2024 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 2024, 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).

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 from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but 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 your 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 Pat Goran with the Hart County Water and Sewer Authority at 706-377-4387 or pat@hartwatersewer.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for the Hart County Water and Sewer Authority, please contact Pat Goran at 706-377-4387 or via email at pat@hartwatersewer.com.

The 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. It 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. To access the SLI for the Hart County Water and Sewer Authority, go to https://ga-epd.120water-ptd.com/.

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.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2024 calendar year. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2024. EPD requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative, is more than one year old.

Water Quality Data Table

Inorganic Contaminants

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Your Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
*Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.66	0.17 – 1.08	2024	No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Parameter	AL	MCLG		Range of Detection			
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	0 – 1.4	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppb)	1300	0	15	0 - 25	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Disinfectants and Disinfectant Byproducts

Parameter	MRDL	MRDLG		Range of Detection			
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.27	0.30 – 2.01	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Parameter	MCL	MCLG					
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	**70.9	15.2 – 67.4	2023 2024	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (ppb)	60	N/A	**52.4	21.1 – 78.4	2023 2024	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Microbiological Contaminants

Parameter	MCL	MCLG		Range of Detection			
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	0	0	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
*Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	N/A	0.91	0.66 – 1.48	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
*Turbidity (NTU)	TT=1	N/A	0.05	0.01 – 0.25	2024	No	Soil runoff and erosion
	TT=% of samples ≤0.3	N/A	100%	N/A	2024	No	

* Sampling performed and data provided by the City of Hartwell, the City of Lavonia, and the City of Royston.

** This represents the highest quarterly locational running annual average during 2024.

Terms and abbreviations used above

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.

Consumer Confidence Rule Violation: The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on the quality of the water delivered by the systems. Our customers were notified of the availability of the 2024 CCR on June 28, 2024. During the 2024 reporting period, we failed to provide the Georgia Environmental Protection Division with a copy of our water system's CCR by July 1, 2024. We fulfilled the reporting requirement to the GA EPD in September 2024 thus bringing our water system into compliance.

For more information please contact:

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