Gwinnett's Tap Water Meets Federal Drinking Water Standards

Department of Water Resources

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Data collected from January 1 through December 31, 2024

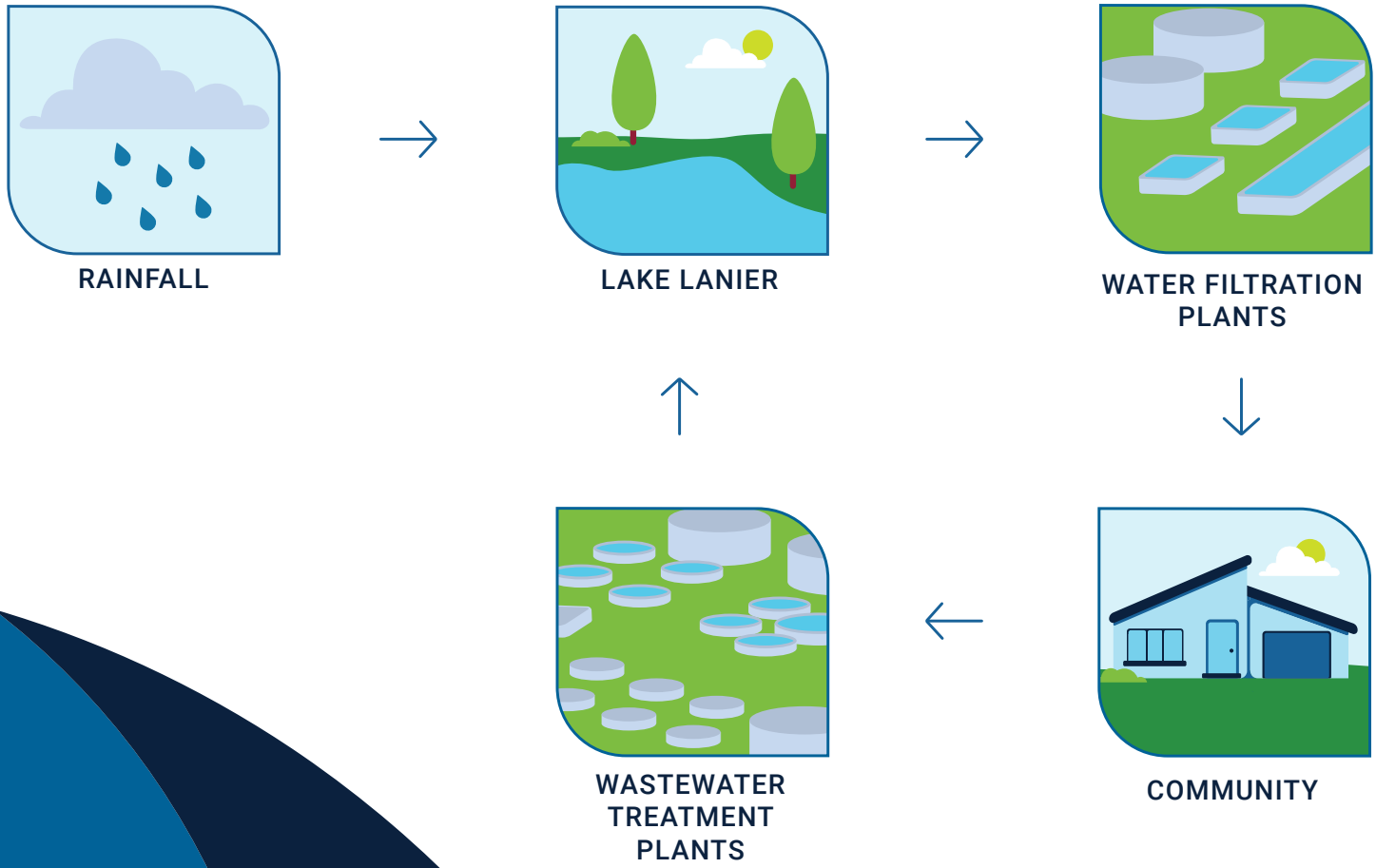
Gwinnett

Gwinnett's Tap Water Meets Federal Drinking Water Standards

The Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is pleased to present the annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This report contains important information about the quality of our drinking water, including detailed results of state and federally mandated tests for various contaminants. We are proud to say that in 2024, there were no U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act violations to report. A safe and reliable drinking supply is essential to a growing, progressive community like Gwinnett. Our team is committed to the research and implementation of innovative ways to deliver high-quality drinking water at an affordable price.

The Human Water Cycle

Gwinnett County receives its drinking water supply from Lake Sidney Lanier. The 38,000-acre man-made reservoir is the largest lake in Georgia and supplies water to more than five million people in Gwinnett County and neighboring jurisdictions.



Drinking Water Supply

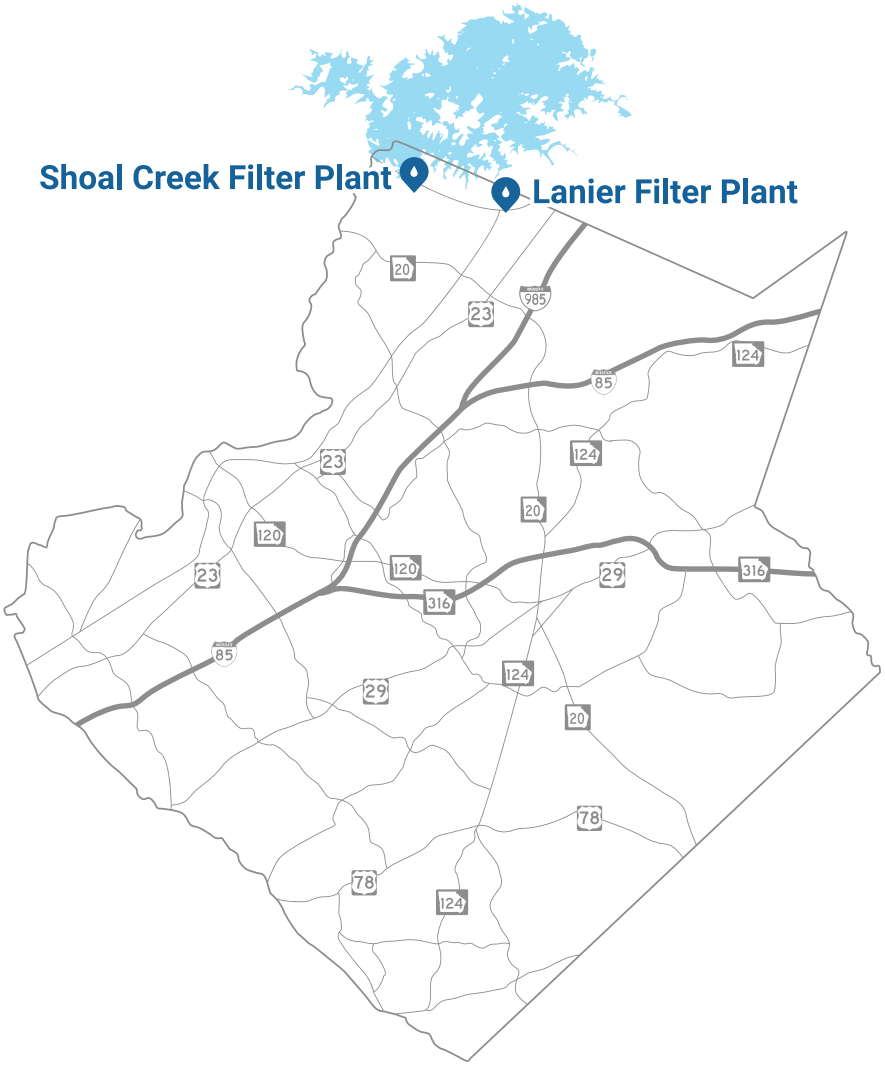
Gwinnett County receives its drinking water supply from Lake Sidney Lanier. Water from the lake is drawn in through two large intake pipes underwater. That water, commonly called raw water, then travels through pipes to one of two water filter plants, Shoal Creek or Lanier. It is then filtered and disinfected through advanced processes. Chlorine is added to keep the water clean as it travels through more than 4,000 miles of pipes to homes, schools, and businesses around the county.

Once the water is used and goes down the drain, it enters the sewer system. This used water, or wastewater, is then brought into wastewater treatment plants through a different underground system, which consists of more than 3,000 miles of wastewater or sewer pipes.

The treatment plants use different advanced techniques to remove solids and clean the water to some of the highest standards in the country! This cleaned wastewater, known as effluent, is then put back into the environment to start the cycle again.

The water we use today is the same water that has been on Earth for millions of years. Because of this, it is incredibly important that we all do our part to take care of this precious and limited resource.

Gwinnett County has a completely different set of pipes spanning more than 1,600 miles that keeps our stormwater separate from our drinking water and wastewater. Stormwater does not go to a treatment plant. Anything that goes down the storm drains leads straight to the waterways we enjoy at our parks and in our backyards.



Protecting and Conserving Gwinnett's Water

How does Gwinnett protect water quality?

- We ensure federal and state water quality standards are met.
- We produce and distribute more than 30 billion gallons of drinking water per year.
- We maintain two water production plants, three wastewater treatment plants, and more than 9,000 miles of pipe.
- We perform nearly 20,000 water quality tests each year as part of the drinking water production and distribution process.
- We regularly sample waterways located throughout the county as part of the Adopt-A-Stream program.
- We provide water conservation programs and education.
- We remove an average of 11 tons of trash from waterways each year through volunteer events.

What can you do to help?

- Minimize your pesticide and fertilizer usage and follow directions for use and disposal to prevent chemicals from getting into streams and rivers.
- Do not pour fats, oils, grease, or hazardous waste down the drain, onto the ground, or into storm drains to prevent sewer system backups and environmental pollution.
- Pick up pet waste to prevent rainwater from picking up bacteria and carrying it to our surface waters.
- Ensure that only rain goes down the storm drain.
- Never flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper down the toilet.
- Get involved in our Adopt-A-Stream program. Visit **GwinnettCB.org** to learn more.
- Participate in a volunteer cleanup or host your own.

Water Conservation Tips

Conserving water at home is good for the environment and can save you money on your water bill! Try these money-saving tips:

- Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth or shave.
- Catch the initial cold water from your shower or sink in a bucket and use it to water plants.
- Run the dishwasher or clothes washer only when you have a full load.
- Routinely check your faucets and toilets for leaks.
- Use a broom to clean walkways and driveways instead of a hose.
- Water plants early in the morning to reduce evaporation.
- Use auto shut-off nozzles on your hose.
- Install rain barrels to collect rainwater.

To request an indoor or outdoor conservation kit and to learn more tips on how you can save water and money, visit **DWRConserve.com**.

Important Health Information

When referring to drinking water, contaminants are any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance in water. Essentially, they are anything other than water molecules. Most contaminants are harmless, but some can be harmful at high levels. The presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily mean there is a problem or a health risk.

How are contaminants measured?

- **Parts Per Million (ppm):** One part per million equals one inch in 16 miles or 30 seconds in one year.
- **Parts Per Billion (ppb):** One part per billion equals one inch in 16,000 miles or one second in 32 years.
- **Parts Per Trillion (ppt):** One part per trillion equals one inch in 16 million miles or one second in 31,710 years.

Why are contaminants in water?

As rainfall travels over or through the ground, it picks up naturally occurring minerals and other substances that may be on or in the ground left by humans or wildlife. Drinking water — both tap and bottled — is supplied by rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. All of Gwinnett's tap water comes from Lake Lanier. Contaminants could include viruses, bacteria, salts, metals, pesticides, herbicides, and more. Gwinnett County's filter plants follow a strict disinfection process that results in the removal of at least 99.9% of 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1.800.426.4791**.

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, 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. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and EPA 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 **1.800.426.4791**.

Information on Lead and PFAS

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.

Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources 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 the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water 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, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period.

If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Water Resources Lab at **678.376.4270** to obtain a list of certified commercial labs in the area. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at **EPA.gov/SafeWater/Lead**.

To review lead tap sample results for the 50 Gwinnett County sites sampled in 2023, contact the Water Resources Lab at **678.376.4270.**

Service Line Inventory
The Service Line Inventory is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all public water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water.

If you are interested in finding out information about your home's service lines, visit **GwinnettCounty.com/ServiceLines**.

Did You Know?

Gwinnett Water Resources serves 280,000 water accounts. There are more than 9,000 miles of pipeline under Gwinnett County, including water, wastewater, and stormwater pipes. Gwinnett Water Resources produces more than 80 million gallons of drinking water every day.

What should I do if my water has an odd smell, taste, or appearance?
A change in your water's taste, appearance, or smell does not necessarily mean there is a health concern. However, it is always best to report it to Gwinnett Water Resources by calling our 24/7 dispatch line at 678.376.7000.

Information on Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PFAS, which stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of more than 6,000 man-made compounds that can be found in many products. Both perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, also known as PFOS, and perfluorooctanoic acid, also known as PFOA, are widely used in industries around the world because of their resistance to heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. While these compounds are no longer manufactured in the United States, they can be found in food wrappers, water and stain-resistant coatings, non-stick cookware, coated paper and packaging, firefighting foam, paints, waterproof clothing, shampoo, cosmetics, and other personal care products.

The chemical makeup of these compounds makes them extremely stable, and they do not break down in the environment. Because they do not break down, there is a national concern that these compounds can be released into water sources.

On April 10, 2024, the EPA published the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS. They have set the limit for perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid to 4.0 parts per trillion each. Gwinnett has been following this research and has been monitoring our PFAS levels. Data shows that Gwinnett meets this EPA regulation (see the chart on pages 7 – 8).

As we continue to navigate the complexity of PFAS, we will continue to be transparent with our data.

Understanding the Water Quality Chart

The Water Quality Chart compares the quality of your tap water to national drinking water standards. **All results meet EPA standards**. Unless otherwise noted, this data is based on testing completed from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Terms to Know:

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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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 technologically feasible.

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 for control of microbial 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):
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

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

Regulatory Action Level (AL):
Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule is based on obtaining the 90th percentile of the total number of samples collected and comparing it against the lead and copper action levels. To have an exceedance, the 90th percentile value must be greater than 15 ppb for lead or 1.3 ppm for copper.

Type	Meets EPA Standard	Substance	Testing Frequency	Typical Source	Maximum Level (MCL)	Maximum Goal (MCLG)	Gwinnett's Range	Gwinnett's Average	Notes
EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants	✓	Fluoride (ppm)	Daily	Water additive that promotes strong teeth	4 (ppm)	4 (ppm)	0.63 – 1.05 (ppm)	0.84 (ppm)	Fluoride is added to water to help promote dental health in children.
	✓	Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	Annually	Fertilizer runoff, leaching from septic tanks, or erosion of natural deposts	10 (ppm)	10 (ppm)	0.50 – 0.53 (ppm)	0.52 (ppm)	Nitrate and nitrite are measured together.
Disinfection By-Products and Disinfectant Residuals	✓	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly	By-products of drinking water disinfection	80 (ppb)	0 (ppb)	10.8 – 73.2 (ppb)	73.2 (ppb) (Highest Detected LRAA)	Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) is the average of analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar years.
	✓	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (ppb)	Quarterly	By-products of drinking water disinfection	60 (ppb)	0 (ppb)	11.9 – 27.6 (ppb)	27.6 (ppb) (Highest Detected LRAA)	
	✓	Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (ppm)	Monthly	Decay of naturally occurring organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams	TT	N/A	0.90 – 1.80 (ppm)	1.6 (ppm)	
	✓	Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly	Drinking water disinfectant	MRDL=4 (ppm)	MRDLG=4 (ppm)	0.00 – 2.46 (ppm)	1.56 (ppm)	
	✓	Bromate (ppb)	Monthly	By-products of drinking water disinfection	10 (ppb)	10 (ppb)	<5.0 (ppb)	<5.0 (ppb)	
Cloudiness	✓	Turbidity	Continuously	Soil runoff	TT, <0.3 in 95% of monthly samples	0 NTU	N/A	0.17 NTU (Highest Detected) Lowest % of samples meeting limit	
Microbiological Contaminants	✓	Total Coliform Bacteria	Monthly	Naturally present in the environment	<5% positive samples (monthly)	0	0% – 0.65%	0.65% (Highest % positive samples monthly)	Approximately 306 samples taken monthly

Type	Meets EPA Standard	Substance	Frequency	Typical Source	Action Level	90th Percentile Sample Result in Gwinnett	Gwinnett's Range		Of 50 homes tested, number that exceeded action level (AL)	Notes
							Low	High		
Lead and Copper Levels at Residential Taps	✓	Lead (ppb)	50 homes tested every 3 years	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	15	0	0	61	1	Gwinnett is required to test a minimum of 50 homes for lead and copper every three years. The last testing occurred in 2023. Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule is based on obtaining the 90th percentile of the total number of samples collected and comparing it against the lead and copper action levels. To have an exceedance, the 90th percentile value must be greater than 15 ppb for lead or 1.3 ppm for copper. * Although there was an exceedance of the AL for lead in one residence, the 90th percentile was not above the AL, so there was no violation.
	✓	Copper (ppm)	50 homes tested every 3 years	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	1.3	0.18	0.008	0.90	0	

Type	Meets EPA Standard	Substance	Frequency	Typical Source	EPA MCLG	EPA MCL	Gwinnett's Range	Gwinnett's Average	Notes
PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)	✓	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Quarterly	Consumer, commercial, and industrial products	0 (ppt)	4 (ppt)	0.96 – 1.31 (ppt)	1.11 (ppt)	Gwinnett monitors the amount of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the drinking water. These substances are detected in water, air, fish, and soil across the world.
	✓	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	Quarterly	Consumer, commercial, and industrial products	0 (ppt)	4 (ppt)	0.89 – 1.14 (ppt)	0.99 (ppt)	

Water Resources Assistance Program

Providing leak repair, septic repair, and water-saving fixtures

Help is available!
Do you need assistance fixing a leak, getting more water-efficient fixtures, or maintaining your septic tank? Gwinnett Water Resources has developed a water resources assistance program that can help.

Our customer advocates can help you through the application process. Contact an advocate at **WRAP@GwinnettCounty.com** or by calling 678.376.6800.

Learn more and apply at **GwinnettCounty.com/WRAP**.

Getting Involved

Gwinnett Water Resources offers many opportunities for residents to get involved, learn how to save water while saving money, and learn how to protect our most precious resource. All public outreach programs are offered free of charge to Gwinnett County residents, schools, and businesses. They include:

- Workshops and classes
- Events and festivals
- Stream cleanups
- In-school programs
- Volunteer opportunities

Learn more about programs and events, see a full schedule, or request a speaker at **Gwinnetth2o.com**.

To schedule an educational program or tour for your group, please contact DWR Outreach and Education at **DWRSchools@GwinnettCounty.com** or **678.376.6722**.

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 authority meets monthly at the Gwinnett Water Resources Central Facility. For the meeting schedule, visit **Gwinnetth2o.com/PublicMeetings**.

Your Water is Award Winning!

Best Operated Plant of the Year, Lanier Filter Plant

– Georgia Association of Water Professionals (2024)

Platinum Rating, Shoal Creek and Lanier Filter Plant

– Georgia Association of Water Professionals (2024)

Laboratory Quality Assurance Gold Award

– Georgia Association of Water Professionals (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Platinum Level Distribution System

– Georgia Association of Water Professionals (2024)

Gwinnett Water Resources has also won awards for wastewater treatment, stormwater, customer service, and safety training.

Gwinnett

Contact us

Billing/Customer Care:
678.376.6800
DWRCare@GwinnettCounty.com

Report a Problem:
678.376.7000

General Information:
678.376.6700
DWRInfo@GwinnettCounty.com

Backflow Questions:
678.376.4213
DWRBackflow@GwinnettCounty.com

BMPs/Detention Ponds:
DWRStormwaterBMP@GwinnettCounty.com

In-School Presentations:
678.376.6722
DWRSchools@GwinnettCounty.com

Water Conservation:
678.376.6722
DWRConserve@GwinnettCounty.com

Workshops, Events, Volunteer Opportunities:
678.376.7193
DWRWorkshops@GwinnettCounty.com

Water, Sewer Availability, Mapping, GIS:
678.376.7139

Sewer Capacity Certification:
678.376.7026

For more information

For additional information about this report, contact the Gwinnett County Water Resources Laboratory at 678.376.4270.