

1891-2015

Gainesville Regional Utilities

# Water Report

124 years of excellence

**Enjoy High-Quality GRU Water with a Free Tumbler!**  
 The first 100 customers who read this year's water quality test results at [gru.com/waterreport](http://gru.com/waterreport) and fill out a brief *survey* will receive a free tumbler.



## SAFE, CLEAN WATER

GRU's top priority is to make sure every drop of water from your faucet is safe and clean. Our water continues to meet all federal and state drinking water standards and is treated at our award-winning Murphree Water Treatment Plant through oxidation, lime softening, recarbonation, filtration, fluoridation and disinfection. GRU provides high-quality drinking water to approximately 189,000 people who use a household average of 5,550 gallons each month.

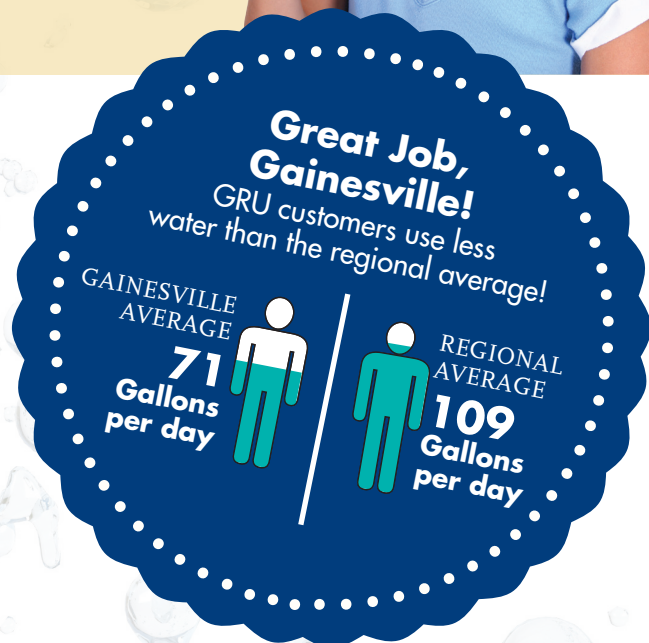
## WATER SUPPLY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In 2014, GRU received a 20-year Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) from the St. Johns River Water Management District. The CUP allows GRU to withdraw up to 30 million gallons of water per day from the ground. Even though our population continues to grow, GRU is not projecting more water usage. GRU believes that our community uses water wisely and that we can continue to expand our conservation and reclaimed water initiatives to protect this valuable resource for future generations.



**100%**  
**delicious!**

- ✓ Low sodium!
- ✓ Fat free!
- ✓ Low nitrate!



**Come take a stroll on weekends!**



## PROTECTING THE AQUIFER

The Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration Project was completed this year, restoring more than 1,300 acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat in Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park while improving water quality in Alachua Sink and Paynes Prairie.

The project is a joint venture between GRU and the City of Gainesville Public Works Department. It includes improvements to GRU's Main Street Water Reclamation Facility and the construction of *Sweetwater Wetlands Park*, a more than 125-acre recreational park filled with plants and wildlife. The park, located on SE Williston Road between S Main Street and SE 16 Avenue, is open to the public on weekends from 7 a.m. to sunset.

## FILTERING IS A CHOICE, NOT A NECESSITY

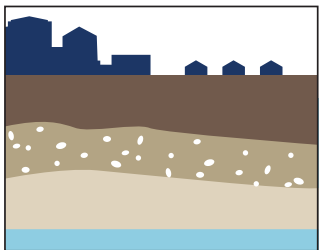
GRU's water is safe to drink when it comes out of the tap. If you choose to use a home filtration system, follow directions for cleaning and maintenance. If a third-party company contacts you for water testing, or if you have concerns about water quality, please call GRU at 352-393-6501.

Only three organizations certify home water filtration systems:

NSF  
INTERNATIONAL  
[www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)  
800-673-6275

UNDERWRITERS  
LABORATORIES, INC.  
[www.ul.com/water](http://www.ul.com/water)  
847-272-8800

WATER QUALITY  
ASSOCIATION  
[www.wqa.org](http://www.wqa.org)  
630-505-0160



### A GROUNDWATER SOURCE

GRU's Murphree Water Treatment Plant is supplied by groundwater from the Floridan aquifer. Our drinking water begins

the treatment process with high-quality water due to natural protection from the environment. The geology of the land acts as a natural filter and barrier to external pollutants. Our wellfield also resides on 7,100 acres of conservation land for additional protection.



### DID YOU KNOW?

A partnership between the Gainesville Police Department and GRU has provided police with a K-9 training location at the Murphree Water Treatment Plant for the last decade. The added security is just one of the ways that GRU protects our water treatment plant.

**YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED** >> Visit [gru.com/waterFAQs](http://gru.com/waterFAQs) for more information.

Question	Potential Cause	Solution
Why does my water smell like rotten eggs?	Household plumbing.	Please visit <a href="http://gru.com/waterFAQs">gru.com/waterFAQs</a> for general household plumbing information.
Why does my water look cloudy?	Trapped air bubbles.	Run the water in the tub for five minutes; repeat if needed.
Why does my water look rusty?	Neighborhood fire hydrants may have been tested to ensure reliability in case of a fire.	Run the water in the tub for five minutes to flush rusty water. Remember not to wash clothes until water clears. If water does not clear up, please call GRU at 352-334-2711.
What is GRU's water hardness?	Our groundwater is harder due to dissolved minerals (about 140 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub> , or 8 grains).	Home brewers or aquarium owners can visit <a href="http://gru.com/waterquality">gru.com/waterquality</a> for water chemistry information.
Are there pharmaceuticals in my water?	Improper disposal of medications.	GRU tests for pharmaceuticals. All results are at or below the detection limits. For this year's water quality test results, visit <a href="http://gru.com/waterreport">gru.com/waterreport</a> .



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

GRU has reduced the printing costs of this pamphlet by moving the full water quality 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.

# 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 our 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. 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 through December 31, 2014. Data obtained before January 1, 2014, 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.

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

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

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed Source Water Assessments on GRU's system in 2014. Assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination within a 5-year groundwater 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 [dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

Additional information is available at [gru.com](http://gru.com).

Listed below are 10 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 that were not detected. Unless otherwise noted, all parameters were tested in 2014. 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.

## MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Highest Monthly [Range]	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	1/14–12/14	N	0.78% [0–0.78%]	0	For systems collecting at least 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in >5% of monthly samples. For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in >1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment.

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

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
Barium (ppm)	6/14	N	0.0091	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/14–12/14	N	0.58	0.23–0.77	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	6/14	N	0.043	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	6/14	N	11.1	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

## DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

For chlorine, the level detected is the highest Running Annual Average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. Range of Results is the range of all the individual samples collected during the past year.

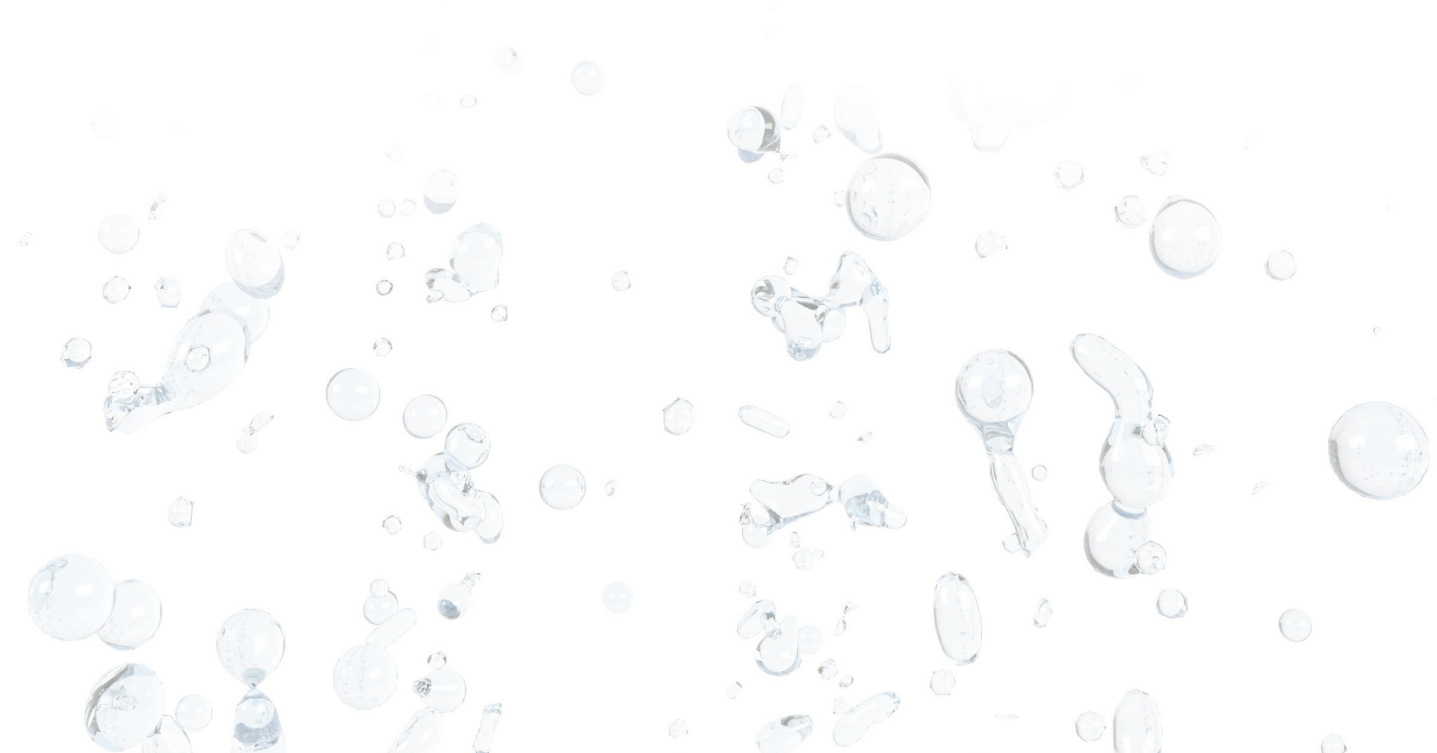
For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA), computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected from a location if the system is monitoring quarterly or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. 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	1/14–12/14	N	1.27	1.13–1.37	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	1/14–10/14	N	8.8	4.4–10.8	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalo-methanes] (ppb)	1/14–10/14	N	56.2	30.1–79.4	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)

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
Copper (Tap Water) (ppm)	9/13	N	0.028	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (Tap Water) (ppb)	9/13	N	3.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791** or at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## GLOSSARY

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

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** The arithmetic average of analytic results for samples taken at a specific monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant 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.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** The arithmetic average of analytic results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER

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 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 by-products 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 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/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 [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).

