

# 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## City of Locust Grove Water System

ID #1510002

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water 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. Our water source is a spring and two wells, which are drawn from the Piedmont Aquifer. We also purchase water from the Henry County Water and Sewerage Authority. A Source Water Assessment has been completed for Henry County and is available to our public and includes information regarding potential sources of contamination in our watershed. A copy is available for viewing at City Hall.

### Drinking Water Source 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 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. Substances that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial substances, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic substances, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic discharges, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical substances, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive substances, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

You may pick up a copy of this report and a copy of Henry County Water and Sewerage Authority's report at City Hall Mon.-Fri. 8:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This report shows our water quality and what it means. We are pleased to report our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact David Ellis at 770-957-5043. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held **at the Municipal Building in Locust Grove, you may call 770-957-5043 for more information.**

The City of Locust Grove routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and States laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)* –one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Action Level* – the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* – The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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* – The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

## Detected Contaminants Table Regulated Contaminants

Substance	MCL	MCLG	CITY OF LOCUST GROVE	Detected Range	Number of Violations	Sample Data	Typical Sources of Contaminant
-----------	-----	------	----------------------	----------------	----------------------	-------------	--------------------------------

### Microbiological Monitoring Results Maximum

Total Coliform Bacteria	0% Positive	0% Positive	0% Positive	0% Positive	0	2011	Naturally Occurring
-------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	---	------	---------------------

### Detected Inorganic Contaminants

Fluoride	4	4	2.2	0-2.2	0	2011	Additive which promotes strong teeth/naturally occurring
Nitrate	10.0	10.0	1.2	0-1.5	0	2011	Runoff from Fertilizer use

### Detected Organic Contaminants

Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	2.2	0 – 2.2	0	2011	Added for Disinfection
----------------	---	---	-----	---------	---	------	------------------------

Substance	Action Level	MCLG	City of Locust Grove 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Numbers of Samples above Action Level	Number of Violations	Sample Date	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	N/A	2.5	0	0	2007	Corrosion of household plumbing systems,
Copper (ppm)	1.3	N/A	0.10	0	0	2007	Erosion of natural deposits.

**MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.**

### Notice to Immuno-compromised people

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 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/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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

## **Lead specific Information**

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 Locust Grove 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.eps.gov/safewater/lead>.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

## **Did you know?**

- Over 150,000,000 gallons was treated and pumped to the distribution system in 2011 from Locust Grove water sources.
- 65% of the water treated came from the Spring, and 35% from the Well. Water was also purchased from the Henry County Water Authority.
- Operators are licensed by the State of Georgia and must meet continuous training and educational requirements.

We at the City of Locust Grove work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and children's future.