WATER QUALITY IN LOWNDES COUNTY

North Lowndes County Water System WSID # 1850016
South Lowndes County Water System WSID # 1850019
Alapaha Plantation Water System # 1850274
Creekside West Water System # 1850322
Spring Creek Water System # 1850297

We're pleased to present you the 2019 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 resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water is pumped from the Upper Floridian Aquifer.

We are also pleased to report our drinking water meets federal and state requirements. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

Special Population Advisory

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 guidelines on how to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

Public Participation Opportunities

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any regularly scheduled Commissioners meetings. They are held at 327 North Ashley Street on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm.

Contaminants in 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

Drinking Water Sources

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides & herbicides,* which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *Radioactive contaminants,* which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants,* including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Water Quality Monitoring

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these 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 through December 31, 2019. The state 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 of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Lowndes County Utilities works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources; they are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Terms & Abbreviations

- **AL: Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **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.
- **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.
- **mg/L**: milligrams per liter--- (corresponds to the equivalent of ppm)
- **N/A**: not applicable
- **ND:** Not detectable at testing limit
- **ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter** -- (corresponds to one minute in two years)
- **ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter** --(corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years)
- **pCi/L: Picocuries per liter** (a measure of radiation)
- **µg/L: Micrograms per liter** - (corresponds to the equivalent of **ppb**)
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 microbiological 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. MRDLG"s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Lead in 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 North and South Lowndes water systems are 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 or at http://www.epa.gov.safewater/lead.

North Lowndes Water System # 1850016

Contaminant	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppb)	1300 (AL)	1300	194	0 - 910	2018	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	.7	0.4 – 1.3	Monthly	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	1.8	0 - 28	2018	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants (REGULATED)							
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (Stewart Cir.)	80	NA	58	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (Quail Run Cir.)	80	NA	52	8.9 - 65.6	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (Stewart Cir.)	60	NA	59	24.0 - 49	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (Quail Run Cir)	60	NA	33	11 – 20	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
VOC							
Bomofluorobenzene (µg/L)	3.65-5.75	N/A	4.51	.50	2019	**NO**	VOCs are emitted by manmade product, such as paints and lacquers
Dichlorobenzene (µg/L)	3.74-5.78	N/A	4.68	.50	2019	**NO**	
Chloroform (µg/L)		N/A	5.1	.50	2019	**NO**	
Bromodichloromethane (µg/L)		N/A	.52	.50	2019	**NO**	
Free Chlorine Residual							
Free Chlorine (mg/L)	4.0 MRDL	4.0 MRDLG	1.0	0.2 - 4.0	Daily	**NO**	Chemical added for disinfection
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	<5% positive	Zero samples positive	%0	0	Monthly	**NO**	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment.
Nitrate/Nitrite							
Nitrate/Nitrite (mg/L)	10	NA	Not Detected	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**NO**	Fertilizer

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South Lowndes Water System # 1850019

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppb)	1300 (AL)	1300	350	0 – 350	2018	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	.80	.2 – 1.0	Monthly	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	1.2	0 – 3.5	2018	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Free Chlorine Residual							
Free Chlorine (mg/L)	4.0 MRDL	4.0 MRDLG	.80	0.2–1.5	Daily	**NO**	Chemical added for disinfection
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (LP/Bellville Hwy.)	80	NA	30	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (Twin lakes RD.)	80	NA	26	8.9 - 65.6	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (LP/Bellville Hwy.)	60	NA	20	24.0 - 49	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (Twin lakes RD)	60	NA	19	11 – 20	2019	**No**	Disinfection byproducts
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	<5% positive	Zero samples positive	0%	0	Monthly	**NO**	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment.
Nitrate/Nitrite							
Nitrate/Nitrite (mg/L)	10	NA	Not Detected	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**NO**	Fertilizer

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Creekside West Water System # 1850322

Contaminant	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Result/Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppb)	1300 (AL)	1300	25.4	0 – 120	2018	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.80	.6 – 1.2	Monthly	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	2.9	0 – 12	2018	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminates (REGULATED)							
Total Trihalomethane (ug/L)	80	NA	11	1.1 - 11	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60	NA	6	3.6 – 5.1	2019	**NO**	Disinfection byproducts
Other Contaminates: RADIONUCLIDES							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	N/D	N/D	2012	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposit
Unregulated Contaminates							
Free Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.72	.6 – 2.2	Daily	**NO**	Chemical added for Disinfection
Nitrate/Nitrite							
Nitrate/Nitrite (mg/L)	10	NA	Not Detected	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**NO**	Fertilizer
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	<5% positive	Zero samples positive	0%	0.0	Monthly	**NO**	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment

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Alapaha Plantation Water System # 1850274

Contaminant	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Result/Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppb)	1300 (AL)	1300	225	0 - 310	2019	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.80	.4 – 1.3	Monthly	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	0	0 - 33	2019	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants (REGULATED)							
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (Live Oak DR.)	80	NA	126	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (Red Oak Pt.)	80	NA	84	8.9 - 65.6	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (Live Oak DR.)	60	NA	100	24.0 - 49	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (Red Oak Pt.)	60	NA	72	11 – 20	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Unregulated Contaminates							
Free Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	2.0	.2 - 4.0	Daily	**NO**	Chemical added for Disinfection
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	<5% positive	Zero samples positive	0%	0.0	Monthly	**NO**	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment
Nitrate/Nitrite							
Nitrate/Nitrite (mg/L)	10	NA	Not Detected	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**NO**	Fertilizer

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SPRING CREEK WATER SYSTEM # 1850297

Contaminant	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Result/Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppb)	1300 (AL)	1300	188	0 - 300	2017	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	1.65	0 – 2.5	2017	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminates (REGULATED)							
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (Highest HAA Site)	80	NA	162	35.6 - 75.9	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) (Highest THM Site)	80	NA	151	8.9 - 65.6	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (Highest HAA Site)	60	NA	159	24.0 - 49	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) (Highest THM Site)	60	NA	149	11 – 20	2019	**YES**	Disinfection byproducts
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	<5% positive	Zero samples positive	0%	0.0	Monthly	**NO**	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment
Unregulated Contaminates							
Free Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	2.0	.2 – 4.0	Daily	**NO**	Chemical added for Disinfection
Fluoride	4	4	.80	.5 – 1.4	Monthly		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

OTHER CONTAMINATES (RADIONUCLIDES)							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	15	2+/-1	2+/-1	2000	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposit
Nitrate/Nitrite							
Nitrate/Nitrite (mg/L)	10	NA	Not Detected	.20	2018	**NO**	Fertilizer
Volatile organic compound							
Bromoflorobenzene (ug/L)	5.75	NA	5.06	.50	2019	**NO**	VOCs are emitted by manmade products, such as paints and lacquers.
Dichlorobenzene (ug/L)	5.78	NA	5.26	.50	2019	**NO**	
Chloroform (ug/L)		NA	140	.50	2019	**NO**	
Bromodichloromethane (ug/L)		NA	6.0	.50	2019	**NO**	

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