

GEORGIA WATER SYSTEM I.D. NUMBER: (GA) - 0570002

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



PRESENTED BY CHEROKEE
COUNTY WATER AND
SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
(CCWSA): JANUARY 1, 2024
THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

Cherokee's Safe and Sustainable Water Begins Here!

We are proud to report that we have had no violations in 2024. This Annual report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests and contains information about water and health.



For more information, call CCWSA at 770-479-1813 Ext. 1176, Lori Forrester, CCWSA Public Information Specialist. Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com

En la CCWSA, estamos orgullosa que en el año 2024 no tuvimos ninguna violación. Este informe anual muestra nuestra fuente de agua, numera los resultados de nuestras pruebas, y contiene información sobre el agua y su salud. Para más información sobre el contenido de este reporte, puede llamar al 770-479-1813 ext.1137.

CCWSA draws surface water from the Etowah River and treats it at the Etowah River Water Treatment Facility. The Etowah River Water Treatment facility has been in operation since 1986. This facility has the capacity to treat up to 38 MGD (million gallons per day) of drinking water. In 2024, an average of 20.176 MGD of drinking water was treated.

We supplied over 7 billion gallons in 2024.



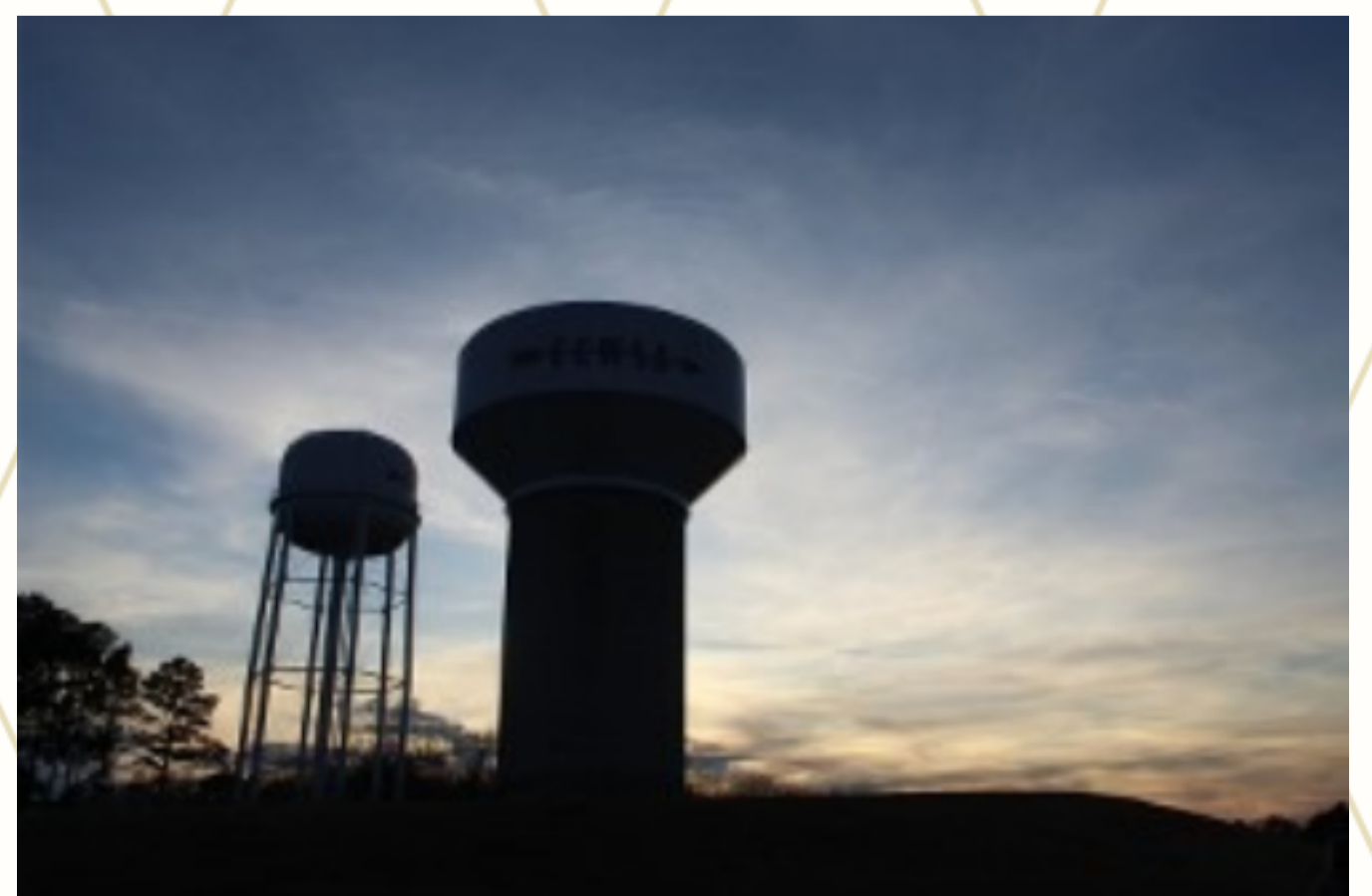
Our drought contingency reservoir, the Hollis Q. Lathem Reservoir, located on Yellow Creek, supplements water withdrawal of the drinking water plant in times of drought.



The Etowah River flows from its headwaters in Lumpkin County through Dawson County into the northeastern portion of Cherokee. Tributaries such as Amicalola Creek, Cochran Creek, Yellow Creek and many more flow into the Etowah River. After leaving Cherokee County, the Etowah continues West and South joining other river systems and continuing into Mobile Bay.



We provide clean reliable drinking water to more than 225,000 people daily.





Health Information



Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate 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 (800) 426-4791

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, 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 animal or human activity.

Contaminants 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 and 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 residential uses.
- * Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- * If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in the drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are both responsible for safety of drinking water. EPA regulates public drinking water (tap water), while FDA regulates bottled drinking water.



An Explanation of the Water Quality Table

The table shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement.

Glossary of Terms

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's 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 a 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 disinfectant allowed in the drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants,

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

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

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

KEY TO TABLE:
 AL = ACTION LEVEL MCL=MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL MCLG=MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL NTU=NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNITS
 PPM= PARTS PER MILLION, OR MILLIGRAMS PER LITER (MG/L); ONE PART PER MILLION IS EQUIVALENT TO ONE MINUTE IN 2 YEARS OR ONE PENNY IN 10
 THOUSAND DOLLARS;
 PPB = PARTS PER BILLION; ONE MINUTE IN 200 YEARS OR ONE PENNY IN 10 MILLION DOLLARS, OR MICROGRAMS PER LITER (UG/L)
 TT = TREATMENT TECHNIQUE - A REQUIRED PROCESS INTENDED TO REDUCE THE LEVEL IN DRINKING WATER. N/A =NOT APPLICABLE

Test Results

Contaminant	Year	Units	MCL/ MRDL	Goal (MCLG)	Amount Detected	Range Detected	Major Sources	Violation
Fluoride - 1	2024	ppm	4	4	0.63	0.58-0.72	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additives which promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Nitrate/Nitrite - 2	2024	ppm	10	10	0.22	NA	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Chlorine	2024	ppm	4	N/A	1.13	0.2-1.9	Drinking water additive used for disinfection	NO
Total Organic Carbon	2024	ppm	TT	N/A	0.80	0.63-1.1	Naturally present in the environment	NO
Turbidity - 3	2024	NTU	TT=1	0	0.08	0.04-0.09	Soil runoff	NO
Total Trihalomethanes	2024	ppb	80	0	43.8	34.9-51.8	Byproduct of drinking water disinfectant	NO
Haloacetic Acids	2024	ppb	60	0	43.6	37.7-49.8	Byproduct of drinking water disinfectant	NO

Contaminant	Year	Units	AL	Goal (MCLG)	90th % Level	# of samples exceeding AL	Major Sources	Violation
Lead - 4	2024	ppb	15	0	1.3	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Copper - 5	2024	ppb	1300	0	220	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO

Microbiological

Contaminants	Sample dates	MCL	MCLG	Level 1 Assessment Trigger 6	Level detected	Likely source	Violation
Total Coliform	1/1/2024-12/31/2024	TT	TT	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	0 Positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	NO
E.coli - 6	1/1/2024-12/31/2024	0	0	N/A	0 Positive samples	Human or animal waste	NO

Table Footnotes

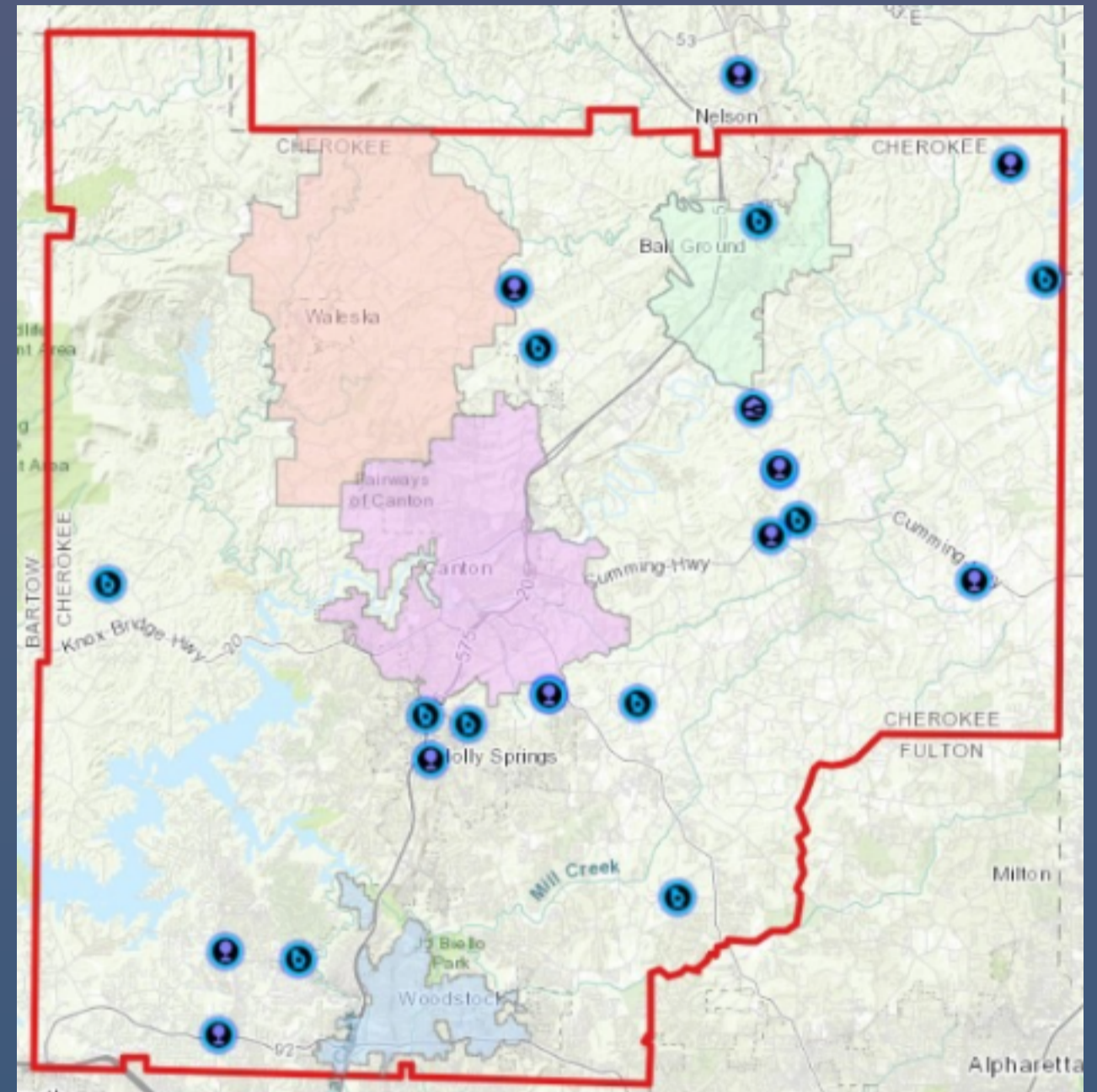
- 1 - Fluoride is added to the drinking water to help the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children.
- 2 - Nitrate and Nitrite measured together.
- 3 - Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of monthly samples must be below 0.30 NTU. During the reporting year, 100% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standards.
- 4- Of the 50 sites tested, one was above the action limit . No violation occurs if 90% of the sample is below 15 ppb. Tested every 3 years - next round in 2027.
- 5 - Of the 50 sites tested, one was above the action limit. No violation occurs if 90% of the sample is below 1300 ppb. Tested every 3 years - next round in 2027.
- 6- A PWS (Public Water System) will receive an E.coli MCL violation when there is any combination of an EC+ sample result with a routine/repeat TC+ or EC+ sample result. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful , bacteria may be present. E.coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste.

Source Water Assessment

Freese and Nichols, Inc. was contracted by CCWSA in 2017 to complete a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of surface water pollution to our water resources. Your drinking water is supplied from the Etowah River. A Source Water Assessment is a study and report that provides the following information:

- * Identifies the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water
- * Identifies potential sources of contamination to the drinking water supply.
- * Provides an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

The results of this assessment can be found on our website – <https://ccwsa.com/source-water-assessment/>



SAFETY IN ACTION

CCWSA water laboratory staff serve the community by continuously testing within the serve area, making sure that the tap water within our distribution system is safe to drink once it leaves the plant. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems through the Safe Drinking Water Act. In order to do this, staff collects from a master list of 390 samples throughout the water distribution system. The number of samples is determined by GA EPD based on the population. Each month, 130 samples are collected and tested for chlorine residual and total coliform bacteria.

Flushing of lines occurs to maintain water quality. It reduces Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids, which are disinfection byproducts, plus helps maintain chlorine residuals. Flushing is done in more rural areas with less overall usage. In order to protect local waterways, the flushing water is de-chlorinated.

Water Plant Tours

Are you interested in seeing where your water comes from and how it is treated before it comes out of your faucet?

CCWSA offers water plant tours to the public year round. Tours last 1-2 hours and are available to individuals and small groups.

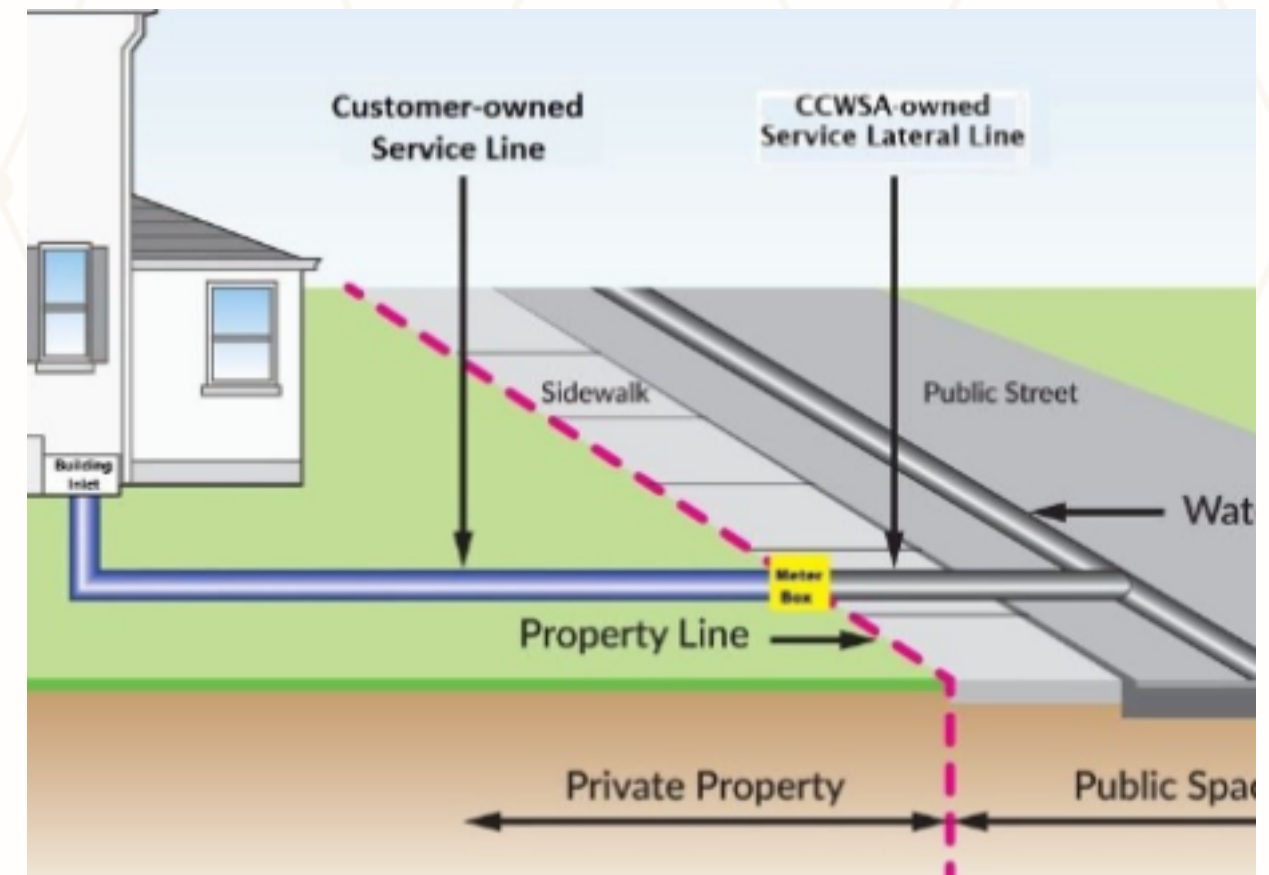


Contact Clint Blackwell at clint@ccwsa.com or 770-479-2911 to schedule a tour.

Lead and COPPER RULE Revisions (LCRR)

As part of the Lead and Copper Revision Rule (LCRR) published in December 2021, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required all community water systems to develop an inventory of all service line connections, both system-owned and customer-owned. Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority has meticulously developed this inventory, which is available at www.ccwsa.com. After developing this inventory, all community water systems must notify customers with service lines designated as Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement, or Lead Status Unknown.

What is a service line? A service line is the piping that runs from the water meter to the building inlet. The portion of the line from the main to the meter is owned by the CCWSA and is referred to as a service lateral line. The portion of the line from the meter to the building inlet is customer-owned and is referred to as a service line. It is not part of the CCWSA-owned lines.



In November 2024, ninety-one letters were sent to customers that had customer owned service lines that were identified as unknown in the inventory.







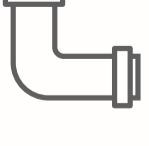
What you can do?

You can run cold water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead out of interior plumbing when water hasn't been used in several hours, use cold water for cooking and formula, re-test for lead periodically, and replace fixtures that may contain lead. Do not boil water to attempt to remove lead..

Health Effects

Exposure to lead can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing ones. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have an increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased health risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

FAQ's

-  No Lead has been used or detected in CCWSA's system.
-  CCWSA has been monitoring and reporting lead data since 1992 and has over 1,000 samples analyzed.
-  Local building standards required Lead-Free Plumbing Materials since 1992.
-  There are no known public lead service laterals.
-  Since lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through plumbing materials used in individual homes the US Environmental Protection Agency requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps.
-  CCWSA treats our drinking water with an orthophosphate to control corrosion within the water distribution system.
-  CCWSA tests multiple times daily at our water production plant to maintain high water quality in the distribution system.


What are PFAS?

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, are a group of over 6,000 man-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used in home consumer products such as carpets, clothing and food related products.


PFAS are used in many applications because of their unique physical properties such as resistance to high and low temperatures, resistance to degradation and nonstick characteristics.

Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS. U.S. EPA has determined there is evidence that continued exposure above specific levels to certain PFAS may cause adverse health effects.



 CCWSA has tested for PFAS using analytical methods developed by the EPA and consensus organizations. This was required as part of the UCMR5 (Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule).

 **All results were measured under the detection limit**

 CCWSA remains committed to meeting the regulations and providing high-quality drinking water.

Education and Outreach

The goal of CCWSA's Education and Outreach is to provide our customers with quality water education so that they have the ability to make smart decisions for themselves and their community. We offer programs that have target audiences ranging from school age to adult learners. We cover topics from water cycle to household water audits and water treatment process. We are committed to giving valuable information to our customers so they can understand how precious a commodity water is and what they can do to protect it and use it wisely.

"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." - Benjamin Franklin



What we do...

Environmental education programs

Promote special days/weeks with events and contests

Sponsor/judge the local science and engineering fair

Participate in career days and job fairs

Host river cleanups

Provide information and resources on our website and Facebook

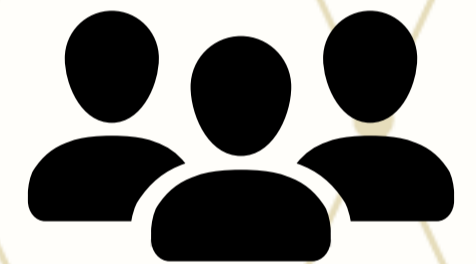
Want to learn more? Go to <https://ccwsa.com/education/>

Awards

- ★ **Etowah Water Treatment Plant: Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) – Platinum Award for complete and consistent Safe Drinking Water Act permit compliance during calendar year of 2023.**
- ★ **Top Operator Award: Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) - Ricky Brown - Top Op 2023**
- ★ **Riverbend Complex: Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)- Platinum Award for complete and consistent NPDES permit compliance during the calendar year of 2023.**
- ★ **Rose Creek Wastewater Facility: Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) - Gold Award for complete and consistent NPDES permit compliance during the calendar year of 2023.**
- ★ **Fitzgerald Creek Wastewater Facility: Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) - Platinum Award for complete and consistent Safe Drinking Water Act permit compliance in 2023.**
- ★ **Public Education Awards 2022–2023: Education Program of Excellence Award and Excellence in Communication Award.**
- ★ **Project WET (Water Education Today) 2024 Organization of the Year Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) by the Government Finance Officers Association.**
- ★ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Water Fluoridation Quality Award**



Board Meetings



Have you visited our beautiful reservoir?

The Hollis Q. Latham Reservoir encompasses 334 acres with about 15 miles of shoreline and is surrounded by a 150-foot buffer. The lake is located in Cherokee and Dawson Counties; the entrance address is 5436 Cowart Road – Dawsonville, GA 30534. Visit our website – <https://ccwsa.com/reservoir/> for hours, rules and map.



We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The public is welcome. Regular board meetings are held the last Monday of each month at 110 Railroad Street – Canton, GA 30114. Even number months at 4:00 pm and odd numbered months at 9:00 am. Please call for holiday schedule.