



CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Green Cove Springs is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. The City wants to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. The City's goal is and always has been, 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. The City's water comes from five (5) wells that receive water from the Floridan Aquifer. The Floridan Aquifer is the primary source of water for the majority of Florida's water systems. We aerate and chlorinate this water before distribution to consumers.

In 2024 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 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 eight (8) potential sources of contamination identified for this system, all with low susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/> or they can be obtained from Jesse Ryan, Lead Operator.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jesse Ryan, Lead Operator, City of Green Cove Springs Water/Wastewater Department, between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (904) 297-7056 or Scott Schultz, Asst. Water Utilities Director at (904) 297-7060. The City encourages our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled council meetings. They are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL. You can call the Green Cove Springs City Hall at (904) 297-7500 to voice your concerns, comments and/or opinions and request to be placed on the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting.

The City of Green Cove Springs 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, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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 (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 (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.*

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.*

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L): *measure of the radioactivity in water.*

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
Radium 226 + 228, or Combined Radium (pCi/L)	04/2017	N	1.5	0.6-1.5	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

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)	07/2023	N	0.016	0.012 - 0.016	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	07/2023	N	13	7.6 – 13	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Fluoride (ppm)	07/2023	N	0.24	0.23-0.24	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer/aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	07/2024	N	0.20	0.20-0.20	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits.

Stage 1 Disinfectants							
Disinfectant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly 2024	N	2.08	0.52-3.32	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
For chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA) that occurred in 2024, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. Range of results is the range of all individual samples collected in 2024.							

Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products							
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
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	07/2024	N	15.19	N/A	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	07/2024	N	19.14	N/A	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	09/2022	N	0.055	0 of 23	0	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	09/2022	N	1.3	0 of 23	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

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 Green Cove Springs Water System 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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, 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.*

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 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.

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We at the City of Green Cove Springs work to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are vital to our community's health and welfare. If you see any suspicious or unusual activity concerning the water system, please report it to the Green Cove Springs Police Department at (904) 297-7300.

Delayed Sampling: The city conducts eight (8) Distribution System bacteriological samples per month. In November, due to an employee medical emergency, the second set of samples (4) scheduled for the week of November 25th, were not taken until the first week of December. While officially these samples were late, staff ultimately collected the eight (8) samples and all results showed an absence of bacteria. The city has not had an exceedance of this testing in recent history.