Meeting the Challenge

This report is a snap shot of all water quality monitoring performed from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. We have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Public Participation

Our board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 P.M. at the Water Authority Office. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

For More Information

For more information concerning your water quality visit **www.myhcwa.com**, call the main office at 706-675-3358, or Matthew Dean at 706-675-6435.

Important Health Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) sets regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water that 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 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 (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. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Water Source

Your water comes from Centralhatchee and Hillabahatchee Creeks and is chemically treated and filtered to remove impurities commonly found in surface waters. Chlorine is then added for disinfection, fluoride is added to help prevent dental decay, and a corrosion control inhibitor is also added. Source water assessment information may be obtained from the Heard County Water Authority Office at 706-675-3358. The potential pollution sources for surface water from Centralhatchee and Hillabahatchee Creeks within a 7 mile radius includes; a contaminated landfill facility, landfills, railways adjacent to or on bridges crossing over streams and roads adjacent to or bridges crossing over streams. The potential pollution source for surface water within a 20-mile radius is an airport. The overall level of susceptibility for the Heard County Surface Water Intake (WSID #1490000) is Medium for both Centralhatchee and Hillabahatchee Creeks.

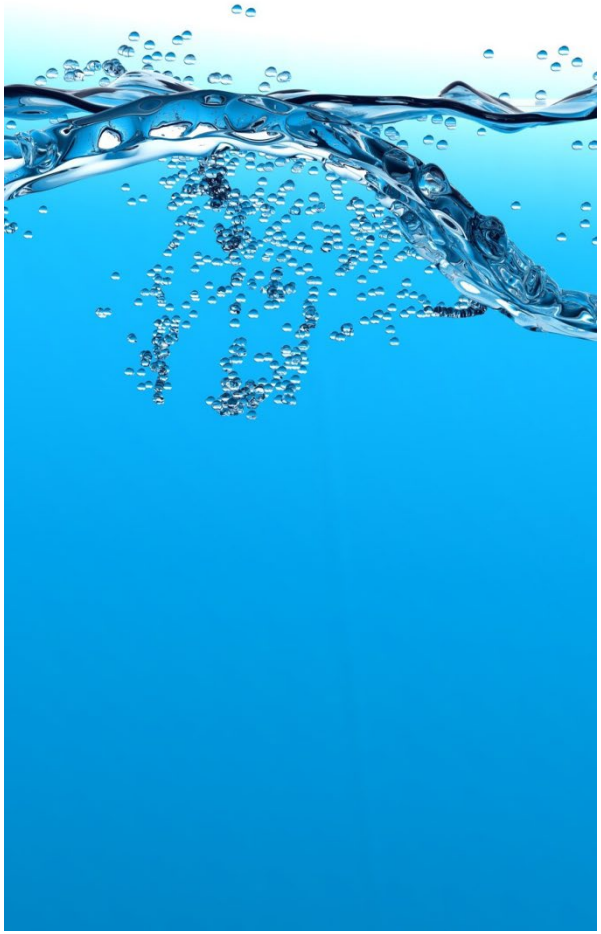
Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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:

- 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

2025 Water Quality Report

HCWA
HEARD COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY



Water Quality Data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants 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, 2025 through December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Substance (units)	MCL in mg/L (ppm)	MCLG	Average Results	Range of Detections	Does it Meet Standard	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Chlorine	4.0	4.0	1.59	.97 – 1.92	Yes	Added to the water as a disinfectant
Total Coliform	0 positive sample/month	N/A	0	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0.08	N/A	.024	.012 - .042	Yes	By-product of disinfection by chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	0.06	N/A	.025	.016 – 0.37	Yes	By-product of disinfection by chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	TT	N/A	1.03	.89 – 1.30	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride	4.0	2.0	.72	.54 – .93	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	N/A	.13	.06 - .29	Yes	Soil runoff and erosion
	TT	TT	100% < 0.3	N/A		

Lead and Copper - Tap water samples were collected from 20 sample sites throughout the water system. HCWA is on reduced monitoring and samples every 3 years. Last sampling for Lead and Copper was completed in 2025.

Substance (units)	**Action Level**	**MCLG**	**Amount Detected (90th Percentile)**	**Range of Detections**	**Does it Meet Standard**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Lead (ppb)	15	N/A	10	0 – 1.2	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppb)	1300	N/A	110	3.9 - 270	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Table Definitions

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.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units ***ppb:*** parts per billion or milligrams per liter (ug/L) ***ppm:*** parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

TT: Treatment Technique- a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water ***N/A:*** Not Applicable

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Heard County Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Heard County Water Authority at (706) 675-3358 or at our website www.ccwageorgia.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The Service Line Inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all public water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water.

To access the Service Line Inventory for Heard County Water Authority you can do so by contacting our office and requesting your location's pipe data. The contact information is (706) 675-3358 or operations@myhcwa.com.