

CITY OF
TALLAHASSEE

WATER QUALITY REPORT

2021

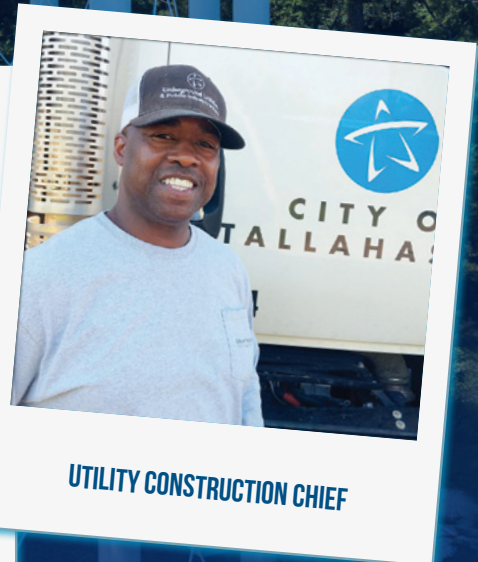




**UTILITY CONSTRUCTION
FOREMAN**



**UTILITY CONSTRUCTION
FOREMAN**



UTILITY CONSTRUCTION CHIEF

You may have noticed one of the City's elevated water tanks visible from the I-10 corridor received a facelift in 2020 — but that's not all. This 750,000-gallon tank received a complete restoration to remove the old coatings inside and out and provide a new finish that is expected to last more than 20 years. Water tanks serve a greater purpose than providing a location marker. They ensure the delivery of high-quality drinking water to homes and businesses across our community, control water system pressure and provide sufficient water reserves for the daily peak demands and fire protection.

COMMITTED TO YOU

For more than 120 years, the City of Tallahassee has been committed to providing our community with safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water. More than 80 components are routinely analyzed in the City's drinking water, and the test results consistently show that regulated components of drinking water are either not detected or present in amounts well below the limits permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Health.

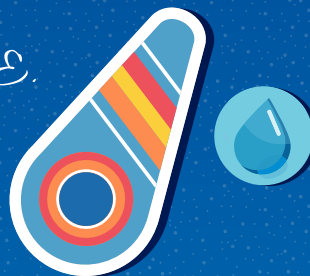
The mission of the Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure Department is to improve quality of life while providing best-in-class services. Through years of emergency preparedness, planning and training, our team of over 500 professionals quickly adapted to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by creating a safe work environment and protecting each other and the community, while continuing to deliver high-quality drinking water to our customers. I'm very proud of the entire team's unwavering dedication to excellence in service to each other, our organization and the Tallahassee community. Throughout this report, you'll see photos as examples of a few of our many exceptional team members.

While we maintain infrastructure and ensure delivery of our drinking water, the responsibility to protect this valuable resource requires each of us to do our part and dispose of any contaminants responsibly. The City offers assistance and public education materials regarding proper waste disposal and protecting the quality of our drinking water. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or would like additional information.

Thank you!

Raynetta Curry Marshall, P.E.

General Manager
Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure



RAYNETTA CURRY MARSHALL, P.E.
General Manager, Underground Utilities
& Public Infrastructure

I'm pleased to share with you the City of Tallahassee's 2021 Water Quality Report. This report presents important information and water quality compliance data from January 1 to December 31, 2020 (unless noted otherwise) and shows that the City's drinking water continues to meet all state and federal drinking water requirements.

City of Tallahassee
Your Own Utilities™

MINIMAL TREATMENT NEEDED

PRISTINE WATER

DRINKING WATER MEETS ALL STATE & FEDERAL STANDARDS

THE CITY'S LABORATORY IS CERTIFIED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

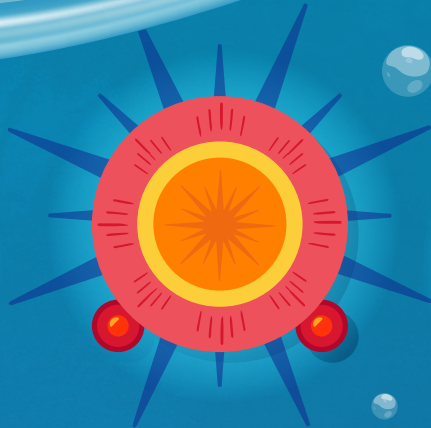
ENSURING TALLAHASSEE'S

WATER QUALITY

EACH YEAR, **30K+** TESTS ARE PERFORMED ON THE CITY'S DRINKING WATER



Crews maintain more than 1,200 miles of pipe and over 29,000 valves in the distribution system



Licensed operators monitor and control the supply and distribution system remotely 24/7



Licensed technicians perform routine maintenance and emergency repairs

OUR LARGEST WATER TANKS HOLD **ONE MILLION GALLONS**

8

ELEVATED WATER TANKS

Water tanks store water FOR PEAK DEMAND AND FIRE SUPPRESSION

PROVIDE PRESSURE TO DELIVER WATER TO CUSTOMERS

Cell phone towers RENT SPACE ATOP TANKS TO IMPROVE SIGNALS

MAINTAINING & UPGRADING INFRASTRUCTURE

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS continually evaluate, design, and implement water improvement projects

CITY INSPECTORS supervise new development ensuring construction standards for water safety are met

27 WELLS draw water from the Floridan aquifer



SOURCE & TREATMENT

For more than 120 years, the City of Tallahassee has provided our community with clean, reliable, and safe drinking water.

Currently, the City of Tallahassee operates 27 deep wells drilled directly into the Floridan aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water source, only limited treatment is required. Each of the well sources are treated with chlorine for disinfection purposes and fluoride to improve dental health.

Six of the 27 wells use carbon filtration to remove certain chemicals found in the aquifer in those locations. One well (offline for 2020) provides Greensand filtration to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese from the source water, and another well provides treatment to sequester iron and manganese in the distribution system.

Source Water Assessment & Protection

In 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about

any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 47 potential sources of contamination with low to high susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp, or they can be obtained by contacting the City's Water Quality Laboratory at 850-891-1200.

In the Future

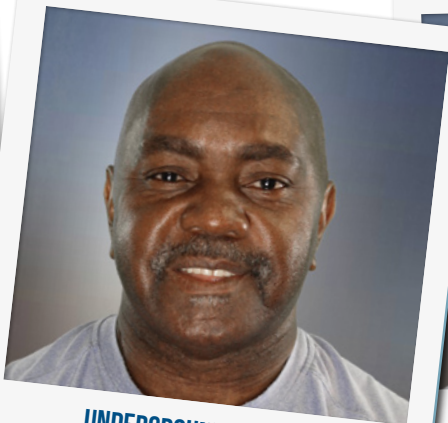
It may be necessary to make improvements to your water system that will benefit all our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rates, and adjustments may be necessary to address these improvements. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water.



Please **DO NOT FLUSH** your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains. More information is available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>



WATER WELL OPERATOR III
OVER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



**UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
SYSTEM OPERATOR**
OVER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



CHIEF-WATER WELL MAINTENANCE/OPS.
OVER 29 YEARS OF SERVICE

VALUED TEAM MEMBERS WORKING TO DELIVER DRINKING WATER TO YOU



Underground Utilities System Operator



Chemist



Environmental Technician



Utility Technicians and Utility Construction Foreman



UNDERSTANDING SOURCE WATER QUALITY

According to federal and state laws, rules and regulations, the City of Tallahassee routinely monitors for over 80 contaminants in our drinking water.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 the 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.

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.

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/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



UNDERSTANDING OUR WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE



In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

- Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.
- Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 or 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.
- "ND"** means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.
- Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** measure of the radioactivity in water.

The contaminants listed in the following tables are the only contaminants detected in our drinking water. The City of Tallahassee routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020. Data obtained before January 1, 2020, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected (average)	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	05/19 – 10/20	N	1.31	ND - 1.7	0	3	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	10/19 – 7/20	N	0.35	ND - 1.4	0	3	Discharge from industrial chemical factories



RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	01/20 – 09/20	N	6.26	ND - 6.26	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	09/17 01/20 – 09/20	N	0.99	ND - 0.99	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/L)	01/20 – 09/20	N	0.51	NA	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	01/20 – 09/20	N	2.3	ND - 2.3	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	01/20 – 09/20	N	0.016	0.006 - 0.016	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	01/20 – 09/20	N	1.3	ND - 1.3	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Fluoride (ppm)	01/20 – 09/20	N	0.97	0.46 - 0.97	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	01/20 – 09/20	N	3	ND - 3	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	01/20 – 09/20	N	1.03	0.03 - 1.03	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	01/20 – 09/20	N	4.18	2.33 - 4.18	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil



STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS / STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (D/DBP)							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected (average)	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	01/20 – 12/20	N	0.83	0.74 - 0.88	MRDLG = 4.0	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	01/20 – 12/20	N	16.77	ND - 19.58	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	01/20 – 12/20	N	35.66	ND - 53.11	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER) from Residential Sources							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90 th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	07/20 – 09/20	N	0.47	0 out of 52	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	07/20 – 09/20	N	2.0	1 out of 52	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Drinking Water

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 City of Tallahassee is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but 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 2 minutes before using tap 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Commission meetings. Call 850-891-1200 or visit Talgov.com for the schedule of Commission meeting dates and times.

City of Tallahassee
Your Own Utilities™

City of Tallahassee Water Utility
4505 A Springhill Road
Tallahassee, FL 32305

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The City of Tallahassee is the largest single provider of municipal services in our community. To learn more about services provided, visit Talgov.com. If you have questions about the 2021 Water Quality Report or you would like additional copies, please call 850-891-1200 or email WaterQualityReporting@Talgov.com.



This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.