



Jackson
Water
Authority

DRINKING WATER QUALITY
Annual Report
2024



Jackson Water Authority Manager Statement

Dear Customers,

The Jefferson micropolitan (Jackson County) continues to lead the way as the fastest-growing in the United States and once again, we're proud to be at the heart of it. At the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority, we're committed to managing this growth with foresight and responsibility.

In 2024, we were honored to receive the Master Plan Spotlight Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) for our comprehensive water and sewer master plans. This recognition reflects our dedication to planning ahead and investing in the infrastructure needed to support our community's continued growth.

We are also excited to announce the launch of our new website at jcwsa.com. Designed with our customers in mind, the new site offers improved navigation, easier access to important updates, and a new feature that allows you to sign up for alerts and notifications. Whether you need to pay a bill, check for service advisories, or learn more about our projects, our new site is a one-stop resource for staying connected.

We are deeply grateful for the trust and support of our customers.

Our commitment to you is unwavering: we remain on-call 24/7 to ensure the continued delivery of water and wastewater services you can depend on. Our team includes certified operators at all levels who work diligently to keep the system running efficiently and in full compliance with regulatory standards.

As Jackson County grows, we're proud to grow with it, providing reliable service, planning responsibly, and always putting our customers first.



Yours in service,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Joey P. Leslie, PE
General Manager

OUR MISSION CONTINUES

Delivering
safe, reliable
drinking water
and wastewater
services fairly &
efficiently with
a commitment
to integrity and
excellence.

Community Participation

We warmly invite you to become involved and participate in discussions that shape decisions about our community's water services. To learn more about your water system, please consider joining us at our Authority board meetings, held at our main office on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact us at **(706) 367-1741** or reach out directly to **Matthew Wyatt**, our Civil Engineering Technician, at **extension 106**. Water quality data for community water systems nationwide is available at epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data. For your convenience, a copy of our latest Water Quality Report is available online at jcwsa.com/ccr1 or in print at our office, located at **70 Authority Avenue** in Jefferson.

Please be cautious of misleading websites that attempt to create fear about water quality by emphasizing unregulated contaminants, suggesting they cause health risks without credible scientific backing. These sites often exaggerate or fabricate risks to sell water filtration products, despite the contaminants being present at levels not identified as harmful by the EPA or water quality experts. Always consult trusted sources for accurate information regarding your water supply.



Source of Drinking 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.

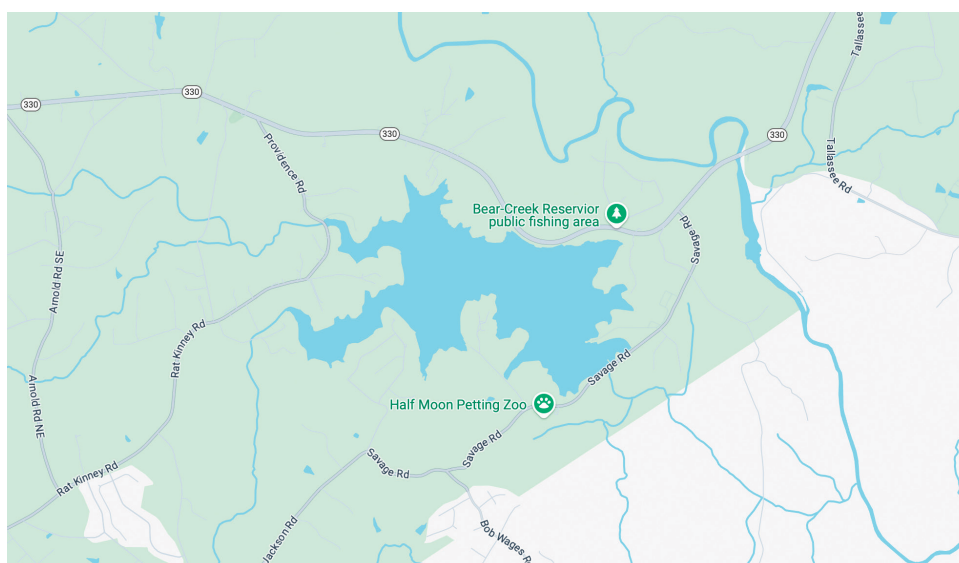
Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

During 2024, the JCWSA obtained a majority of its water supply from the 505-acre Bear Creek Reservoir managed by the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority and treated at the Bear Creek Water Treatment Facility. The Bear Creek Reservoir is located at the extreme south tip of Jackson County. Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) identifying potential pollution sources which pose a risk to Bear Creek's water sources was conducted in July 2002 by Brown & Caldwell. The plan rated pollution sources as low within the watershed. A copy of this report is available at Bear Creek Water Treatment Facility for review. In addition, Jackson County received a small portion of water from Gainesville, which obtains its water from Lake Lanier.

Service Line Inventory Information

The Service Line Inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) 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.

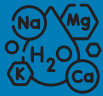
Access JCWSA Service line Inventory here: <https://ga-epd.120water-ptd.com>



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 be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.



PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES
which may come from a variety of sources such as 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, and can also come 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.

All Water May Contain 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.



Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Any unregulated contaminants detected are reported in the following table. For additional information and data visit [epa.gov/dwuc-mr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule](https://www.epa.gov/dwuc-mr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule) or call the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

2024 Test Results

Our Drinking Water Is Regulated

JCWSA is pleased to share this report with you. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis covers January 1 through December 31, 2024, and was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the following pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what’s in your drinking water.

BEAR CREEK								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	DATE	UNITS	MRDL	MRDLG	DETECTED	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Chlorine Residual	Daily	mg/L	4	4	1.59	0.9-2.1	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Fluoride	Daily	ppm	4	4	0.74	0.68-0.84	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
TTHMs - Total Trihalomethanes	Quarterly	ppb	80	N/A	21.0	10.9-31.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
HAA5s Haloacetic Acids	2024	ppb	60	N/A	17.3	0.9-24.6	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
Total Organic Carbon	2024	mg/L	TT	N/A	1.6	1.3-2.0	Naturally present in the environment	No
Nitrate	2024	ppm	10	10	No	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
MICROBIOLOGICAL	DATE	UNITS	MCL	MCLG	VALUE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Turbidity ^b	Cont.	NTU	<0.3*	N/A	0.03	0.02-0.09	Soil runoff	No
Total Coliform	Cont.		0	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment	No
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS		UNITS	MCL	MCLG	VALUE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Chloroform		ppb	N/A	N/A	5.7	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
Bromodichloromethane		ppb	N/A	N/A	3.0	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
Chlorodibromomethane		ppb	N/A	N/A	0.95	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
Sodium		ppm	N/A	N/A	1.3	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	No

* <0.3 in 95% of samples/month TT = 0.3

The tables shown list all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

2024 Test Results (cont.)

BARROW COUNTY								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	DATE	UNITS	MCL	MRDLG	DETECTED	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Chlorine Residual	Monthly	mg/L	4	4	0.96	0.77-1.39	Water additive used to control microbes	No
TTHMs - Total Trihalomethanes	Quarterly	ppb	80	N/A	41.75	17-59	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
HAA5s Haloacetic Acids	Quarterly	ppb	60	N/A	34.125	15-33	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
MICROBIOLOGICAL	DATE	UNITS	MCL	MCLG	VALUE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Total Coliform	2024		5%*	0	0	N/A	Naturally present in the environment	No
LEAD & COPPER	DATE	UNITS	AL	MCLG	HIGHEST LEVEL	# ABOVE AL	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Copper	2022	ppb	1300	0	59	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
Lead	2022	ppb	15	0	0	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing	No

JCWSA								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	DATE	UNITS	MRDL	MRDLG	DETECTED	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Chlorine Residual	Monthly	mg/L	4	4	1.8	0-1.8	Water additive used to control microbes	No
TTHMs - Total Trihalomethanes	Quarterly	ppb	80	0	53.9	9.8-69.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
HAA5s Haloacetic Acids	Quarterly	ppb	60	0	18.4	10.6-21.6	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
MICROBIOLOGICAL	DATE	MCL		MCLG	VALUE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Total Coliform	Monthly	no more than 5% of samples		0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment	No
LEAD & COPPER	DATE	UNITS	AL	MCLG	HIGHEST LEVEL	# ABOVE AL	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Copper	2023	ppb	1300	0	20	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
Lead	2023	ppb	15	0	0	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
UCMR4**		YEAR SAMPLED		MRL	AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Manganese (ppb)		2019		N/A	3.82	1.91-5.13	Leaching from natural deposits	No

Note: No water was purchased from Commerce in the year 2024

* No more than 5%

** Unregulated contaminant monitoring rule 4

2024 Test Results (cont.)

CITY OF GAINESVILLE								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	DATE	UNITS	MRDL	MRDLG	DETECTED	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
TTHMs - Total Trihalomethanes	2024	ppb	80	N/A	30.1	29.0-31.7	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
HAA5s Haloacetic Acids	2024	ppb	60	N/A	19.03	18.3-19.5	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
Chlorine	2024	mg/L	4	4	1.35	0-2.02	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Fluoride	2024	mg/L	2	4	0.72	0.59-0.83	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	
Total Organic Carbon	2024	mg/L	TT	N/A	0.935	0.69-1.10	Naturally present in the environment	
Nitrate/Nitrite	2024	mg/L	10	10	0.295	0.23-0.36	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	
Sodium	2024	mg/L	N/A	N/A	6.8	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	
MICROBIOLOGICAL	DATE	UNITS	MCL	MCLG	VALUE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Total Coliform	Monthly		5%*	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment	No
Turbidity ^b	Monthly	NTU	TT=1	N/A	0.45 Highest Reported	100%<0.5	Soil Runoff	No
LEAD & COPPER	DATE	UNITS	AL	MCLG	DETECTED	# ABOVE AL	MAJOR SOURCES	VIOLATION
Copper	2024	mg/L	1300	0	45	7-290	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
Lead	2024	mg/L	15	0	0.34	0	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
UCMR4**				YEAR SAMPLED		AVERAGE	RANGE	
HAA9 Group (ppm)				2019 ^f		0.2	0.009 - 0.028	
Total Brominated HAAs (ppm)				2019 ^f		0.004	0.002 - 0.006	
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppm)				2019 ^f		0.016	0.008 - 0.023	
Manganese (ppm)				2019 ^f		0.002	0.001 - 0.004	
TOC (ppm)				2019 ^f		1.838	1.21 - 2.35	

Note: Water from the City of Gainesville is an emergency connection only.

* No more than 5%

** Unregulated contaminant monitoring rule 4

Keynotes Legend:

a. Annual average

b. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

c. Average of monthly averages

d. Range detected

e. Values represent highest single measurement unless otherwise noted

f. The last testing occurred in 2019 in accordance with EPA regulations. The next testing will take place in 2025.

Required Additional Health Information for Lead

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. JCWSA 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, call 706-367-1741, ext. 106. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Definitions

We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Action Level Goal (ALG) – the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Avg. – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.

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.

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 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.

Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) – the smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured by using a given analytical method.

NA – not applicable.

ND – not detected.

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

Parts per billion (ppb) – micrograms per liter (µg/L) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

Parts per million (ppm) – milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

P/A – present/absent per 100 mL.

Turbidity – measure of the cloudiness of water and is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

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, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care 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 (1-800-426-4791)**.





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