

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscala o hable con alguien que lo pueda entender.



Lake Lanier provides excellent water

Gwinnett County receives its surface water supply from Lake Sidney Lanier located just north of Buford. Our water intakes, located in coves three miles from Buford Dam, provide a uniform raw water supply that is low in suspended materials, bacteria, dissolved organics, and metals.

Lake Lanier, formed by Buford Dam holding the Chattahoochee and Chestatee Rivers, is a major recreation area in North Georgia. In fact, it is one of the most-visited Corps of Engineers projects in the country and offers opportunities for boating, fishing, and other water pastimes. People throughout the region enjoy Lanier and its plentiful recreation opportunities. Lake Lanier is key in providing water to Georgia, since more than 60 percent of Georgia's population receives drinking water from the Chattahoochee system. The Lake Lanier watershed comprises more than 1,000 square miles in 10 Georgia counties.

The watershed contains heavily forested areas and smaller cities. Additionally, agriculture is the primary activity in the watershed.



Gwinnett leads in water conservation

Water is a basic element of life—and necessary for any community to grow and prosper. To protect this vital natural resource for current and future generations in Gwinnett County and downstream, we all must make conservation practices an everyday habit.

Gwinnett is a leader in these efforts thanks to a variety of programs and high treatment levels at its water reclamation facilities. Gwinnett partners with the **EPA WaterSense Program** and the **EPD WaterSmart Program**. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs named Gwinnett the first **WaterFirst Community** in 2003 for wise management and protection of water resources. Gwinnett County has received numerous awards for outstanding achievements in the industry, including water reuse through its **Reclaimed Water Program**. These awards demonstrate to the community that we're concerned about preserving and conserving precious water resources.

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2008 Detected Contaminants

PRIMARY INORGANIC SUBSTANCES							
Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	# of sample sites found above the Action Level	Violation (yes/no)	Source of Substance
Copper	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	0.108	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	ppb	AL=15	0	<1.14	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED VOLATILE INORGANIC SUBSTANCES						
Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Water System Results	Violation (yes/no)	Source of Substance
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	None Established	None Established	2.6	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	ppb	None Established	None Established	6.4	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane	ppb	None Established	None Established	0.8	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

PRIMARY INORGANIC SUBSTANCES							
Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Water System Results	Violation (yes/no)	Range of Detections	Source of Substance
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.78	No	0.53-1.50	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate/Nitrite	ppm	10.0	10.0	<0.2	No	<0.2	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average	Violation (yes/no)	Range of Detections	Source of Substance
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	0	17.5	No	7.5-36.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	0	14.3	No	5.7-29.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromate	ppm	0.01	0	<0.005	No	<0.005-0.0059	By-product of drinking water chlorination

TURBIDITY							
Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Lowest % of Samples Meeting Limits	Violation (yes/no)	Source of Substance
Turbidity	NTU	TT	N/A	0.320	100	No	Soil Runoff

MICROBIOLOGICAL				
Substance	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform bacteria	No more than 5% monthly samples can test positive for Coliforms	0.0	1.66	Naturally present in the environment

Water Conservation ...continued from page 1

Gwinnett County is proactively undertaking water conservation efforts. A water-efficiency program aims to increase public awareness of water conservation in order to save both water and money.

Educational efforts have been aimed at water consumers through such outlets as water bill stuffers, newspaper advertising, TVgwinnett, and the Gwinnett County website. Other water-efficiency initiatives include toilet rebates, retrofit kit distribution, and perhaps our most impressive conservation effort, the **Reclaimed Water Program**.

Since beginning the program in 2003, Gwinnett County has been a pioneer of reclaimed water use for the state of Georgia. We produce reclaimed water at the state-of-the-art F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center in Buford, Georgia. There, wastewater undergoes a stringent treatment process that cleans it to an almost pristine state before a 20-mile pipeline carries it to the Chattahoochee River.

Gwinnett's highly treated reclaimed water consistently meets state requirements and is a valuable water resource for the community. By providing reuse water service to our customers, we make the best possible use of this valuable resource and help conserve our drinking water supply.

Reclaimed water currently irrigates golf courses, parks, and commercial landscaping throughout Gwinnett County. In 2008, we distributed 181 million gallons of reuse water to eight customers. Adding the new Gwinnett Braves baseball stadium this year will increase usage further. Given the current drought restrictions and environmental efforts to conserve water, this program is gaining the interest of commercial businesses and golf courses along the route of the reuse line.



In March 2008, Gwinnett expanded the program by providing reuse water for end users to transport in tanker trucks for such purposes as street sweeping, dust control, sewer cleaning, landscape irrigation, professional chemical/pesticide applications, and concrete batch plants. Gwinnett County is making a positive impact on the community and the environment through this expansion of ways to use reclaimed water. This program has sparked interest from a range of water customers from landscaping to pesticide companies as well as individuals.

To learn more about water conservation in Gwinnett, visit www.gwinnetth2o.com or e-mail dwrconserve@gwinnett-county.com.

Public Input Opportunities

The Gwinnett County Water and Sewerage Authority, which owns the Water Resources water and wastewater system, acts as an advisory agency to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. The Water and Sewerage Authority is made up of five members, appointed by each District Commissioner and the Chairman. The Authority meets monthly at the DWR Central Facility. For a schedule of meetings, visit the County's website at www.gwinnettcounty.com

Glossary

PPM and PPB

Simply put, "ppm" means "parts per million" and "ppb" means "parts per billion." PPM corresponds to one penny in \$10,000 or one minute in two years. PPB corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2,000 years.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a known contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

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.

Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)

A measure of suspended material in water. Turbidity is measured by shining a beam of light through water and measuring the angle at which the light is scattered by the suspended material. An instrument called a *Turbidimeter* is used for this purpose.

Treatment Technique (TT)

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Notes About Contaminants

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 land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agriculture livestock operations, wildlife, and sewage treatment plants
- **Pesticides and herbicides** that 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil or gas production, mining, or farming
- **Radioactive contaminants**, like Radon, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the same protection for public health.

A note about lead

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 Gwinnett Department of Water Resources is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it 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**, 800.426.4791, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Contaminants and health risks

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 EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline**, 800.426.4791.

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, and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

EPA/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**, 800.426.4791.

For more information

For additional information or questions about this report, contact the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources Environmental Laboratory at 770.614.2080. Director of Water Production Neal C. Spivey may be reached at 770.904.3200. Tours of the Water Plants are available for school groups and individuals by calling 770.904.3200.



What is Cryptosporidium?

Cryptosporidium (Crypto) is a one-celled parasitic protozoan often found in water sources that receive runoff from animal waste. Crypto can infect humans and have severe impacts on certain people, including organ transplant recipients, immunocompromised persons, young children, and persons undergoing cancer treatment. Water Resources has a monthly sampling and analysis program for Crypto and Giardia, another protozoan often found in water. Samples of both lake water and finished drinking water are analyzed each month. Crypto and Giardia both form cysts when the environment is unfavorable for their survival. During 2006, all Giardia and Crypto samples were "None Detected." This test program is ongoing.