## FOR MORE INFORMATION
For additional information or questions about this report, contact the Gwinnett Water Resources Laboratory at **678.376.4272**.

## GETTING INVOLVED
Gwinnett Water Resources offers many opportunities for residents to get involved. Throughout the year, the department hosts classes and events focused on conservation and protection of our water supply. The department also offers opportunities to get more hands-on-experience at several festivals throughout the year.

Residents can participate in programs such as the high-efficiency toilet rebate program and at home leak detection to not only conserve water, but save money on their monthly bill.

Learn more about programs and events and see a full schedule of workshops 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**. All public outreach programs are offered free of charge to Gwinnett County residents, schools, and businesses.

## 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 DWR Central Facility. For a schedule of meetings, visit **GwinnettCounty.com**.

## 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

## NEED ASSISTANCE?
If you need assistance paying your water bill, repairing a leak, or fixing your septic tank, there may be a way to get help. Gwinnett County has partnered with several outside organizations to create Water Resources Assistance Program (W.R.A.P.). Find out more information and see if you qualify for assistance by visiting **GCGA.US/WRAP**

Gwinnett

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# 2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is pleased to present the annual water quality report. This Consumer Confidence Report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water, including detailed results of state and federally mandated tests for various contaminants. We are proud to say that in 2021, there were no EPA Safe Drinking Water Act violations to report. A safe and reliable drinking supply is essential to a growing, progressive community like Gwinnett. Our staff is committed to researching and implementing innovative ways to deliver high quality water at an excellent value.

## LAKE LANIER PROVIDES EXCELLENT WATER
Gwinnett County receives its drinking water supply from Lake Sidney Lanier, located just north of Buford. Lake Lanier is a part of the Chattahoochee River system, which provides drinking water for more than 60 percent of Georgia's population.

Gwinnett's two water production facilities, Shoal Creek and Lanier Filter Plants, are among the best in the industry. In 2021, the Lanier Filter Plant earned the Georgia Association of Water Professionals Plant of the Year Award and, along with Shoal Creek, was awarded the Gold Award. Together, these two plants can produce more than 200 million gallons of clean water a day — ensuring plenty of water is always available for drinking, cooking, showering, and fighting fires. Both of our filter plants protect public health and safety through a state-of-the-art treatment process called ozone biofiltration. State-certified staff monitor water quality around the clock, analyzing the water produced nearly every minute of every day via computer monitoring and physically taking samples. Additionally, the County regularly evaluates treatment processes and monitors the lake to prepare for potential changes in water quality, scarcity, or changes to regulations.

## THE GWINNETT STANDARD
The Gwinnett Standard is an expectation of excellence in service, stewardship, and integrity in everything we do. Water Resources proudly upholds that standard. From protecting our waterways, to producing Gwinnett high quality drinking water, we are committed to providing superior services at an excellent value. We hold ourselves to a higher standard. That's why our drinking water is analyzed every minute of every day. Our drinking water quality goals are set higher than those required by state and federal regulations and our water is consistently compliant with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Through innovation and forward thinking, we are constantly looking for new ways to improve our treatment processes and prepare for Gwinnett's future.

### BEST TASTING WATER
Gwinnett's drinking water was named "Best Tasting Water" in Georgia by Georgia Association of Water Professionals in 2022!

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Gwinnett

## WATER CONSERVATION SAVES YOU MONEY

With nearly a million Gwinnett residents using water resources daily, conservation efforts are more important than ever. Water conservation helps keep the cost of cleaning water low and reduce individual water bills. Reducing your household water use by just 17 gallons per day can save you over $100 on your water bill each year. We also offer rebates and incentives for replacing older fixtures and a pricing structure that encourages conservation. We aim to be your community partner and resource for water conservation.

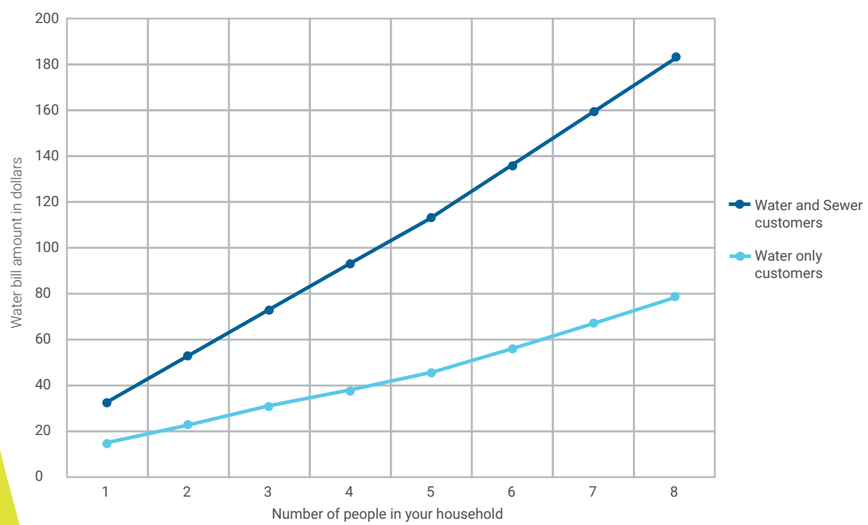
## TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER

Saving water at home can save you money on your water bill.
Try the money saving tips below:

- Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth or shave
- Catch the initial cold water in a bucket while waiting for the shower or sink to warm up and use it to water plants
- Only run the dishwasher or clothes washer 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 water hose
- Water plants early in the morning to reduce evaporation
- Use auto shut-off nozzles on your water hose
- Install rain barrels to collect rainwater

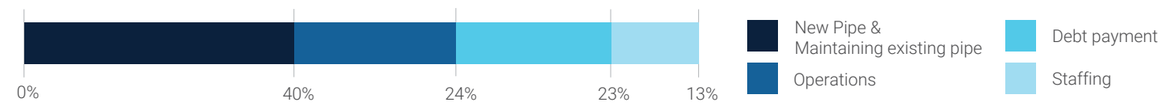
**Learn more tips on how you can save water and money at DWRConserve.com.**

## COMPARE YOUR WATER BILL TO THE AVERAGE BILL OF A HOUSEHOLD OF THE SAME SIZE




## WHERE YOUR BILL DOLLARS GO

When you pay your water bill, about 13 percent is used to pay Gwinnett Water Resources staff who ensure an efficient delivery of your water and sewer service. Next, about 23 percent of your water bill is used for debt payments, for improvement projects. Another 24 percent of your water bill goes directly to the operation of water and sewer plants. This portion is directly applied to the cleaning process of the water you use. Lastly, about 40 percent of each water bill goes towards new water and sewer projects, the maintenance of water plants, and pipes around Gwinnett County. New water and sewer projects are needed as our community continues to grow. Maintaining more than 7,000 miles of water and sewer pipes throughout the county is a large task, but it's the best way to keep costs low and provide reliable water and sewer services. Responsible use of your bill dollars is important to all those working at Gwinnett Water Resources and is just one example of our commitment to the Gwinnett Standard.




## LAKE LANIER

Gwinnett's drinking water supply comes from Lake Sidney Lanier, known by locals simply as Lake Lanier. This man-made lake was created in the 1950s by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The lake's purposes included flood control, power generation, and recreation.

The lake has 692 miles of shoreline and at the dam, it is more than 200 feet deep. When the lake is considered full, its surface reaches 1,071 feet above sea level. The Corps of Engineers releases approximately 4.9 billion gallons per day from Buford Dam, generating power and maintaining water flow in the Chattahoochee River.

Gwinnett draws an average of 76 million gallons of water from the lake daily to provide drinking water for nearly one million residents.

Lake Lanier attracts about eight million visitors to the area each year, with an estimated economic impact of approximately $5.5 billion, according to the Marine Trade Association of Metropolitan Atlanta in 2000. The Corps has generated more than $97 million worth of electricity at Buford Dam since 1957.

Because we treat our water to some of the highest standards in the country, we ensure a safe and reliable drinking supply for all Gwinnett residents.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Tap water is more regulated than bottled water. This means that at the tap, you are getting high quality drinking water at a fraction of the cost. Bonus: We keep that plastic out of our environment!

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Gwinnett tap water costs about half a penny for an entire gallon!

## GWINNETT COUNTY DRINKING WATER QUALITY DATA 2021

**EPA Regulated Inorganic Substances or Contaminants**

| Substance (Unit) | Analysis Frequency | MCL | MCLG | Average | Range | Major Sources | Violation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fluoride[1] (ppm) | Daily | 4 | 4 | 0.80 | 0.63-0.98 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth | No |
| Nitrate/Nitrite[2] (ppm) | Annually | 10 | 10 | 0.50 | 0.36-0.63 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits | No |

[1] Fluoride is added to water to help promote dental health in children.
[2] Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together

**Gwinnett County Water Distribution System - Lead and Copper Levels at Residential Taps**

| Substance (Unit) | Action Level 90% | 90th Percentile sample result | Number of sites exceeding Action Level (AL) | Major Sources | Violation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lead[3] (ppb) | 15 | 1.2 | 0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems | No |
| Copper[4] (ppm) | 1.3 | 0.17 | 0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems | No |

Gwinnett is required to test a minimum of 50 homes for lead and copper every three years. The last testing occurred in 2020, and the next testing will take place 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.

[3]Of the 50 homes tested in 2020, no sites exceeded the action level (AL) for lead.
[4] Of the 50 homes tested in 2020, no sites exceeded the action level (AL) for copper.

**Disinfection By-Products, By-Product Precursors and Disinfectant Residuals**

| Substance (Unit) | Analysis Frequency | MCL (LRAA) | MCLG (LRAA) | Highest Detected LRAA[5] | Range | Major Sources | Violation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb) - Stage 2 | Quarterly | 80 | 0 | 68 | 10.80-68 | By-products of drinking water disinfection | No |
| HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb) - Stage 2 | Quarterly | 60 | 0 | 30 | 11.60-30 | By-products of drinking water disinfection | No |
| TOC (Total Organic Carbon) (ppm) | Monthly | TT | N/A | Average=1.05 | 0.88-1.3 | Decay of naturally-occurring organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams | N/A |
| Chlorine (ppm) | Monthly | MRDL=4 | MRDLG=4 | 2.20 | 0.27-2.20 | Drinking Water Disinfectant | No |
| Bromate (ppb) | Monthly | 10 | 0 | Average=1.35 | <1.0-1.70 | By-product of drinking water disinfection utilizing ozone | No |

[5]LRAA= Locational Running Annual Average

**Turbidity**

| Substance (Unit) | Analysis Frequency | MCL | MCLG | Highest value reported | Lowest % of samples meeting limit | Major Sources | Violation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turbidity (NTU) | Continuous | TT, <0.3 in 95% of monthly samples | 0 | 0.24 | 100% | Soil Runoff | No |

Note: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

**Microbiological Contaminants**

| Substance (Unit) | Analysis Frequency | MCL | MCLG | Highest % positive samples (monthly) | Range | Major Sources | Violation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Coliform Bacteria 6 +/- | Monthly | <5% positive samples (monthly) | 0 | 0.35% | N/A | Naturally present in the environment | No |

[6] Approximately 287 samples taken monthly

## UNDERSTANDING THE WATER QUALITY CHART

The Water Quality Report compares the quality of your tap water to state drinking water standards. This report includes information on all regulated and unregulated drinking water contaminants that were detected during calendar year 2021. Contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, are not included in this report.

**Part Per Million (PPM)**

One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one drop of water in a hot tub.

**Part Per Billion (PPB)**

One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or one drop of water in an swimming pool.

### WHAT ARE CONTAMINANTS?

When talking about drinking water, contaminants are any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance in water. Basically, this is anything other than water molecules. Some contaminants could be harmful at high levels, but many are harmless. The presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily mean there is a problem or a health risk.

**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.

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

**Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements 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.

"Gwinnett's water and sewer systems are known around the world as a model for water infrastructure. Every day, Gwinnett Water Resources employees strive to meet the Gwinnett Standard, an expectation of excellence in everything we do. Whether it's our clean, reliable drinking water, highly treated wastewater, or proactive stormwater services, protecting our water source and ensuring the best possible product for Gwinnett residents is the result of intentional care and planning at every step of the process."

**– Nicole L. Hendrickson, Chairwoman**

"Water is very important to your mental and physical health. Staying hydrated helps you think clearly, feel healthy, and look younger! One of the things I love about Gwinnett is the access to safe, reliable, and great-tasting water – straight from the tap."

**– DeAnna Emborski,**
**Mrs. Classic Universe TCP**

"Water plays an important role in baseball. Staying hydrated is important to improving endurance, strength, power, speed, agility, and reaction time. In Gwinnett, we have great tasting water, right from the tap, making it easy to stay hydrated."

**– Dave Lezotte,**
**Gwinnett Stripers Radio Broadcaster**

"I enjoy working for Gwinnett. I take pride in knowing that I am helping to provide a safe, reliable, and great-tasting water supply for Gwinnett's residents. Gwinnett is on the cutting edge of water treatment and every day is a chance for a new learning experience."

**– Chris Threat, water professional**

## 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 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. Gwinnett Water Resources is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800.426.4791** or online at **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 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 seniors, and infants — can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA and Centers for Disease Control 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**.