

## ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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.

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, that 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The City of Thomaston's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY WATER?

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## OUTDOOR WATER USAGE SCHEDULE

Odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Sundays from midnight to 10AM.

Even and un-numbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from midnight to 10AM.

## YOUR WATER PROVIDER

The City of Thomaston is committed to providing our community with clean, safe and reliable drinking water. The water treatment plant treats drinking water and ensures water quality through continued monitoring and testing.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

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

## HOW TO REACH US & GET INVOLVED

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call Brian Kelly or Dennis Fallin at 706-646-8031. Our office is located at 309 Veterans Drive and is open Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of drinking water is encouraged. The City Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the City/County meeting room of the Thomaston-Upson County Government Complex, 106 East Lee Street.

Protect our watershed by taking some easy steps. Find out how you can participate by calling 706-646-8031 or go to our website at [www.cityofthomaston.com](http://www.cityofthomaston.com) and click on the link for Protecting Thomaston's Watershed.

## INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhme](http://www.epa.gov/watrhme)) and the CDC ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) websites provide substantial information on many issues related to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Georgia EPD has a website ([www.gaepd.org](http://www.gaepd.org)) that provides current information on water issues in our state.

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the USEPA is responsible for setting national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water and also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. Each system continually monitors for these substances and reports their findings to the USEPA. The USEPA uses the data to ensure that consumers are receiving clean water.

This publication conforms to the regulations under the SDWA requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. We are committed to providing you with this information about your water supply because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

# CITY OF THOMASTON WATER SYSTEM WSID #293000 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT

*Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our 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. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

## HOW WE ENSURE YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE

We are pleased to announce that your drinking water complied with, or did better than, all state and federal drinking water standards. As in the past, we remain committed to producing the best quality drinking water and services to all of our water users. Last year, there were more than 120 bacteriological tests performed on samples taken at the treatment facility and at more than 30 sampling locations in the water system as well as monthly chemical/process tests. We are determined to meet the challenges of increasingly demanding standards while also satisfying the water system growth demands. As you'll see in the enclosed table, we only detected 8 of the regulated contaminants tested for.

## HOW THE WATER IS TREATED

Water is withdrawn from Potato Creek. Then an algacide is added to prevent taste and odor caused by algae growth. The water is stored in two reservoirs, Hannah's Mill, which is 250 million gallons (mg), and Lake Thomaston which is 500 mg. Lake Thomaston provides storage for more than 120 days of drought conditions. Water from the reservoirs is pumped to a smaller reservoir then conveyed to the treatment plant where coagulants are added to remove contaminants through settling. Following sedimentation, the water is filtered through layers of anthracite and sand where the clear water emerges. Finally, soda ash is added to help adjust the pH, chlorine is added for disinfection, fluoride is added to prevent tooth decay and orthophosphosphate is added to minimize corrosion of service lines and plumbing.

## WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY WATER?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from Potato Creek. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants. We have worked with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to assess the vulnerability of our water source to *potential* contamination and identify protection measures to address existing and future impacts on our water source. Please contact us at 706-646-8031 for more information on this assessment or our Watershed Protection Plan.

## 2020 WATER QUALITY SUMMARY TABLE — WSID #2930000

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation	Dates of Sampling	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	No	2020	0.24	100	N/A	TT	Soil Runoff
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation	Dates of Sampling	Level Detected <sup>A</sup>	Range of Results <sup>A</sup>	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	No	2020	1.54	1.01—1.89	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper (at consumer taps) (ppm)	No	2018	0.094	0 of 32 samples >AL	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (at consumer taps) (ppb) <sup>B</sup>	No	2018	ND	0 of 32 samples >AL	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	No	2020	0.78	0.24—1.12 (Range of monthly averages)	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) (all sites)	No	2020	31 (highest)	16—31	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)(ppb)(all sites)	No	2020	59 (highest)	27—59	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	No	2020	1.08	0.60—1.50	N/A	TT removal Ratio ≥1	Naturally present in the environment
Chromium, (ppb) <i>unregulated</i>		2014	0.2	N/A	The City of Thomaston monitored for unregulated contaminants in 2014. The monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.		
Chromium, hexavalent (ppb) <i>unregulated</i>		2014	0.13 (average)	0.06-0.21			
Strontium (ppb) <i>unregulated</i>		2014	21.63 (average)	15-31			
Vanadium (ppb) <i>unregulated</i>		2014	0.2	N/A			

### WHAT DOES THIS CHART MEAN?

The terms used in the water quality summary table above and in other parts of this report are defined below. The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done according to the regulations. All data shown were collected during the last calendar year unless noted in the table.

**AL**– Regulatory action level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL**– Maximum contaminant level, or 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, or 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, or 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, or 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 or the system was not mandated to test this substance.

**ND**– no amount of substance was detected when tested.

**NTU**– Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

**ppm**– parts per million or milligrams per liter explained in relation to time as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years.

**ppb**– Parts per billion or micrograms per liter explained in relation to time as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years.

**TT**– Treatment technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### TABLE NOTES AND VIOLATION EXPLANATIONS

- A. The result in the level detected column for chlorine is the yearly average of all the test results for the year. The result in the level detected column for fluoride is the annual average of all 2020 samples for TTHMs and HAA5s is the maximum quarterly locational running annual avg. for all sites tested. The result in the level detected column for TOC is the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC rule requirements and is the lowest running annual avg. computed quarterly, of the monthly removal ratios. The result in the level detected column for copper and lead is the 90th percentile of all sample results for the most recent round of sampling. The range of results is the range results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites except as noted in the table.
- B. 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 line and home plumbing. The City of Thomaston 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 second before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water test. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.