWWA)

- American Water Works Association (AWWA)'s President's Award (2015 -2020), Tom Lowe AFCWTP
- AWWA Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Director's Award (2009-2021), Tom Lowe AFCWTP
- AWWA Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Longevity Award (2021), Tom Lowe AFCWTP

Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)

- Platinum Award, Tom Lowe AFCWTP
- Platinum Award, Big Creek WRF
- Platinum Award, Johns Creek Environmental Campus (JCEC) WRF
- Platinum Award, Camp Creek WRF
- Platinum Award, Little River WRF
- Platinum Award, JCEC and Little River Land Application Systems (LAS)
- Platinum Award, Collection System
- Education Program of Excellence
- Gold Award, Big Creek Drinking Water Laboratory Quality Assurance Award (>100,000)
- Big Creek Wastewater Laboratory Quality Assurance Award: Municipal Wastewater (>20 MGD)
- Camp Creek Wastewater Laboratory Quality Assurance Award: Municipal Wastewater (>20 MGD)

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Throughout the year, the public education and outreach (PEO) team provides free water quality and water conservation programs to Fulton County residents, businesses and the community. Our diverse program offerings include community workshops, guided tours of our facilities, school programs, and special events to connect residents to their drinking water source, the Chattahoochee river. To learn more about our offerings, please contact our PEO team at 404-612-7400. You can also visit our website at <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/publicworks>



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

At Fulton County, we believe informed customers are our best allies. We encourage you to participate in the public hearings associated with environmental permitting and reviewing of new facilities and projects. Notice of upcoming meetings are posted at the Fulton County Government Center, as well as under "Upcoming Events" on Fulton County's website at www.fultoncountyga.gov. For more information please contact Corlette Banks at 404-612-7400 or Corlette.Banks@fultoncountyga.gov.

The Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission holds regular board meetings that are open to the public, generally once per quarter. Meeting locations alternate between Atlanta City Hall and the Fulton County Government Center. Please contact the General Manager's office at 678-942-2791 to confirm a meeting date and location.

WATER SYSTEM OVERVIEW

 Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant

 Parks

 Chattahoochee River and tributaries

 Fulton County Water Service Area



PROTECTING OUR WATER SOURCES

The water source for Fulton County's drinking water system is the Chattahoochee River, which is closely monitored by the State of Georgia, Fulton County, and several environmental groups. This surface water supply is processed at the Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant (Tom Lowe AFCWTP) located in Johns Creek. The plant produces drinking water of the highest quality and has consistently won numerous awards in the water industry.

Fulton County, in conjunction with the Atlanta Regional Commission, completed a source water assessment that itemized potential sources of surface water pollution within the watershed areas of our water supply. The Chattahoochee River was found to have a medium risk of potential pollutant loads. The full source water assessment report is available on our website at www.fultoncountyga.gov.

Our system is supplied by two drinking water reservoirs with a total capacity of 895 million gallons (MG), which equates to 30 days of supply. Additionally, our system contains:

- 9 elevated storage tanks
- 3 ground storage tanks
- 2 high pressure zones
- 5 pump stations
- 16.7 mg reserve capacity
- 1,200 miles of water mains
- 85,274 water meters
- 25,000 fire hydrants
- 24,892 drinking water tests
- 315,000 population served
- *Cities served: Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Roswell*

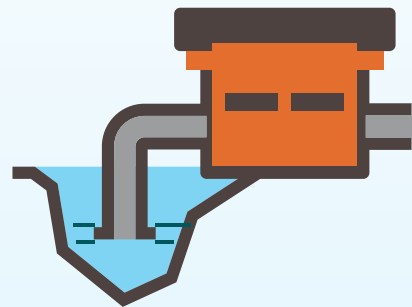
FROM RIVER TO TAP: PROVIDING

YOUR CLEAN DRINKING WATER



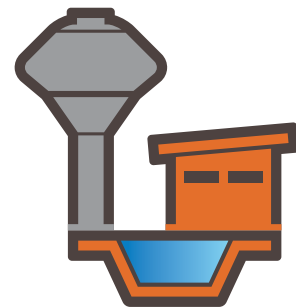
THE RIVER

Fulton County's tap water comes from the Chattahoochee River.



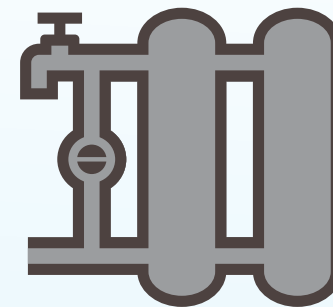
THE TREATMENT FACILITY

Your drinking water is treated at the **Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant**.



TREATED WATER STORAGE

After your drinking water has been treated, it is stored in elevated and ground storage tanks until you need it.



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

After treatment, clean water travels through miles of pipe infrastructure, which is maintained by the Fulton County Department of Public Works.



WATER TESTING

Throughout the process and before final distribution to your homes and businesses, your water is tested for quality assurance.



RESIDENCES AND BUSINESSES

We serve more than 315,000 individuals within our drinking water service area! Cities served are Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton and Roswell.

The results of our monitoring in 2022 are shown in this table. The most important information in this report is that the substances detected by our monitoring and reported to you in this table pose no known health risk at these levels. Listed below are a few definitions to help you interpret the water quality monitoring data.

90th Percentile: Calculation that determines compliance with the regulation for copper and lead. If this number is less than the action level, then the system is compliant.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet maximum contaminant level or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbiological contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): The unit used to express a measurement of turbidity, or cloudiness of a liquid.

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion is the same as one penny in 10 million dollars.

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million is the same as one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

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

Turbidity: Measurement of the cloudiness of the water. A good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of disinfectants.

Testing Period: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Water Plant

Substance (units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.73	0.70 – 0.73	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (measured as Nitrate – Nitrite)	10	10	0.46	N/A	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Substance (units)	EPA Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Treatment Technique (TT)	Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ratio)	TT	TT = ≥ 1	1.00	1.00 – 1.00	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	TT = 1	0.09	N/A	YES	Soil runoff
	N/A	TT + % samples less than 0.3 NTU	100% (lowest monthly percentage)	N/A	YES	Soil runoff

EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Distribution system

Substance (units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.73	0.04 – 1.73	YES	Water additive used to control microbes

Substance (units)	Action Level (AL) or MCL (90% of the samples collected must be at or below the AL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	90th percentile (90% of samples taken were below this amount)	# of samples above action level (AL) (No more than 5 samples above AL allowed)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
Copper (ppb) (collected in August 2018)	1300	1300	190	0 out of 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (collected in August 2018)	15	0	1.9	0 out of 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Substance (units)	Maximum Contaminant Level	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Highest Number of Positive Samples Reported	% of positive samples in the total number of samples collected	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
Total Coliform (percentage positive samples in total # of samples collected per month)	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	4	2.2	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli bacteria (number of positive samples)	0	0	0	N/A	YES	Human or animal fecal waste

Substance (units)	Maximum Contaminant Level	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Highest Level Detected Average	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Meets EPA standard?	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acid HAA5** (ppb)	60	N/A	31.3	19.1 - 49.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethane** TTHM (ppb)	80	N/A	77.0	22.4 - 94.5	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination

**Stage 2 monitoring for TTHM/HAA5 is based on locational running averages.

Waiver Period: January 1, 2023 through midnight December 31, 2025 for the following Synthetic Organic and Inorganic Chemical Contaminants: Alachlor, Aldicarb Sulfone, Aldicarb Sulfoxide, Atrazine, Benzo (A) Pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlorodane, Dalapon, Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate, Dibromochloropropane (DBCP), Dinoseb, Diquat, Di(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate, Endothall, Endrin, Ethylene Dibromide (EDB), Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxymyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Simazine, 2,4-D, Toxapene, 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin).

Inorganic Constituents: Asbestos and Cyanide

Additional copies of this report are available at your public library.

INFORMATION FROM THE EPA ABOUT DRINKING WATER 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 Safe Drinking Water 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 material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and herbicides, from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

ORGANIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems;

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that 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.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS

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 people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. 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 on the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



At Fulton County the safety and quality of the water we supply to you is of great importance to us. Our results show that we have been very successful in our treatment process to minimize the tendency for lead to enter the water.

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. The Tom Lowe Atlanta - Fulton County Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components inside homes or commercial buildings. 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 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. Periodically clean out the aerators (screens on the faucet). These screens can trap sediment and debris over time. 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 (800-426-4791) or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

CHECKING FOR LEAD AND COPPER IN YOUR WATER

Fulton County is required to submit samples collected at customer taps to the state once every three years; our last sampling cycle was September 2021. The US EPA has established an "action level" of 15ug/l for lead and 1300 ug/l copper. Our system is in compliance of these limits (See the Lead-Copper results in this report).

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN MY WATER?

The primary way lead and copper can enter drinking water systems is through the corrosion of (1) the plumbing material inside your home or (2) the service line going to your home. If that service line is composed primarily of lead, there is a potential for lead contamination (especially, if corrosive water flows through the line or sits stagnant in it). Fortunately, the North Fulton distribution system has virtually no lead service lines. The internal home plumbing of concern is "copper piping with lead solder" which was banned in Georgia in 1986. Homes built between January 1, 1983 and June 30, 1988 are what we target. To protect you from lead and copper contamination that could occur from your home plumbing, Fulton County uses corrosion control techniques that reduce the water's ability to leach lead and copper from the pipes into the water stream. With these measures in place, any concern about lead in drinking water should be at a minimum.



REVISIONS TO THE LEAD-COPPER RULE

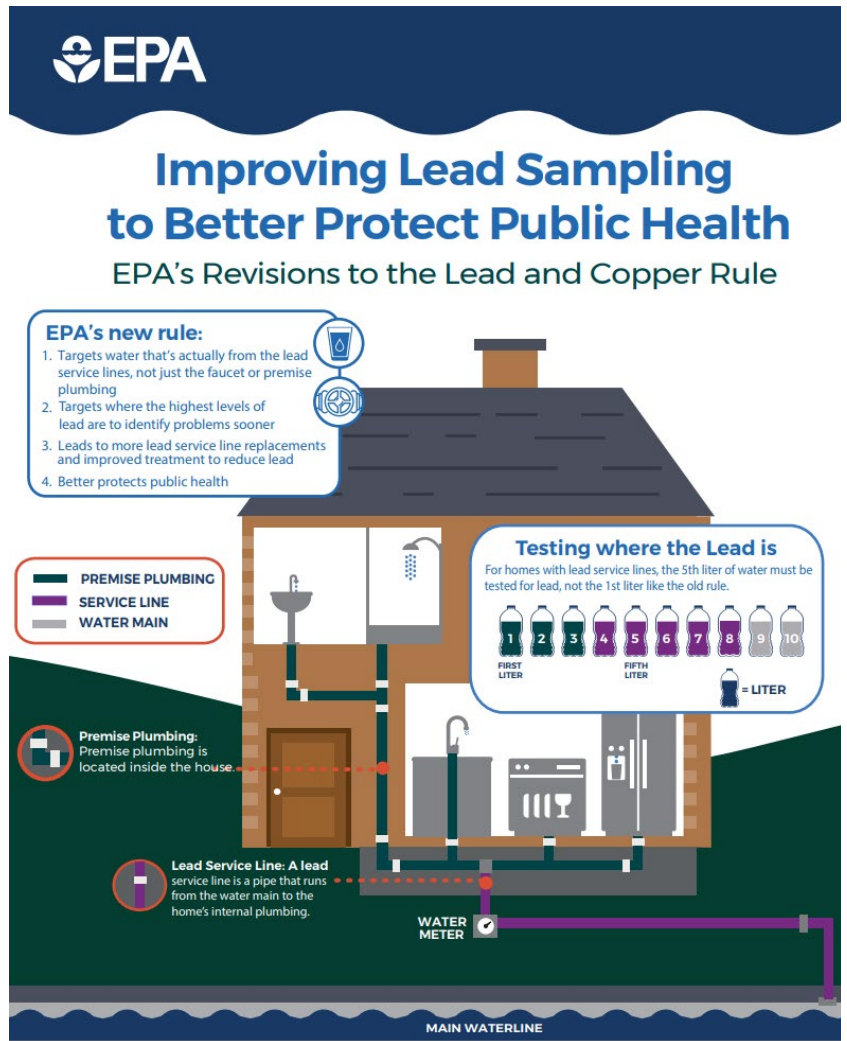
To add to the detailed information in the 2023 Annual Water Quality Report, Fulton County has been diligently working to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new compliance requirements.

Per the EPA, better science has led to the new Lead-Copper Rule (LCR) requiring water systems to follow new and improved tap sampling procedures that will better locate elevated lead levels in drinking water. One key improvement in testing protocols is the new "fifth-liter" sampling requirement, which captures lead that can enter drinking water from a lead service line (LSL) - a lead pipe that connects tap-water service between a water main and a house or building. Under the new rule, a sampler must draw four liters of water before collecting a test sample so that the water is more likely to come from the service line and not the internal plumbing of a building. Fulton County is projected to start the improved sampling procedures in 2025.

Additionally, systems must collect samples at homes with lead service lines to target homes with the highest potential for elevated lead levels. If there are no LSLs, systems must collect samples from other leaded plumbing.

For the first time, the new Lead and Copper Rule requires that community water systems test for lead in drinking water serving elementary schools and childcare facilities. Fulton County is currently discussing the logistics of how this testing can be accomplished with minimal disruption.

If you are a homeowner and would like to participate in the new LCRR sampling, be on the lookout for directions on how you can later this year. Until then, if you would like to read more about the rule revisions, visit the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/flint/lead-and-copper-rule-updates>



OUTDOOR TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER AND PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Each summer, water use in our region rises significantly as more water is used outdoors for lawn irrigation, gardening, car washing, swimming pools, and other outdoor uses. These spikes in outdoor water usage can lead to higher bills for some customers. In addition, summer storms can carry fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants from our yards and driveways into our waterways if we aren't careful. Follow these helpful tips to help you conserve water, save money, and prevent pollution. Learn more at <https://fultoncountyga.gov/services/water-services/water-conservation>.

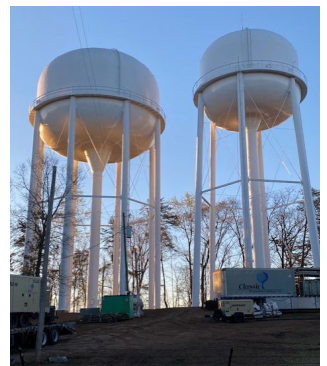
- **Leave your lawn a little longer:** Allowing your grass to grow a little longer before mowing not only means you have to spend less time mowing each year, it will also reduce stress on your grass and keep it healthier. Healthy lawns require less water to look great.
- **Fertilize wisely:** Before adding fertilizer to your lawn or garden, consider having your soil tested so you can get your plants the nutrients they need without over-fertilizing. Excess fertilizers and pesticides can cause damage to plants and can also be washed away by stormwater runoff into nearby creeks and streams.
- **Use a rain barrel:** Connecting a rain barrel to your downspout is an excellent way to take advantage of summer storms and reduce the amount of potable water being used to water your plants. They can also help reduce stormwater runoff and erosion in your yard.
- **Water SMART:** To significantly reduce your outdoor water use, upgrade your irrigation system with a WaterSense labeled SMART controller. These controllers use local weather data from the internet or on-site sensors to adjust your irrigation schedule automatically and prevent over-watering.

UPGRADES TO YOUR WATER STORAGE SYSTEM

The Fulton County Water Distribution System currently serves approximately 80,000 metered service connections in the area north of the Chattahoochee River. It is essential that the distribution infrastructure is well maintained to provide the highest level of reliability. Within the water distribution system, Fulton County currently operates and maintains 12 water storage tanks with a total capacity of 16.7 Million Gallons (MG) of potable water.

As a means to maintain reliability of the water distribution system, a tank inspection strategy has been set in place. Each of the 12 water storage tanks undergo a three-year revolving inspection schedule. During the inspection, divers enter each tank and visually assess its condition. Based on their findings, repair and rehabilitation recommendations are developed. Each tank is then prioritized by condition and identified in the capital improvement budget process as needed. The primary driver of this strategy is three-fold; understand the current condition of our assets, pre-plan scheduled repairs, and minimize unplanned failures.

In 2022, project work on the Preston Ridge water tanks (located in Alpharetta) and the Jones Bridge water tanks (located in Johns Creek) commenced. Activities included a full internal and external inspection of each tank, sand blasting, and re-coating. Repairs were performed on variety of components prolonging the life of the assets. Both sets of tanks are now back in-service. Upcoming repairs will include rehabilitation and painting of the Hembree storage tanks early fall 2023.





FULTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

141 Pryor Street SW, Suite 6001, Atlanta, GA 30303

www.fultoncountygga.gov/publicworks

404-612-7400

**Water testing performed from:
January 1 to December 31, 2022
WSID 1210005**

Important information about your drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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