

# **2023 Water Quality Report**

## **Hart County Water and Sewer Authority ID#1470065**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority (HCWSA) is pleased to report that your tap water met or exceeded United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) drinking water health standards. Once again our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standards. HCWSA is committed to providing our customers with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water.

In 2023, HCWSA purchased all of its treated water from the City of Hartwell (Water System ID #1470000), the City of Lavonia (Water System ID #1190003) and the City of Royston (Water System ID #1190004). Hartwell withdraws water from Hartwell Lake at Lightwood Log Creek. Lavonia withdraws water from both Hartwell Lake near Franklin County Boat Ramp Road and Crawford Creek Reservoir. Royston withdraws water from the North Fork of the Broad River, from a well on Brooks Street within the city limits, and from a well on Royston Highway in Hart County. Each city treats its source water to remove contaminants and bacteria. Each of the cities has had a Source Water Assessment performed; copies may be obtained by contacting HCWSA.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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 that 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 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems, and; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants 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.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800 426 4791).

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 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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).

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. HCWSA 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 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

HCWSA is a vital part of our community and drinking water is our most precious commodity. Therefore, it is necessary for all of us to work together to conserve and protect our source water as well as our drinking water. If you notice any

suspicious activity or vandalism around facilities such as elevated water tanks or fire hydrants, please contact our office immediately at 706 377 4387.

HCWSA's Board of Directors normally meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm in our office at 200 Arthur Street, Hartwell. Your participation or comments are welcome at these meetings or at any other time. Copies of this report may be obtained at our office 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday, and is also available at our website, [hartwatersewer.com](http://hartwatersewer.com).

### **Terms and abbreviations used in table terms**

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

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.

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.

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 microbial contaminants.

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.

N/A - Not Applicable

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of Hartwell's, Lavonia's, and Royston's filtration systems.

Ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter

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

### **For more information please contact:**

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