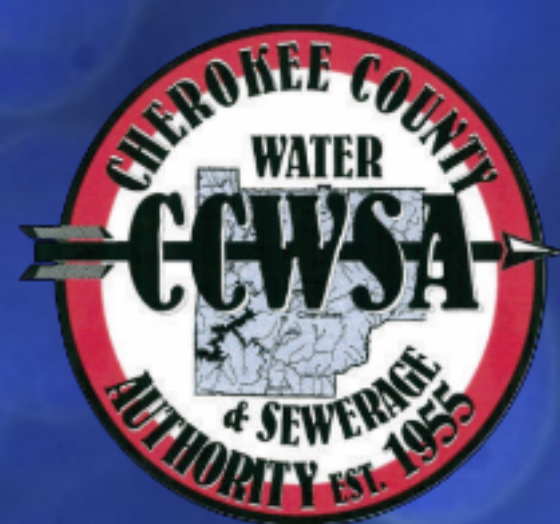


**Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority  
Salacoa Water Distribution System  
Georgia Water System I.D. Number (GA) - 0570075**



# **2022 Annual Water Quality Report**

**January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022**

**Cherokee's Safe and Sustainable Water Begins Here!**



**Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority is proud of the quality drinking water it provides. This annual water quality report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests and contains important information about water and health.**



The Salacoa Area Water System is a purchase only system. CCWSA purchases drinking water from the Pickens County Water and Sewer Authority which is a purchase only system. You may obtain a copy of Pickens County's Water Quality report by contacting Phillip Dean, Director of Utilities at 706-253-8718, via e-mail: [pdean@pickenscountyga.gov](mailto:pdean@pickenscountyga.gov) or through the website: [www.pickenscountyga.gov](http://www.pickenscountyga.gov).



# Health Information

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 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 (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.

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 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 a byproduct of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems.

- \* Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be a 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 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)

## An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

The table shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detect in the water, even in the minutest traces, is listed here. This 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 finding, and a key to units of measurement.

Glossary of terms:

**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.

**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 disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a 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 part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,00 years or one penny in 10 million dollars; or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

## Test Results

Contaminant	Year tested	Unit	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG	Average /Result	Range	Major Sources	Violation
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### Inorganic Contaminants

Copper 1	2022	ppb	AL=1300	0	124	65-220 5 samples	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of Natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	No
Fluoride 2	2022	ppm	4	4	0.57	0.07-0.75	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
Lead 3	2022	ppb	AL=15	0	1.72	0-6.8 5 samples	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Nitrate/Nitrite 4	2022	ppm	10	0	1.24	0.47-2.00	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Chlorine	2022	ppm	4	N/A	0.76	0.5-1.1	Drinking water additive used for disinfection	No

### Volatile Organic

TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	2022	ppb	80	0	19.6	Only one sample collected for the year	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
HAAs [Haloacetic Acids]	2021	ppb	60	0	4.2	Only one sample collected for the year	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No

### Microbiological

Contaminants	Sample Dates	MCL	MCLG	Level 1 Assessment Trigger 5	Level Detected	Likely Source	Violation
Total Coliform	Jan. 1, 2022 - Dec. 31, 2022	TT	TT	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	0% total Coliform Positive (TC+)	Naturally Present in the Environment	No
E.coli	Jan. 1, 2022 - Dec. 31, 2022	0	0	n/a	0 positive	Human or animal fecal waste	No

Water Quality Data Table Footnotes:  
1 - No sites exceeded the Action Level (AL). Tested every 3 years.  
2 - Fluoride is added to the drinking water to help in the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children. The low fluoride was a result of a pump issue which was resolved promptly.  
3 - No sites exceeded the Action Level (AL). Tested every 3 years.  
4 - Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together.  
5 - 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.



## LEAD AND COPPER IN DRINKING WATER

Lead does not come from the treatment facilities and water mains. It may come from the lead service lines running between the water main in the street to the home and plumbing inside the home. CCWSA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. CCWSA collects samples as required by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, in accordance with federal rules. 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. If lead concentration exceeds an action limit of 15 ppb or if copper concentrations exceed an action limit of 1300 ppb in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. Additionally, CCWSA treats our drinking water with an orthophosphate to control corrosion within the water distribution system. The phosphate provides a layer of protection on the walls of the distribution pipes that decrease the potential corrosion of metals into the drinking water. CCWSA monitors corrosion within the water system through a corrosion coupon monitoring program. The program consists of mild steel strips that are placed throughout the distribution system and analyzed on a quarterly basis to determine the corrosion rate. Orthophosphate levels, along with pH and alkalinity of CCWSA's drinking water, is tested multiple times daily at our water production plant to maintain high water quality in the distribution system. If water has been sitting in the lines for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from EPA's website - <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

## Water Quality Lab

CCWSA water laboratory staff serve the community by testing out 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 collect from three designated sample locations throughout the water distribution system. The number of samples is determined by GA EPD based on the population. Each month, one sample is collected and tested for chlorine residual and total coliform bacteria. In addition, a weekly chlorine residual, pH and fluoride sample is collected and tested.

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.

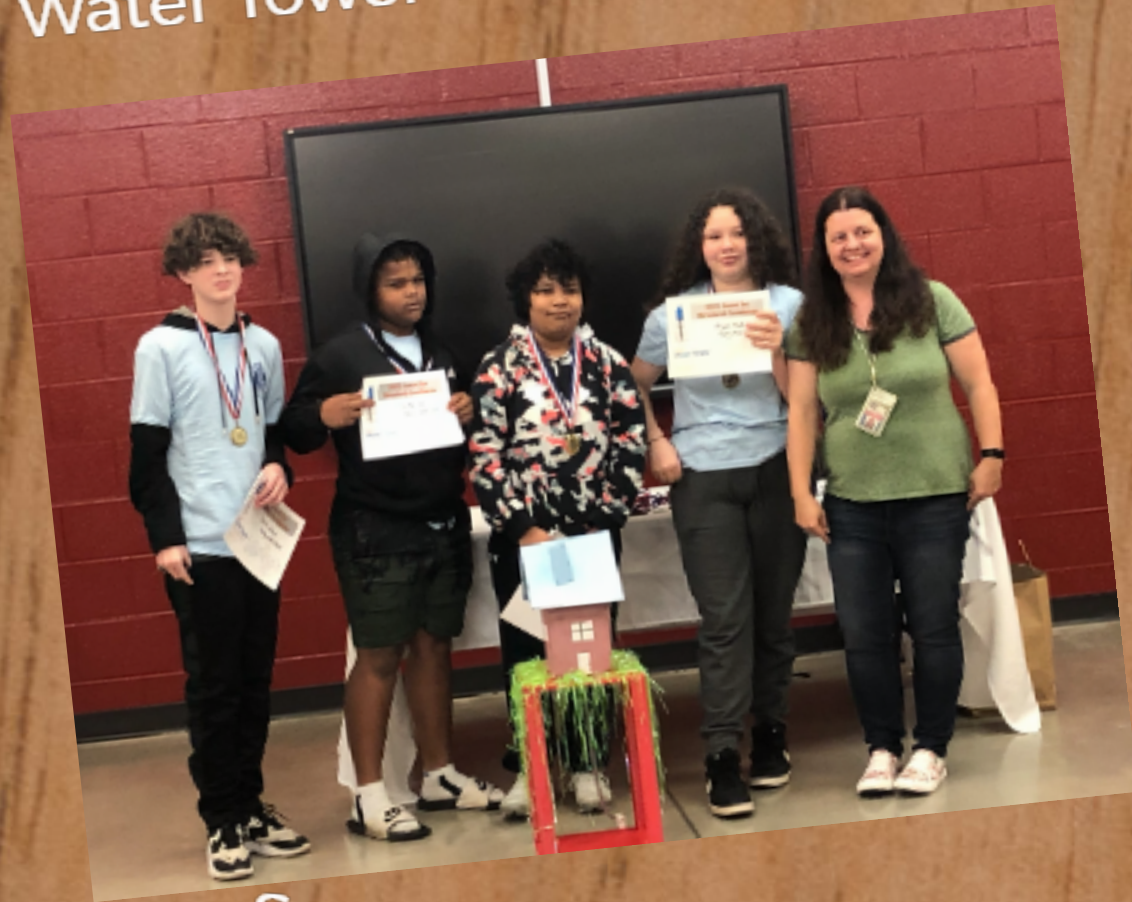


Some individuals may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as individuals with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, individuals who have undergone organ transplants, individuals with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorder, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These individuals 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 (800) 426-4791.



# Education and Outreach

Teasley Middle School - Model  
Water Tower Competition winners



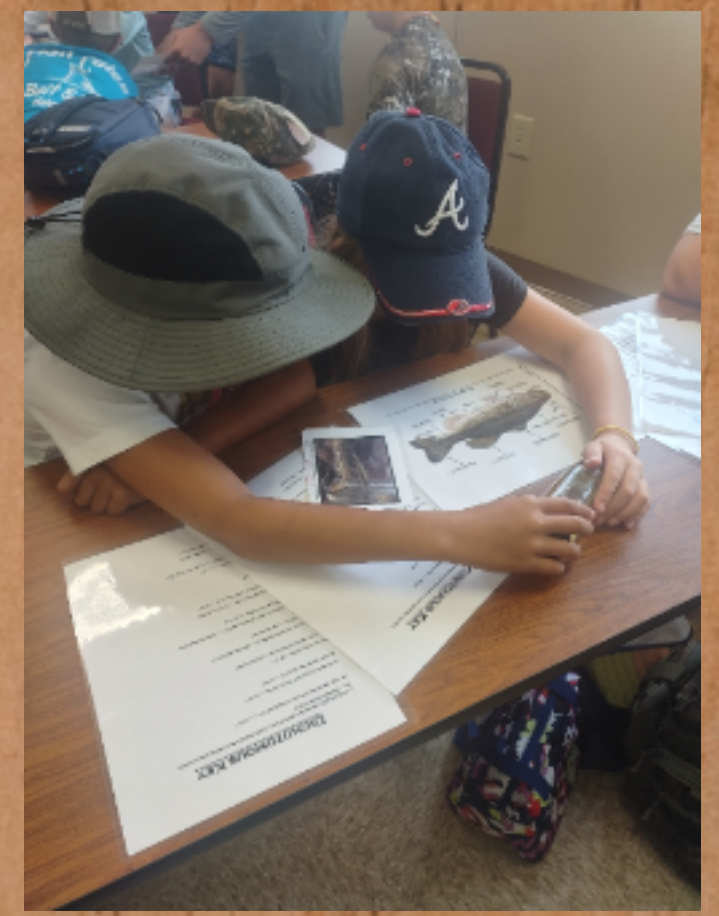
Scarecrow at Riverfest



Cherokee High School - Adopt-A-Stream  
Field Trip at Boling Park



Drinking Water Week 2nd  
grade winner - Emma  
Negrete - Clayton ES



CPRA Fish Camp at  
Hollis Q. Latham Reservoir

- \* **Student Contests**
- \* **River Clean-ups**
- \* **Facility Tours**
- \* **Classroom Presentations**
- \* **Career Day**
- \* **Science and Engineering Fair**

## Board Meetings

**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. Even number months at 4:00 pm. Odd numbered months at 9:00 a.m. Please call for holiday schedule.**



The 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 in Dawsonville, GA 30534. Visit our website - <https://ccwsa.com/reservoir/> for hours, rules and map.