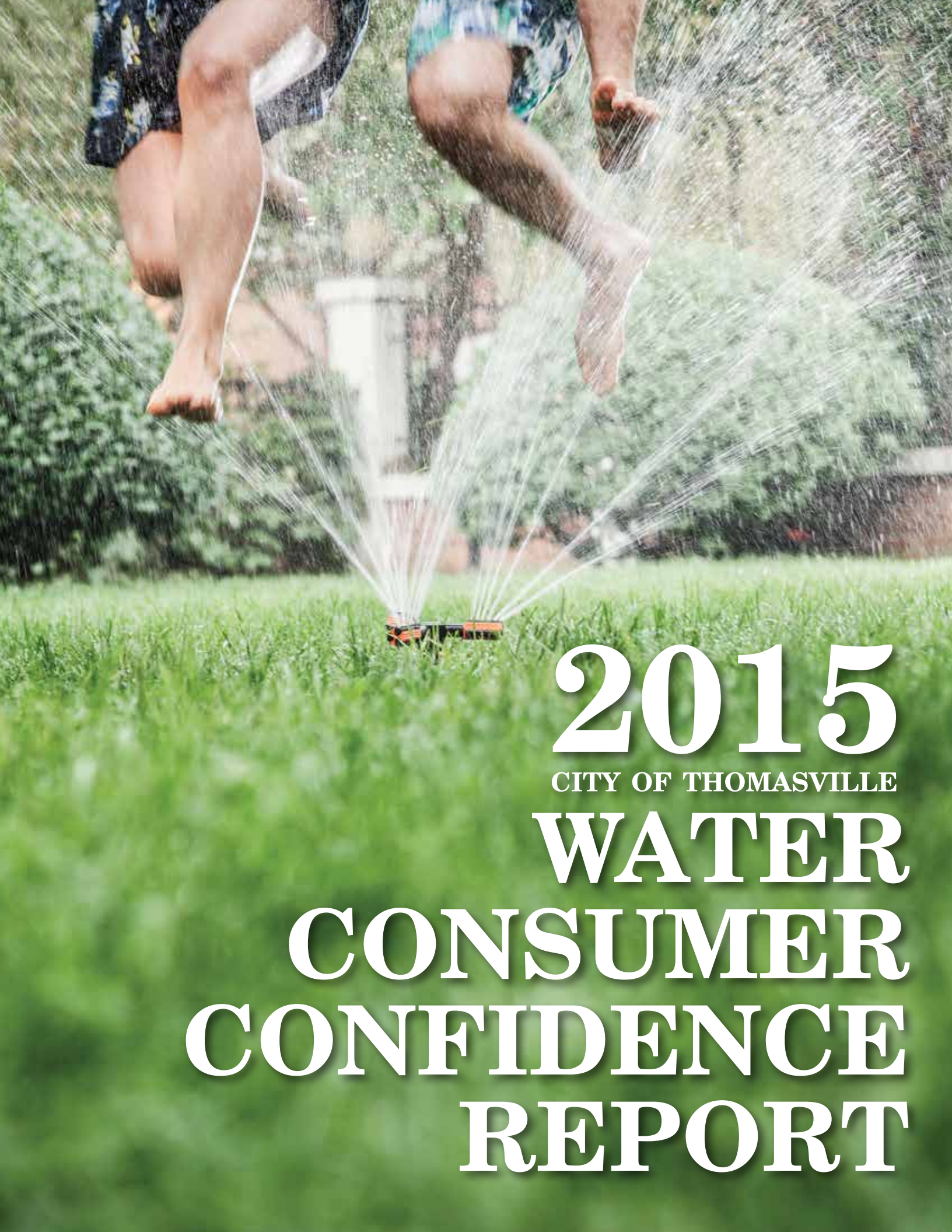


2015

CITY OF THOMASVILLE

WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

City of Thomasville WATER

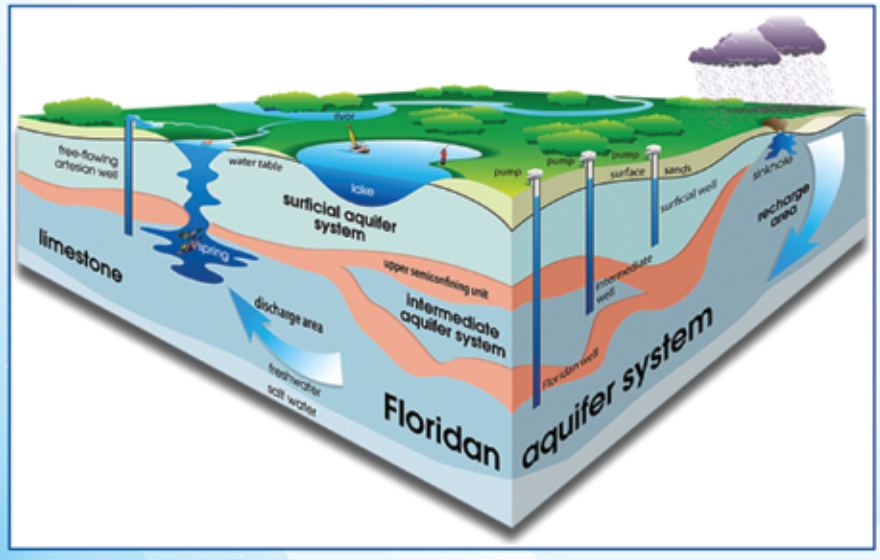
2015 Water Consumer Confidence Report

For the last four years, City Water Treatment staff members have earned the Gold Award for 100 percent compliance with all Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Of the approximately 2,600 water systems in Georgia, less than 10 percent in 2015 were eligible to receive the award.

Earning the Gold Award is a monumental task, as the Water Treatment staff tests approximately 30 points throughout the water distribution system each month. Congratulations to the Water Treatment staff for achieving this distinction.

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. Food and Drug Administration 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 small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.



Did you know...

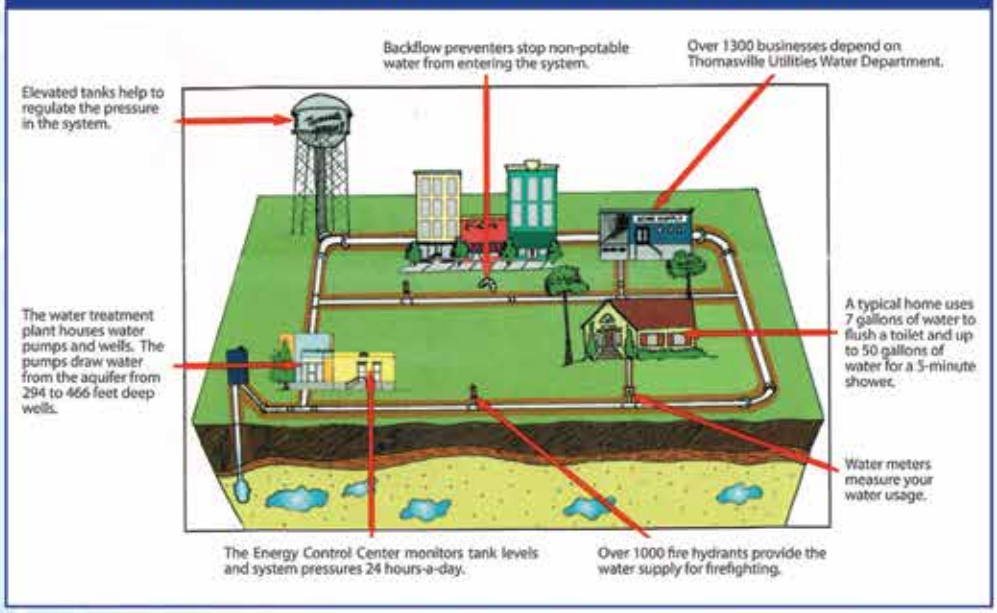
The capacity of the City water system is **15 million gallons per day,** and during the last decade, water usage has been about **one and a half billion gallons per year**, without affecting the water level.

The following table lists all the drinking water regulated substances that were detected during 2015. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

SUBSTANCE	UNIT	MCLG OR MRDLG	MCL OR MRDL	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE	PROBABLE SOURCE	VIOLATION
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	.7	.5 - .8	Water Additive to Control Microbes	No
Copper*	ppm	AL1.3	AL1.3	.13		Household Plumbing Corrosion	No
Lead*	ppb	AL0	AL15	2.5		Household Plumbing Corrosion	No
Flouride	ppm	4	4	.8	.6 - .9	Water Additive - Promotes Strong Teeth	No

*No unregulated substances or contaminants were detected in 2015. *No samples exceeded the action level for copper or lead.*

THOMASVILLE'S WATER SYSTEM



UNDERSTANDING 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 from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

Microbial: Contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that 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 run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production and mining or farming.

Pesticides & Herbicides: May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water run-off and residential uses.

Organic Chemicals: Includes synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants: Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

WATER ANALYSIS DEFINITIONS

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the highest amount of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (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 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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbiological contaminants.

Picocuries Per Liter (pCi/l) - a measure of radioactivity; **Parts Per Million (ppm)** - 1 part per 1,000,000; **Parts Per Billion (ppb)** - 1 part per 1,000,000,000

Visit thomasville.org to learn more about City of Thomasville Utilities.

$11m

Expansions for the City of Thomasville's water system have included approximately $11 million worth of scheduled system improvements. The distribution network has received additional mains, as well as two critical components to the system: a new, 500,000 gallon, elevated water tank and an additional two million gallon deep well.

$1.8m

Collectively the City's four elevated water tanks provide 1.8 million gallons of additional storage. These tanks are supplied by seven wells, which are served by the Floridan Aquifer, the oldest and deepest artesian aquifer in the southeastern United States.

21

The City of Thomasville has 21 full-time staff members whose sole job is to ensure that when you turn on your faucet, not only do you know there will be water, but you get the highest quality water. The water system is also monitored around the clock by a nine-man team at the City's Energy Control Center. Together, these staff members work tirelessly to maintain our network so that our customers don't have to worry about a thing.

270

The City of Thomasville's 270-mile-long water distribution network was built with service in mind. System redundancy helps to ensure that water services can be rendered even in the event of a catastrophic failure within a given section of our network.

$19.9m

Our $19.9 million dollars of infrastructure is comprised of seven wells, five pumps, four elevated tanks, two ground reservoirs and 270 miles of distribution pipe. These numbers mean that no matter what happens, we can and will provide reliable water service at consistent water pressure. The robust water distribution network we have built allows us to provide services even in the event of a power outage.

City of Thomasville WATER

2015 Water Consumer Confidence Report

System ID #2750005

The City of Thomasville Utilities and the Georgia EPD worked together to identify any contaminants to which our water supply could be vulnerable. Examples of potential vulnerabilities include storm run-off, location of adjacent sewer lines, dumpsters and electrical transformers. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, such as immuno-compromised persons, persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders. Some infants and elderly can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDA guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hot Line, 1-800-426-4791. A Georgia Well Head Protection Plan has been developed in order to protect our water from contamination. Copies of the plan can be obtained upon request by contacting Bob Reichert at (229) 227-3277.

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. City of Thomasville Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If your water has not been in use for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds, up to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in your water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

City of Thomasville WATER

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