City of Folkston
2023 Water Quality Report
Georgia Water System ID #: GA0490000

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Summary of Water Quality Information

The **City of Folkston** drinking water system is owned and operated by the **City of Folkston**. The facility office is located at 541 First Street in Folkston, Georgia. If there are ever any comments or inquiries to be made, please feel free to visit or call City Hall during regular working hours. Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The **City of Folkston** is committed to providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for everyone in the community. **This report will not be individually mailed to consumers; copies are available upon request at City Hall.**

Your water comes from three (3) community *groundwater* wells, **101**, **102**, and **103**. The wells derive water from a source known as the *Upper Floridan Aquifer* to provide ample volumes of water for your community. Well 101 is located on North First Street, well 102 is located at Homeland Park, and well 103 is located on Highway 252. These properties are protected from activities which could potentially cause contamination of the water source. Treatment is performed at the well to include removal of contaminants, chlorine disinfection, and the addition of fluoride. **For more information about your water or this report please call City Hall at 912-496-2563.**

A ***Wellhead Protection Plan*** **(WHPP)** for this facility has been completed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD). This report identifies any types of pollution to which your water supply could be vulnerable and includes information regarding potential sources of contamination in this watershed. **A copy of the WHPP is available at City Hall upon request.** While there are no cited potential pollution sources within the control zones, a fifteen (15) ft. perimeter around each well, this system is considered to be in a higher pollution susceptibility region. Outside the control zones, an inner management zone has also been established for each well. The inner management zone for wells 101 and 102 is a radius of two-hundred and fifty (250) ft. and one hundred (100) ft. for well 103. Cited potential pollution sources within the wells inner management zones include, but are not limited to, electrical transformers, utility poles, access and secondary roads, vehicle parking areas, and sewer lines. A complete list of cited potential pollution sources can be found on the facility's ***WHPP***.

The **City of Folkston** water system is tested for more than eighty (80) drinking water parameters on a periodic basis determined by the GA EPD Drinking Water Program and/or the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Sampling and testing schedules are based on initial contaminant level assessments and may be altered by the GA EPD if deemed necessary. Waivers can be issued by the state program for any of the mentioned compounds if analytical data shows that the distributed drinking water in the area is not vulnerable to contamination from chemicals. The **City of Folkston** water system is monitored for the presence of bacteriological content monthly and total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and nitrate-nitrites annually. Lead, copper, inorganic, volatile, and synthetic organic compounds are analyzed once every three (3) years. Additionally, the **City of Folkston**'s water system is monitored for radiological contaminants every six (6) to nine (9) years.

During 2023, the **City of Folkston** water system submitted samples for the analyses of bacteriological content, nitrate-nitrites, 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin), inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, TTHMs, and HAA5s. **We are proud to inform you that the City of Folkston did not have any violations of water quality parameters during 2023. All detected contaminants are delineated in the accompanying charts. Any contaminants not listed in the charts had results less than the detection limits and/or maximum contaminant levels.**

For the 2022 lead and copper monitoring event, twenty (20) samples were taken from representative locations throughout the community, including single and multi-family residences, municipal buildings, and commercial buildings. Detectable levels of lead and copper were found in some of the analyzed samples, however, **NO** sites contained quantities which exceeded the *Action Levels* for these contaminants.

Lead and copper are metals naturally found throughout the environment in soil and water. These metals can also be found in lead, copper, or brass household plumbing pipes and fixtures. Even consumer products such as paints, pottery, and pewter can contain lead and/or copper. Corrosion or deterioration of lead or copper-based materials, as well as erosion of natural deposits, can release these metals into the 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 ***City of Folkston*** *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.

Additionally, the following measures may also be taken to minimize exposure to lead and/or copper:

- Use cold water for drinking or cooking.
- Do not cook with or consume water from the hot water faucet.
- Do not use hot water for making baby formula.
- Use only "lead-free" solder, fluxes and materials in new household plumbing and repairs.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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.**

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/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 at 800-426-4791.**

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 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- ***Pesticides and herbicides*** which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- ***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 storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- ***Radioactive contaminants*** 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, EPA prescribes regulations which 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.

The **City of Folkston** *strives to maintain the highest standards of performance and quality possible. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, improvements that benefit the community must be made. Please help keep these costs as low as possible by utilizing good water conservation practices.*

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): "*The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety."*

Action Level (AL): "*The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.*"

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Reasonable goals for drinking water quality. Exceeding SMCL's may adversely affect odor or appearance, but there is no known risk to human health.

Treatment Technique (TT): "*A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.*"

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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.*

Not Detected (ND): By regulation, this substance or group of substances was tested for in our finished tap water; however, none was detected at the testing limit.

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes): One or more of the organic compounds Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, and/or Bromoform.

HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids): One or more of the organic compounds Monochloroacetic Acid, Dichloroacetic Acid, Trichloroacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid, and Dibromoacetic Acid.

City of Folkston Water System
2023 Water Quality Data
WSID: GA0490000

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that have been detected in your drinking water. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The data presented in this table is from testing done during the year noted. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) require monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Detected Inorganic Contaminants Table

Parameter	Units	MCL [SMCL]	MCLG	Folkston Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride	ppm	4 [2]	4	0.52	0.52 to 0.52	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.66	0.66 to 0.66	2023	No	Water additive used for control of microbes
Iron	ppb	[300]	**	93	93 to 93	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Detected Organic Contaminants Table

Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Folkston Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA5	ppb	60	**	0.0	N/A	2023	No	By product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs	ppb	80	**	3.3	3.3 to 3.3	2023	No	By product of drinking water disinfection

Other Detected Unregulated Contaminants Table

Parameter	Units	[SMCL]	MCLG	Folkston Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium	ppm	**	**	21	21 to 21	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead And Copper Monitoring Results

Parameter	Units	Action Level	MCLG	Folkston 90th Percentile	# of sample sites above Action Level	Sample Year	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead	ppb	15	0	4.6	0 of 20	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.12	0 of 20	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Microbiological Monitoring Results

Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Folkston No. of Positive Samples	PositiveSample Date (Month)	Sample Year	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform	Present/ Absent	1*	0	0	N/A	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli		0	0	0	N/A	2023	No	Human and animal fecal waste

Radionuclides Table

Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Folkston Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha emitters	pCi/L	15	0	ND	N/A	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/L	5	0	ND	N/A	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Total Coliform Rule MCL= 1 positive sample for systems that collect <40 samples a month** * No established MCL, SMCL or MCLG**

•**N/A**: Not applicable to this contaminant •**ppb (ug/L)**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter •**ppm (mg/L)**: parts per million or milligrams per liter •**pCi/l**: picocuries per liter, a measurement of radiation

•**ND (Not Detected)**: By regulation, this substance or group of substances was tested for in our finished tap water; however, none was detected at the testing limit.

•**Action Level (AL)**: "*The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.*"