

YOUR WATER

GRU Water Quality Report | 2014



For this year's full water quality test results, visit www.gru.com/waterreport

Planning for the Future of Your Water



Use of native water plants helps to improve water quality of wetlands around Paynes Prairie and ultimately the Floridan Aquifer.

Over the next 20 years, GRU will invest in proactive measures to protect the aquifer while keeping future water prices cost-effective. In 2013, GRU began construction of the Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration Project. The project is a cost-effective way to recharge the aquifer while protecting the environment. Visit www.cityofgainesville.org/sheetflow for more information about the project.

Additionally, GRU is partnering with the Suwannee River Water Management

District on an aquifer recharge project to support spring flows in the Poe Springshed and benefit water supplies within the Lower Santa Fe River Basin. These efforts are expected to recharge the aquifer with 500,000 to 1 million gallons of water per day and reduce nutrients going into the springshed.

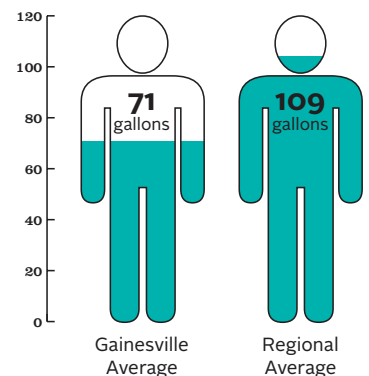
Long-term planning and a strong conservation ethic are essential to the preservation of the Floridan Aquifer.

Renewing the Consumptive Use Permit

GRU is committed to preserving our water supply for the future. Despite a projected customer increase of nearly 25 percent over the next 20 years, GRU has requested no increase to its groundwater withdrawals through 2033. To ensure water supply availability, GRU will focus on conservation programs and reclaimed water initiatives.

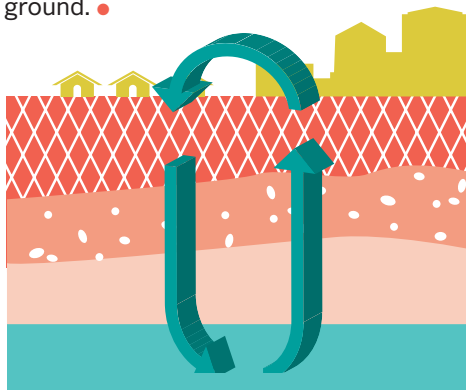
Our Customers Use Less Water than Average

GRU's educational efforts and conservation messaging have reduced residential water consumption by 25 percent since 2007. GRU customers consume 71 gallons of water per day compared with the regional average of 109 gallons per day. GRU helps customers use less drinking water through reclaimed water use for lawn irrigation and water conservation education.



Protecting our Aquifer

Water is too precious to waste and the preservation of our water supply is vital to our community's future. GRU collects and treats wastewater to the highest of standards, and then returns to the aquifer approximately 70 percent of the water it takes out of the ground.



Value of Tap Water

YOU CAN DRINK 8 GLASSES OF WATER PER DAY FOR

365 DAYS
(THAT'S 2,920 GLASSES OF WATER)

AT A COST OF ONLY

42¢

For 123 years, GRU has provided great-tasting, safe water to residents at a tremendous value.



A Groundwater Plant

GRU's water plant is supplied by groundwater from the Floridan Aquifer. Because our water comes from the ground, we receive natural protection from the environment. The geology of the land acts as a natural filter for incoming water and a barrier to external pollutants. Most of GRU's 16 wells

receive additional protection because they reside within a 7,100-acre conservation easement that restricts development. Protection ordinances on this land also prevent potentially harmful activities from occurring within certain distances of our wells to further safeguard our supply. ●



One of GRU's wells, residing on 7,100 acres of protected land.

Proactive about Quality

GRU is confident about the quality of our water and we know that maintaining this confidence requires a proactive stance toward potential threats to our system. GRU continues to be an active stakeholder in the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site to ensure the appropriate actions are taken to keep our water supply safe. This, combined with an extensive groundwater monitoring network for routine testing, helps ensure that no contaminants enter our system.

In 2013, a consent decree between the party responsible for the contamination and the EPA was approved and cleanup is moving forward. GRU will continue to monitor the site for any signs of contamination until full remediation is complete. ●

Providing Safe, Clean Water



Nate Ford tests water hourly at the Murphree Water Treatment Plant to ensure it meets all standards.

GRU provides safe, clean drinking water to approximately 189,000 people who each use an average of 5,550 gallons per month. Making every drop safe is our top priority. GRU's water is tested continuously at our award-winning Murphree Water Treatment Plant and throughout the distribution system. Fluoride is also added to our water to improve dental health.

Water straight from the faucet continues to be safe, and the use of home filtration systems remains a matter of preference. ●

Customers Come First

Communicating with our customers about our water is important. GRU will always stay in immediate contact with customers if potential contamination occurs.

Occasionally, Precautionary Boil Water Notices (PBWN) are issued to protect public health. PBWNs advise citizens to boil their water before consumption.

Pressure loss is the main reason these notices are sent to our customers. Water main breaks, the most common cause for pressure loss, introduce the potential for contamination. Fortunately, these breaks have historically affected only limited sections of our water system, and GRU has never had a system-wide failure. PBWNs are only issued to affected customers. ●



GRU is committed to communicating with you about the safety and purity of your water.

Conserve Our Resources, Know When to Water

Landscaping accounts for up to 50 percent of all residential water use here in Gainesville.

Overwatering wastes water and damages your lawn. Follow the rules to help keep your lawn healthy:

TIME OF YEAR	ODD-NUMBERED ADDRESSES	EVEN-NUMBERED ADDRESSES	BUSINESS PROPERTIES
Daylight Saving Time 3/9/14 – 11/2/14	Wednesday & Saturday	Thursday & Sunday	Tuesday & Friday
Eastern Standard Time 11/2/14 – 3/8/15	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

✳ No more than ¾-inch of water may be applied on irrigation days.

For this year's full water quality test results, visit www.gru.com/waterreport



GRU has reduced printing costs with this pamphlet by moving the full report online. GRU is required by the EPA to provide this report to its customers.

To request a hard copy, please call (352) 393-1600.

Service & Billing Questions: (352) 334-3434
Water/Wastewater Repair: (352) 334-2711
Water Testing Requests: (352) 393-6501

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

We are pleased to report that our drinking water continues to meet all federal and state requirements!

GRU routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws, rules and regulations.

The Treatment Process

GRU treats water pumped from the Floridan Aquifer. The treatment process includes lime softening, recarbonation, filtration, fluoridation and disinfection.

About this Report

This water quality report is submitted to customers as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of GRU's monitoring for the period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Data obtained before January 1, 2013, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations. The state allows GRU to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

About GRU

GRU is a municipally-owned utility, governed by the Gainesville City Commission. The commission meets at City Hall, 200 East University Avenue,

Gainesville, Fla., on the first and third Thursday of every month.

Source Water Assessment

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed Source Water Assessments on GRU's system in 2013. The assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination within a five-year ground water travel time around each well. No potential sources of contamination were identified. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

Additional information is available at www.gru.com.

Listed below are nine parameters detected in GRU's water during the reporting period. All are below maximum contaminant levels allowed. Not listed are the many other parameters we test for, but that were not detected. Unless otherwise noted, all parameters were tested in 2013. As you can see by the tables, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal, state and local requirements.

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
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	3/11	N	0.0091		2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/13 – 12/13	N	0.45	0.21 – 0.80	4	4.0	Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10/12	N	0.05		10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	3/11	N	10.6		N/A	160	Leaching from soil
Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts							
For chlorine, the level detected is the the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year. Range of results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations.							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1/13 – 12/13	N	1.23	0.35 – 1.51	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	4/12, 7/12, 10/12	N/A	8.33	N/A – 10.3	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	4/12, 7/12, 10/12	N/A	48.14	36.1 – 65.2	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection



Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	9/13	N	0.028	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/13	N	3.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with home plumbing. There are no known lead service lines in our water distribution system. Gainesville Regional Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water,

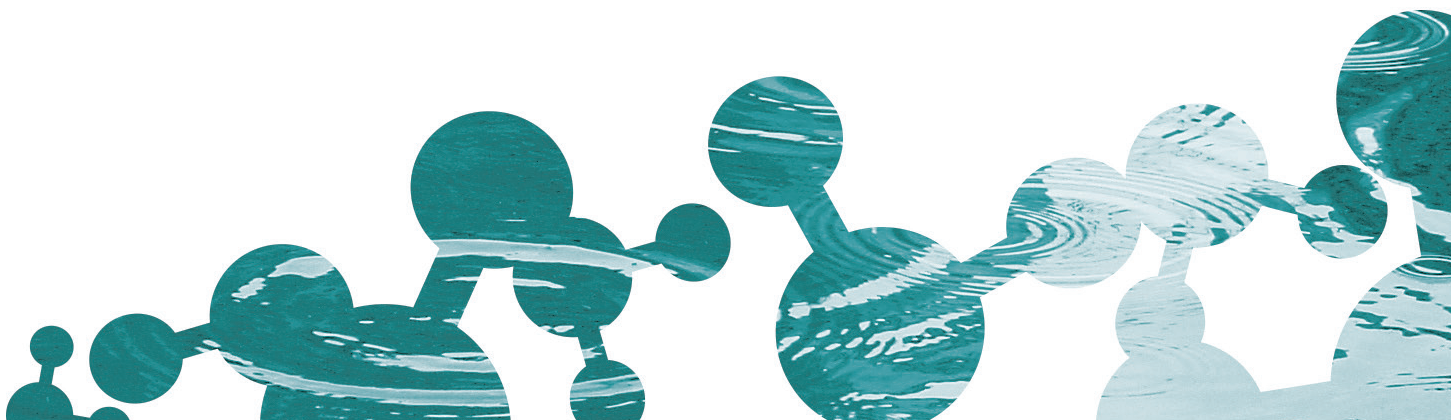
but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in 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 by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or visiting www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3)

Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. GRU is required to publish the analytical results of the UCMR 3 in the annual water quality report. GRU tested 28 potential contaminants, including seven hormones. All were below detection except for the following:

Contaminant	Average	Range of Detection	Likely Source of Contamination
Chromium (total) (ppb)	0.29	0.22 – 0.32	Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys. Chromium-3 or -6 forms are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preservation
Molybdenum (ppb)	0.52	0.51 – 0.52	Naturally occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide used as a chemical reagent
Strontium (ppb)	496	420 – 554	Naturally occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions
Vanadium (ppb)	0.40	0.31 – 0.48	Naturally occurring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and catalyst
Chromium-6 (ppb)	0.14	0.12 – 0.17	See "Chromium (total)"
Chlorate (ppb)	19.8	10.1 – 29	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection byproduct, used in production of chlorine dioxide



Glossary

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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 the 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 there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

No Detection (ND): Indicates the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

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.

Additional Information About Your Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 occur naturally or result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that 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 800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those 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/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 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater.



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