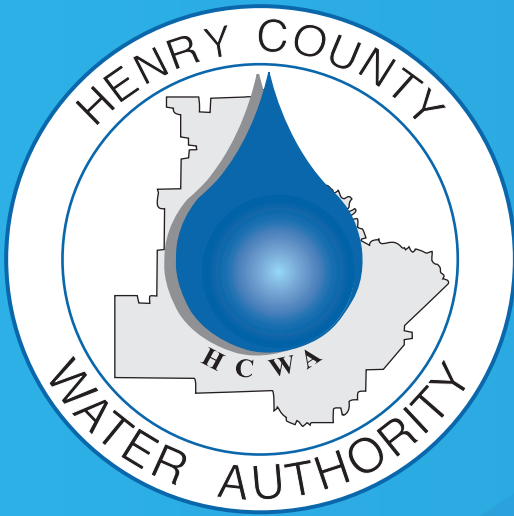




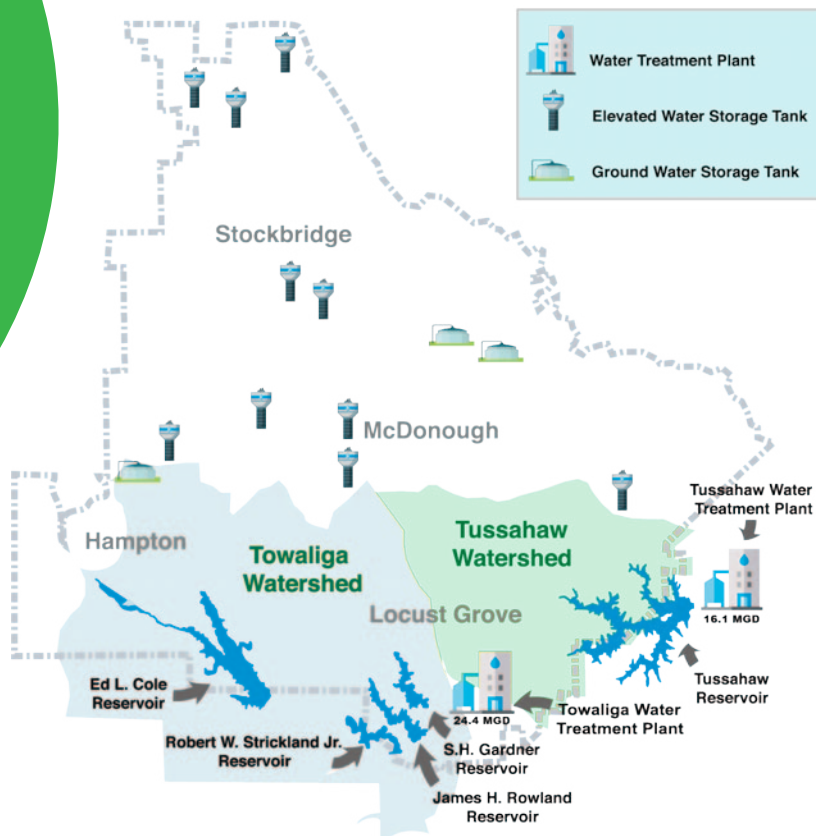
2025 Water Quality Report

January 1 – December 31, 2024





HCWA Water System



About this Report

Water quality is the highest priority of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA). Our team of professionals works diligently to safeguard the water supplied to our customers and ensure that it meets or exceeds all federal (EPA) and state (EPD) drinking water standards.

For over 60 years, HCWA has continued its commitment to delivering the highest quality water possible. We are again pleased to report **no water quality violations during 2024**. This report will review information about your water system and sources, the substances and contaminants we test for, the water treatment processes we oversee, and the avenues available for your involvement as HCWA continues to provide clean, safe drinking water. WSID# GA1510001

Source Water Assessment

HCWA and the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment that itemized potential sources of surface water pollution within the watershed areas of the water supply of Henry County Water Authority. The assessment results reveal a "low to medium" susceptibility rating when combining individual and non-point source rankings. The source water assessment is available by writing to HCWA at 1695 Highway 20 West, McDonough, GA 30253, or at [HCWA Source Water Assessment](#).

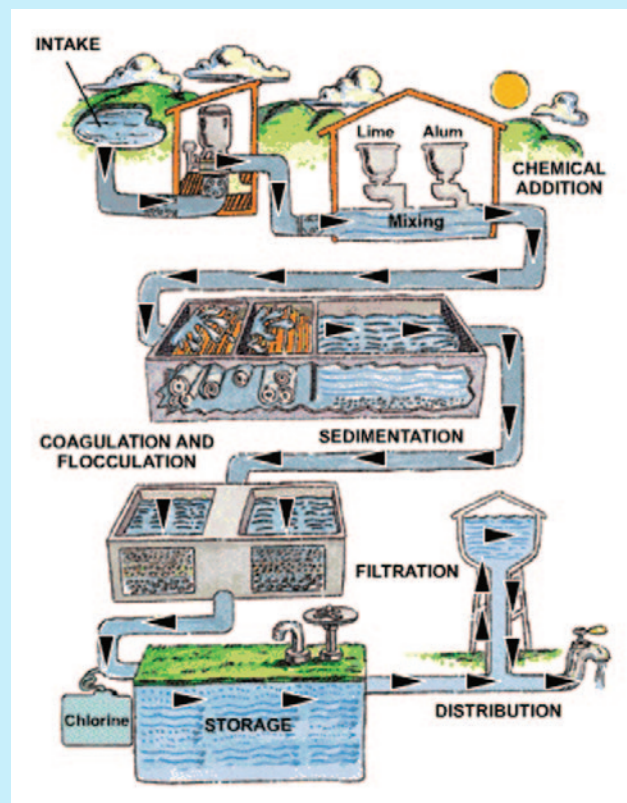
Overview

Henry County Water Authority was founded in 1961 by the Act of the Georgia General Assembly. Five drinking water reservoirs supply our system with a total storage capacity of more than 18 billion gallons, which equates to more than 500 days of supply, even without additional rainfall. HCWA has approximately 1,400 miles of transmission and distribution water mains, 15 storage tanks with 28.9 million gallons of finished drinking water storage capacity, and two water treatment plants with a combined production capacity of 40.5 million gallons per day (MGD).

The source water used for drinking water production at HCWA is untreated raw water collected from streams, rivers, or lakes. The map highlights the watersheds (shaded areas) containing the five HCWA source water reservoirs.

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a river, stream, or lake. HCWA is a surface water system that utilizes raw water from surface water runoff for drinking water production. In 2024, HCWA had 67,881 metered customers, representing approximately 200,000 consumers, in a county of more than 250,000 citizens.

Water Cycle





Your Tap WATER is **Safe to Drink**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes limits on specific contaminants in water provided by public water systems. However, FDA regulations establish the limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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 at 1-800-426-4791. Additional online sources are available [HERE](#).



People with Compromised Immune Systems

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) or click [HERE](#).

Making your Water Safe to Drink

HCWA Towaliga and Tussahaw Water Treatment Plants are operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, by highly trained state-certified plant operators.

The latest technological equipment is used to assure our valued customers that their water has been treated to the highest standards in the industry. Maintaining HCWA's drinking water distribution system involves routine sampling, flushing of water lines, and ongoing maintenance of water storage tanks. In 2024, HCWA performed more than 250,000 tests on your drinking water. These tests measure drinking water quality and safety. Our team must collect and analyze a minimum of 120 samples per month from throughout the distribution system, which is then tested in our award-winning, state-certified bacteriological Laboratory. The Regulated Substances 2024 table lists regulated and unregulated substances that may be found in drinking water and includes data from our Water Treatment Plants. All substances listed are well within regulated limits. We tested for hundreds of additional substances which were not found in our water.



Regulated Substances 2024

Non-Disinfection Substances							
Substance Tested And Detected	Units	Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowed (MCL)	Amount Detected	Range Detected	Probable Source	Is it Safe? Does it meet Standards
Copper (b)	ppm	1.3	AL=1.300	0.2	*0 samples above AL	corrosion of household plumbing systems	✓
Lead (b)	ppb	0	AL=15	1	*0 sample above AL	corrosion of household plumbing systems	✓
Fluoride (a)	ppm	4	4	0.65	0.00 - 0.96	water additive which promotes strong teeth	✓
Turbidity (c)	NTU	TT	TT	*Highest value of the year 0.29	*% of samples <0.3 NTU 100.00%	soil runoff	✓
Total Organic Carbon (d)	NA	TT	TT	1.3	0.9 - 1.6	naturally present in the environment	✓
Total Coliform (e)	%	0	5%	0.3%	0% - 0.8%	naturally present in the environment	✓
Disinfection Substances							
Substance Tested And Detected	Units	Goal (MRDLG)	Maximum Allowed (MRDL)	Amount Detected	Range Detected	Probable Source	Is it Safe? Does it meet Standards
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	2.21	0.12 - 2.38	water additive used to control microbes	✓
Haloacetic Acids (f)	ppb	0	60	41.8	16.3 - 51.0	by-product of drinking water chlorination	✓
Total Trihalomethanes (f)	ppb	0	80	70.8	23.7 - 94.0	by-product of drinking water chlorination	✓

How to Read this Report

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

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

ppb - Parts Per Billion: 1 part per 1,000,000,000 (same as micrograms per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years, or 1 penny in \$10 million.

AL - Action Level: The concentration of a substance that triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow * Water systems may have up to 5 samples above action level and remain in compliance.

mL - Milliliter or one-thousandth of a liter. 1 liter is slightly more than a quart.

NA - Not Applicable

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: 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.

ppm - Parts Per Million: 1 part per 1,000,000 (same as milligram per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years, or 1 penny in \$10 thousand.

TT - Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. * We must report highest monthly value (0.82) plus the lowest percentage. #s below 95% would be a violation.

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: a measure of water clarity.

(a) - Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the GA EPD optimum of 0.7 parts per million (see definition of ppm)

(b) - Water from the treatment plant does not contain lead or copper however under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the tap. Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead pipes or lead-soldered copper pipes, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels.

(c) - Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

(d) - Total Organic Carbon is a measure of the possible formation of harmful chlorine byproducts. We monitor this substance (3) different ways to receive a complete picture of this substance in our water. Compliance with federal law is determined by a ratio of all (3) methods and the ratio must be 1 or above.

(e) - 120 samples are tested each month. No more than 5% may be positive for total coliform bacteria.

(f) - These levels are based on a system-wide 4 quarter Local Running Annual Average at locations approved by the GAEPD. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

SAFETY of Your Drinking Water



As scientists learn more about our environment and the effects of substances present, new standards are being set for drinking water production. The drinking water sources — whether consumed from the tap or bottle — include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs, and wells. In a surface water system such as HCWA's, rainwater travels over land and dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials, in addition to picking up substances present from animal or human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water before water treatment include:

- Biological Substances may come from humans, septic/sewer systems, agricultural livestock, or wildlife sources.
- Inorganic Substances – which may be naturally occurring or result from stormwater runoff, farming, and industrial or domestic (wastewater) discharges.
- Pesticides and Herbicides – which may come from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, or landscape.
- Organic Substances – which may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm water runoff, and/or septic (tank) systems.
- Radioactive Substances – which can be naturally occurring or result from mining activity or oil and gas production.
- Cryptosporidium – a parasite that is resistant to chlorine and can survive in water, and it can cause severe diarrhea in humans if infected.



To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain substances (categorized above) in water provided by public water systems such as HCWA.



2024 Awards

Best Operated Water Plant Certificate of Achievement

Tusahaw Water Treatment Plant

– 15MGD – 24.99MGD

Towaliga Water Treatment Plant

– 15MGD – 24.99MGD

Biosolids Program of Excellence Award

– Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility

Education Program of Excellence Award – Platinum

Tusahaw Water Quality Laboratory Gold Award

Drinking Water Facility Platinum Award

(for 18 consecutive years)

Tusahaw Water Treatment Plant

Towaliga Water Treatment Plant

For a full list of awards, please click [HERE](#).

Cubihatcha Education Center

Built in 1999, the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center is a wetland enhancement and protection corridor created to improve and protect existing wildlife habitats, while also providing an avenue for public education and enjoyment.

HCWA developed this area as part of a wetland mitigation plan during the construction of our reservoir system. The center encompasses almost 1,000 contiguous acres of bottomland, hardwood, and forested wetlands and uplands, which are typical features of our Piedmont area.

Being situated between three of the county's reservoirs enables the HCWA to protect the valuable and diverse fish and wildlife habitats of the area. Cubihatcha also aids in the protection of high water quality. Aside from the limited clearing of trees and the construction of raised wooden boardwalks, trails, and outdoor classrooms, the area has been left in its natural state.



Lead Report

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 caused by materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Henry County Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from the public system, but we 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 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: 678-583-3902. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available [HERE](#).

Analyte	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL) EPA Compliance	Range Low	Range High	90th Percentile	Units	Violation
Lead	June 1st - Sept. 30, 2024	0.0	AL = 15	0.0	8.80	1.00	ppb	No
Copper	June 1st - Sept. 30, 2024	1.3	AL = 1.300	0.0	0.33	0.20	ppm	No

The Water 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. A service line is the customer-owned pipe that extends from the water meter to your home. The LCRR 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.

Henry County Water Authority's SLI was completed in October 2024 and we did not identify any lead service lines in our system. Access the SLI for Henry County Water Authority [HERE](#).



Various events are held at Cubihatcha every year. In the Fall, the center utilizes its outdoor classrooms for more than 3,000 local 3rd grade students from Henry County Public Schools for "Cubihatcha Kids". While on-site, the 3rd graders spend the day exploring topics like the ecology of watersheds, characteristics of water, the role of reservoirs, stormwater runoff and pollution, and the wildlife that populate the area. Cubihatcha Kids is made possible by the hard work of the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership 501c3, a collaboration among the HCWA, the Henry County Board of Education, and many other local and regional sponsors.

In addition, Cubihatcha hosts an annual "Kids Fishing Day", another event made possible by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership 501c3. This event invites kids and their families to enjoy a day of outdoor fun which includes fishing on the banks of reservoir, and prizes for the biggest catch!

Other events are held at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Center annually that are a great way to explore the outdoors and appreciate our natural resources.

For more information and hours of operation, click [HERE](#).

CONTACT



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