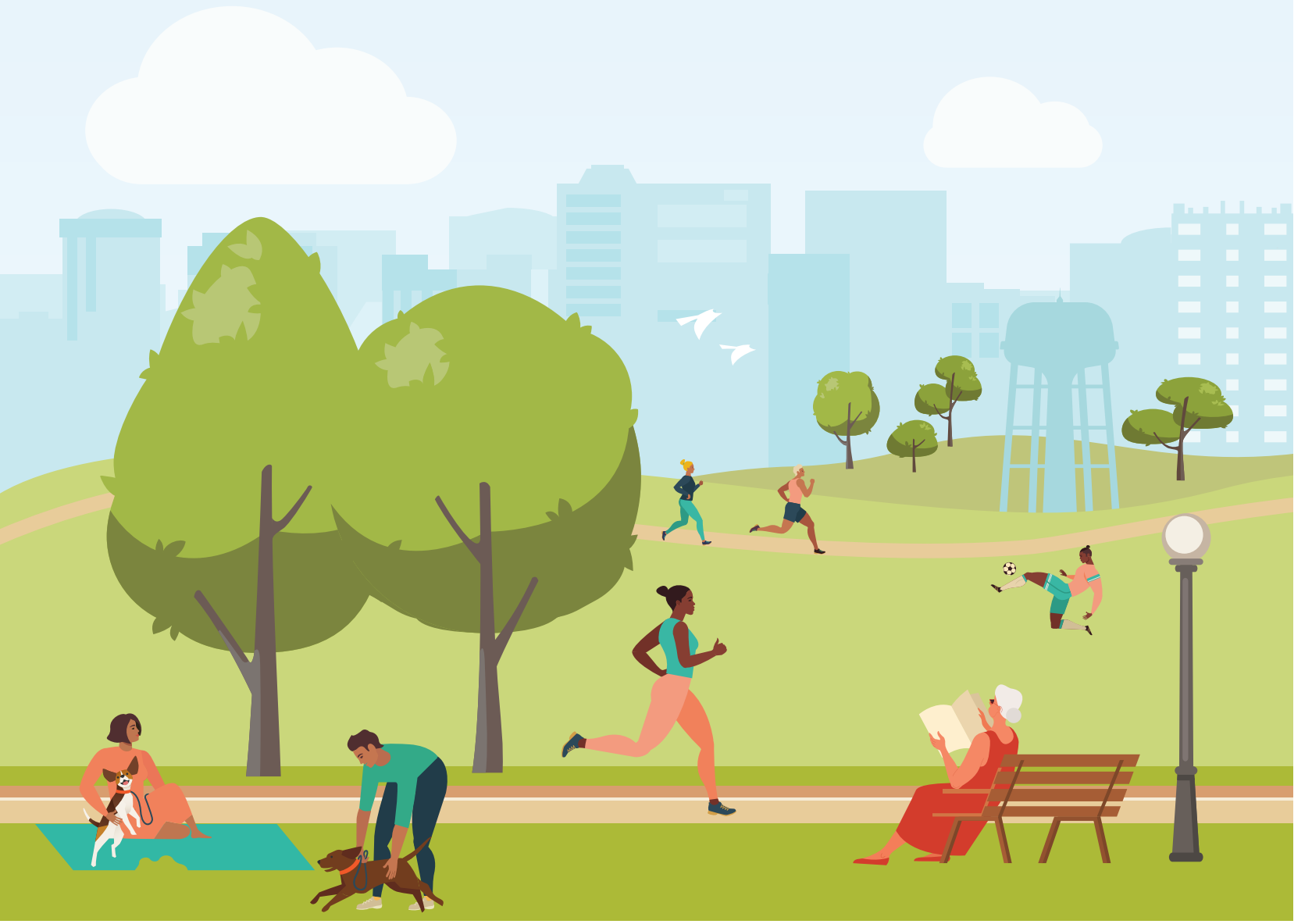
CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

WATER QUALITY REPORT

2022

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. The City's constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

I'm pleased to share with you the City of Tallahassee's 2022 Water Quality Report. Delivering a safe and dependable supply of drinking water is paramount for our community, and as you'll see on these pages, it is a responsibility to which your City Utilities is fully committed.

For more than 120 years, the City has provided our community with safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water. The City's drinking water is routinely analyzed for more than 80 components, and test results consistently show that regulated contaminants of drinking water are either not detected or present in amounts well below the limits permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Florida Department of Health.

With an eye to the future, City staff also constantly monitors the water system for new and emerging contaminants. For instance, the EPA has approved new regulations for sampling and analyzing lead in drinking water which will be effective in 2024. With the new regulation requirements in mind, the City has already begun to further enhance its processes, sampling plans and customer outreach programs. In addition to monitoring its quality, the City consistently takes measures to ensure that our water supply and associated infrastructure are protected and secure.

Our team continually works to protect the pristine Floridan aquifer that supplies our water to ensure it is available for generations to come. We also rely on you to be water-wise and help protect this natural resource. Throughout this report, you will find tips that can help you maintain the water quality from its source to your faucet.

As General Manager of Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure (UUPI), I see first-hand the level of commitment our team demonstrates daily to meet customers' expectations. The professionalism that exists throughout UUPI, the team's passion for public service and the scientifically backed data used to guide decision making enable us to provide best-in-class services to the community. This 2022 Water Quality Report is an excellent resource to learn about the high-quality water we enjoy in Tallahassee. Should you want to know more, please contact us directly or visit Talgov.com/WaterQuality.

Sincerely,

Steve Shafer

Steve Shafer, P.E.
General Manager, Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure

Please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Commission meetings. Call 850-891-1200 or visit Talgov.com for the schedule of Commission meeting dates and times.

STEVE SHAFER. P.E.
General Manager,
Underground Utilities
& Public Infrastructure

This report presents important information and water quality compliance data from January 1 to December 31, 2021 (unless noted otherwise) and shows that the City's drinking water continues to meet or surpass all state and federal drinking water requirements.

City of Tallahassee
Your Own Utilities℠

The conditions in your home plumbing system can affect the

QUALITY OF YOUR WATER.

Read more for tips to help you maintain your water quality throughout your home.

WATCH YOUR TEMP

A water heater temperature set too low can allow bacteria to grow, which can cause odors. Temperatures set too high can cause scalding and increase the buildup of calcium scale within the water heater. Follow manufacturer recommendations.

WATER HEATER UPKEEP

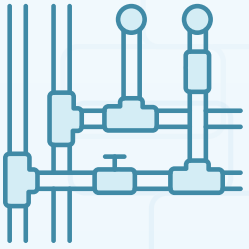
Water heaters require regular maintenance. Unusual odors that smell like rotten eggs or a burnt match, a decline in water pressure, or white flakes in the water can be signs the water heater may need maintenance.

KEEP UP YOUR WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Maintain home water treatment systems, including filters, treatment devices, and water softeners, as recommended by the manufacturer.

OUT WITH THE OLD

Older pipes are at greater risk of leaking and corroding or releasing metals such as iron, lead, copper, or zinc into your water. Replace old plumbing, especially lead-containing and galvanized plumbing material.



MAKE IT MOVE

Use water taps regularly. Flush cold water taps (open the faucets) throughout your home for several minutes when water has not been used for several days. If your water has been unused for six or more hours (during nighttime, as an example) and you experience a metallic flavor, run the water for two minutes before using.

FLUSH TAPS AFTER PLUMBING WORK

When new plumbing is installed, it is important to flush your household water system (open the taps and let the water run). A licensed plumber should provide instructions on to how to flush the system. This should include flushing water throughout your house by opening cold water faucets one at a time, starting with the lowest floor (such as the basement) up to the highest floor in your house.

STAY AWARE

Take action when you experience a change in the taste, smell, or color of your water or notice particles in your water or stains on fixtures and laundry.

GO FOR THE COLD

Use cold tap water for drinking and food preparation. Homes with lead pipes or copper pipes with lead solder run the risk of lead leaching into water when water sits in the pipes. As hot water dissolves lead and other metals more quickly, your exposure to these elements increases when you use hot water for drinking or in a consumable way.

THE HARD FACTS

Calcium deposits around faucets, shower fixtures, and toilet bowl water lines (where mold may grow) are due to the 'hard' water in this area. This region's water comes from the Floridan aquifer, which is made of limestone rock. The water dissolves the rock, picking up calcium and other minerals. As water evaporates, it leaves behind the calcium resulting in the deposits or stains. Light stains can be removed with simple white vinegar. Heavier stains may require a stronger, more aggressive cleaner.

STAY WATER-WISE

DISCOLORED WATER

Rust or iron can build up in the plumbing system, causing brown or yellow water, stained fixtures and laundry, and a metallic flavor. If you regularly experience discolored water, especially immediately after periods of long stagnation, have your plumber check for and replace old galvanized pipe. If no galvanized pipe is found, have your plumber thoroughly flush your water heater and household plumbing system.

CONTAMINATION

Contamination happens when drinking water plumbing is connected or in contact with a non-drinking water system like a lawn sprayer, swimming pool, irrigation system, or water heating and cooling system. When water flows back from the non-drinking water system into your drinking water plumbing system, your drinking water becomes contaminated. A licensed plumber can check your household water system to protect against contamination of your drinking water.

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

Disposing of household chemicals – pesticides, paints, furniture strippers, or other household products – can be challenging. Dumping them on the ground is bad for the environment, surface and ground water, plants, and animals. Leaving them in the closet or garage only delays the problem. Leon County's Hazardous Waste Division can answer your questions about safely disposing of your household chemicals; call them at 850-606-1816.

DISPOSING OF USED OIL

Don't throw away used oil! Return used oil to stores or garages that accept and recycle the oil. Many stores that provide oil change services will also accept oil, transmission, and hydraulic fluids from do-it-yourselfers – just call and ask. Used oil filters may also be recycled as scrap. Oil filters are highly recyclable products, containing materials desired by manufacturers for industrial use.

Can you feel the PRESSURE?

The City of Tallahassee strives to provide adequate water system pressure to all its customers. Regulations require a minimum pressure of 20 psi (pounds per square inch) as a method to protect the water system, but the City strives to provide a minimum service pressure of about 50 psi. Water pressure is controlled by the elevation of water in the water storage tanks relative to the ground elevation of each residence. Because the ground elevations in Tallahassee are highly variable, so is the water system pressure, in some cases reaching more than 100 psi. While most people consider high water pressure a good thing, water pressure that is too high can cause problems. High water pressure uses extra water, resulting in higher water bills. It places stress on your household plumbing and can even lead to leaks. High water pressure can also put strain on appliances like your washing machine, water heater, and ice maker, shortening their lifespan.

So, what can you do to protect your household plumbing from excessive pressure? Florida Plumbing Code requires the installation of a pressure regulating valve (PRV) when the service pressure at the water meter exceeds 80 psi. Most PRVs are adjustable, so you can adjust your household plumbing pressure to your desired pressure. Keep in mind that pressure reducing valves – like all mechanical equipment – don't last forever. Consider hiring a plumber on occasion to evaluate your household plumbing and water pressure. If there is a problem with excessive pressure or your PRV is not functioning properly, a licensed plumber can evaluate and correct the problem.

SOURCE & TREATMENT

For more than 120 years, the City of Tallahassee has provided our community with clean, reliable, and safe drinking water.

Currently, the City of Tallahassee operates 27 deep wells drilled directly into the Floridan aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water source, only limited treatment is required. Each of the well sources are treated with chlorine for disinfection purposes and fluoride to improve dental health.

Six of the 27 wells use carbon filtration to remove certain chemicals found in the aquifer in those locations. One well (offline for 2021) provides Greensand filtration to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese from the source water, and another well provides treatment to sequester iron and manganese in the distribution system.

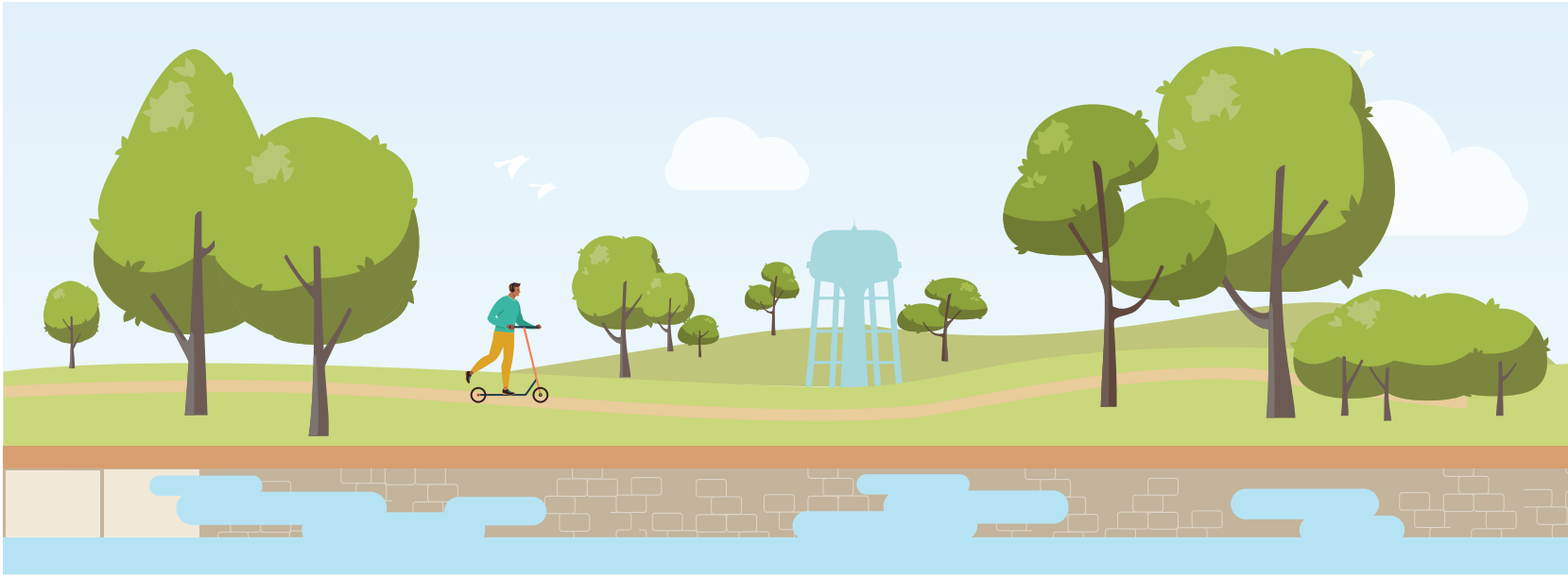
Source Water Assessment & Protection

In 2021, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 46 potential sources of contamination with low to high susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp, or they can be obtained by contacting the City's Water Quality Laboratory at 850-891-1200.

In the Future

It may be necessary to make improvements to your water system that will benefit all our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rates, and adjustments may be necessary to address these improvements. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water.

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/Center for Disease Control (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 1-800-426-4791.



UNDERSTANDING SOURCE WATER QUALITY

According to federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, the City of Tallahassee routinely monitors for more than 80 contaminants in our drinking water.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) 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.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which 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 1-800-426-4791.

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.

Small actions can make a big impact

SAVE MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Use reusable water bottles. Bottled water can cost as much as 1,000 times more than tap water!

CONSERVE WATER

Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth. Fix leaking toilets and faucets. Water your lawn in the mornings (before 10 a.m.) to take advantage of cooler temperatures and morning dew. Use rain sensors on your irrigation systems to prevent watering when it rains.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Please DO NOT FLUSH your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains. Dispose properly in the trash or at designated collection sites. More information is available at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm

UNDERSTANDING OUR WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **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.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 or 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.
- **Not Detected (ND):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** measure of the radioactivity in water.

The contaminants listed in the following tables are the only contaminants detected in our drinking water. The City of Tallahassee routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021. Data obtained before January 1, 2021 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS / STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (D/DBP)

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected (average)	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	01/21 – 12/21	N	0.83	0.79 - 0.85	MRDLG = 4.0	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	02/21 – 11/21	N	7.58	ND - 10.45	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	02/21 – 11/21	N	19.91	ND - 37.87	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Typical Hardness and pH values for the City of Tallahassee's drinking water are Hardness = 155 mg/L or 9 grains per gallon and the pH required range (6.5 – 8.5) = 7.5 pH units

RADIOACTIVE 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
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	01/20 – 09/20	N	6.26	ND - 6.26	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	09/17 01/20 – 09/20	N	0.99	ND - 0.99	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/L)	01/20 – 09/20	N	0.51	NA	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER) from Residential Sources

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)	07/20 – 09/20	N	0.47	0 out of 52	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	07/20 – 09/20	N	2.0	1 out of 52	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Drinking Water

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 City of Tallahassee 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 tap 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 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

If test results indicate elevated levels of lead within your home or business, consider using a point-of-use water filter that is certified to remove lead, and be sure to replace filters according to the manufacturer's recommendations. For more permanent water quality improvements, consider replacing old plumbing pipes, fixtures, and appliances made with modern lead-free materials. These updates can improve your in-home water quality and they can also increase the value of your home.

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected (average)	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	01/21 – 10/21	N	1.18	ND – 1.42	0	3	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	10/19 – 07/20	N	0.35	ND – 1.4	0	3	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

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
Arsenic (ppb)	01/20 – 09/20	N	2.3	ND – 2.3	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	01/20 – 09/20	N	0.018	0.006 – 0.018	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	01/20 – 09/20	N	1.3	ND – 1.3	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Fluoride (ppm)	01/20 – 09/20	N	0.97	0.46 – 0.97	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive that promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	01/20 – 09/20	N	3	ND – 3	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	01/21 – 12/21	N	0.451	ND – 0.451	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	01/21 – 12/21	N	0.002	ND – 0.002	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	01/20 – 09/20	N	4.18	2.33 – 4.18	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

City of Tallahassee
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City of Tallahassee Water Utility
4505 A Springhill Road
Tallahassee, FL 32305

The City of Tallahassee is the largest single provider of municipal services in the region. To learn more about services provided, visit Talgov.com. If you have questions about the 2022 Water Quality Report or you would like additional copies, please call 850-891-1200 or email WaterQualityReporting@Talgov.com. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day.