WATER QUALITY REPORT 2025

MORE THAN WATER.
WE'RE COMMUNITY.





THINK LIKE AN OTTER

PROTECT OUR WATER

NEWTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

11325 BROWN BRIDGE RD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

(770)787-1375
WWW.NCWSA.US

ISSUED IN 2026 BASED ON DATA FROM 01/01/25 - 12/31/25

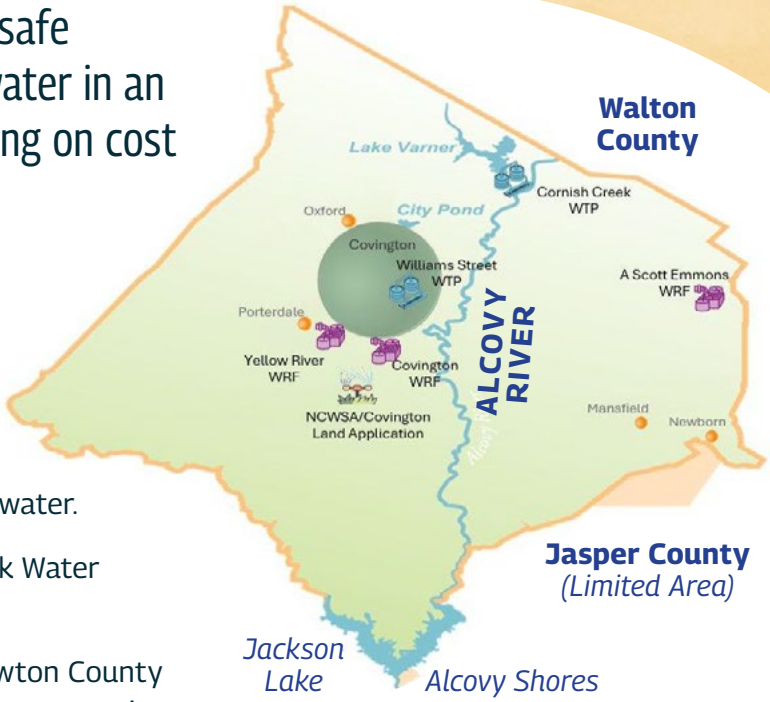
THE NEWTON COUNTY WATER & SEWERAGE AUTHORITY (NCWSA) HAS PROVIDED CLEAN DRINKING WATER SINCE 1970.



We are committed to providing clean, safe drinking water and reclaiming wastewater in an environmentally sound manner, focusing on cost efficiency and value-oriented service.

What is our water source?

- The water starts in the Alcovy River, an example of surface water.
- It's then pumped into Lake Varner, a big reservoir that holds about 4 billion gallons of water.
- Water is then transported to the Cornish Creek Water Treatment Facility in Covington, Georgia.
- NCWSA purchases treated water from the Newton County Board of Commissioners then delivers it to our community.



This publication contains essential information on the quality of your drinking water. It includes all data required by the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act and fulfills the requirement that all water systems distribute an annual Water Quality Report to our water customers. If you do not understand it, please have someone explain it to you.

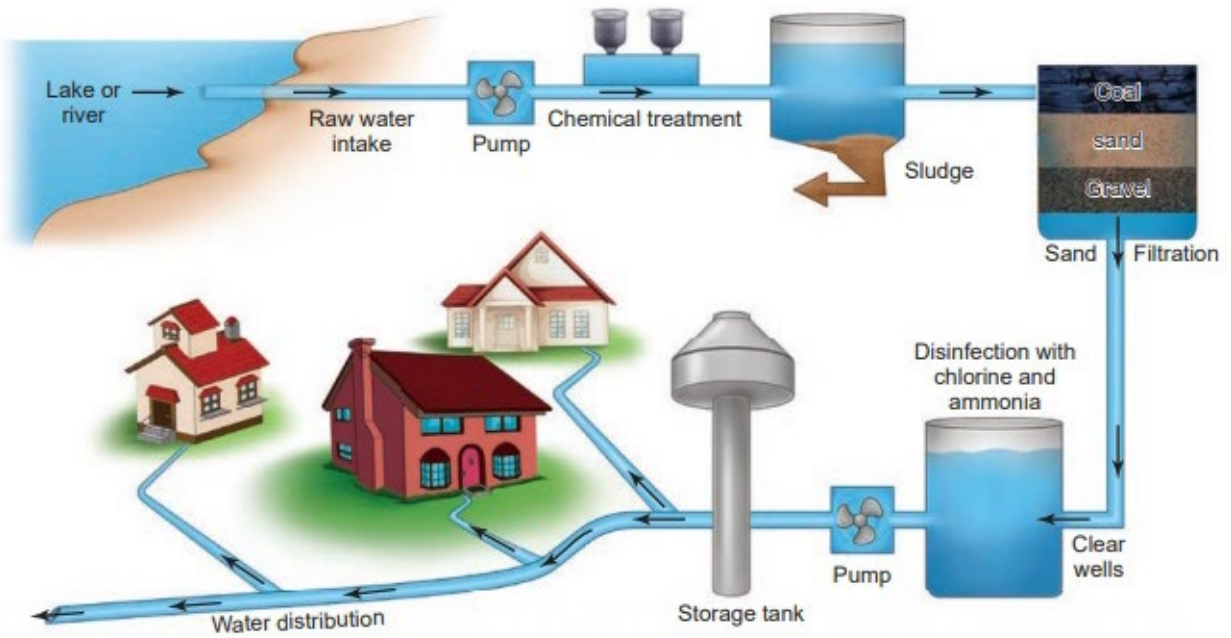
Esta publicación contiene información esencial sobre la calidad de su agua potable. *Incluye todos los datos requeridos por la Ley de Agua Potable Segura de la EPA y cumple con el requisito de que todos los sistemas de agua distribuyan un Informe Anual de Calidad del Agua a nuestros clientes de agua. Si no lo entiende, por favor haga que alguien se lo explique.*

HOW YOUR DRINKING WATER IS TREATED

FROM SOURCE TO TAP

Before it reaches your faucet, your drinking water goes through a carefully controlled and dependable treatment process to ensure it is safe and high quality.

Your water is safe to drink and meets all state and federal standards.



Collection

Water is drawn from Lake Varner and transported to the Cornish Creek Water Treatment Facility (WTF), which treats up to 25 million gallons of water each day.

Coagulation & Flocculation

Specially selected treatment chemicals are added to help tiny particles in the water bind together, forming larger clusters called "floc."

Sedimentation

Because floc is heavier than water, it settles to the bottom of the treatment basin where it is removed.

Filtration

The water then passes through advanced filters that remove any remaining fine particles, producing clear, clean water.

Disinfection

Treated water is held in a tank known as a clear well, where chlorine is added and continues working to eliminate harmful microorganisms.

Storage & Distribution

Finally, the treated water is stored in large tanks before being delivered throughout Newton County.



WATER & YOUR HEALTH

YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK STRAIGHT FROM THE FAUCET.

3 Reasons to Choose Tap Water Over Bottled:

01

It's Safe.

Drinking water is tested around the clock. Newton County's current Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is available at: ncwsa.us/service/water-quality/

02

It's Less Expensive.

Tap water costs about 2 cents per gallon. Bottled water costs more than $1 per gallon—50 times more expensive!

03

It's Delicious!

In 2019, Newton County won the Best Tap Water Taste Test held by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals!

CONTAMINANTS: HOW & WHY ARE THEY IN DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Drinking water is collected from lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, or reservoirs. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and picks up pollutants from the presence of humans or animal activity. **More information about contaminants** can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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 substances in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the effects by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants — viruses and bacteria which may come from agricultural livestock operations, septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, and wildlife

Inorganic Contaminants — include 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 — may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses

Organic Chemical Contaminants — include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems

Radioactive Contaminants — can be naturally occurring or are the result of oil and gas production and mining

PFAS Chemicals

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are long-lasting chemicals used worldwide in industry and consumer products. Known as "forever chemicals," PFAS break down very slowly in the environment and can dissolve in water. PFAS have been found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations around the globe. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future. **We've had no violations of PFAS.**

LEAD AWARENESS

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.

Newton County Water and Sewerage 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.

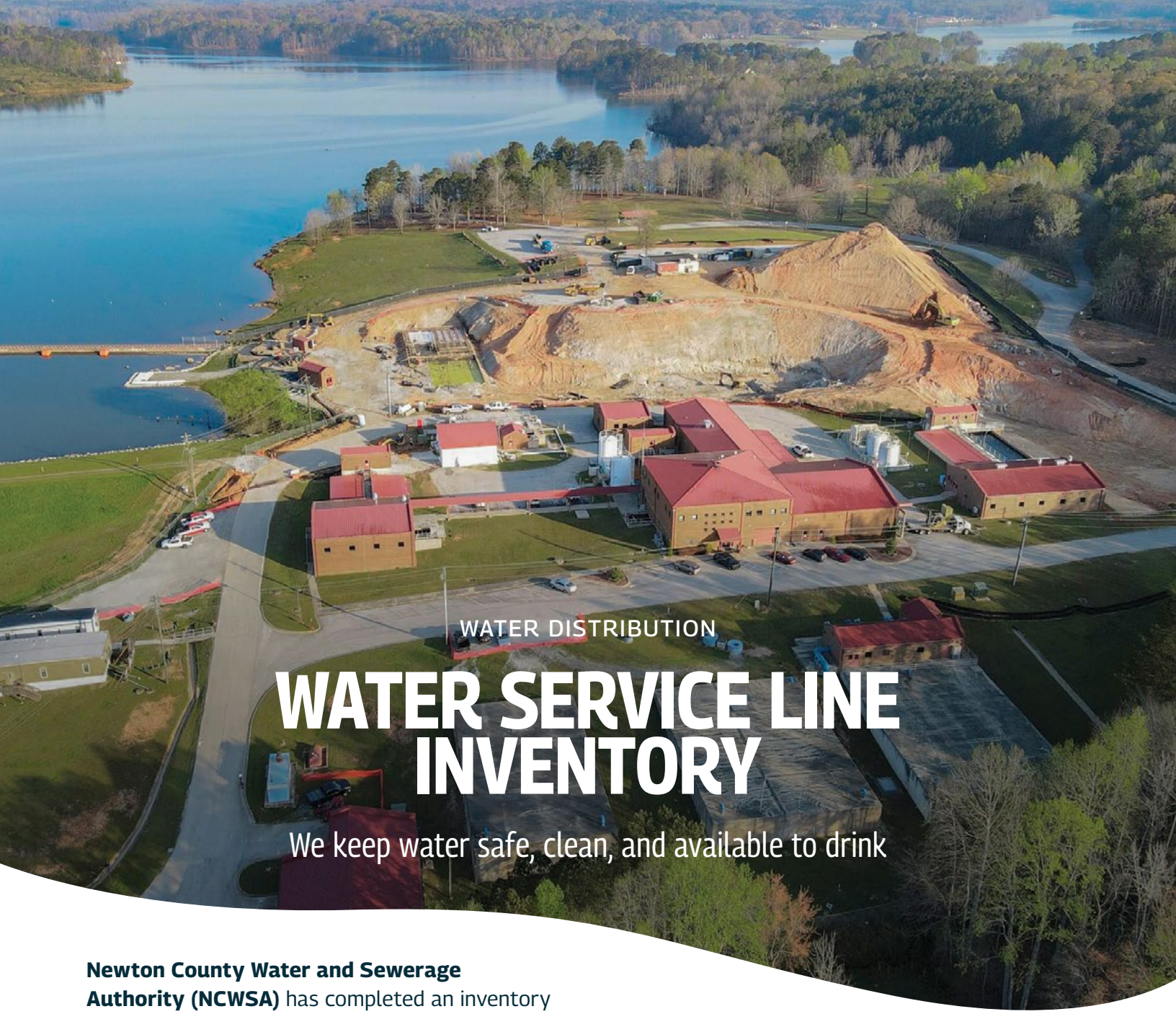
- Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. 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 us at (770) 787-1375.
- Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Lead and Copper Range Data

Newton County Water System (for NCWSA) is currently on a three (3) year sampling due to test results that meet or exceed the Georgia Environmental Division's action levels for lead and copper. The next sampling event will take place in 2027.

To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for GA2170004 Newton Co. Water-Sewerage Authority (770)787-1375 or visit Drinking Water Watch at gadrinkingwater.net

ANALYTE	DATA SAMPLED	MCLG	ACTION LEVEL (AL)	RANGE LOW	RANGE HIGH	UNITS	VIOLATION	MEETS EPA STANDARDS
Lead	2023	0	15	0	57.3	ppb	no	✓
Copper	2023	1.3	1.3	0.0017	0.309	ppm	no	✓



WATER DISTRIBUTION

WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

We keep water safe, clean, and available to drink

Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority (NCWSA) has completed an inventory of the water service lines in our service area, in accordance with regulations from the US Environmental Protection Agency and Georgia Environmental Protection Division. This inventory is being made available to our water users as a searchable document, so users can view their service line materials. Fortunately, there have been no service lines found in our service area containing harmful materials. Your specific service line can be found via your address.

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 SLI for GA2170004 Newton Co. Water-Sewerage Auth, visit our website at ncwsa.us/engineering/water-distribution and look under "*Service Line Distribution*."



HELPFUL TERMS TO KNOW

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

Contaminant Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal) 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 contamination.

N/A Not Applicable

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) is a measurement of the clarity of the water.

ppm (Parts Per Million) same as milligrams per liter - One part per million is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

ppb (Parts per Billion) same as micrograms per liter - One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

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

Turbidity (cloudiness of water) has no health effects, but we measure turbidity because it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE

NEWTON COUNTY WATER SYSTEM (FOR NCWSA)

Cornish Creek WTF
Source of 99.30% of Water Produced in 2025

Williams Street WTF
Source of 0.70% of Water Produced in 2025

Regulated Contaminants								
Substance	MCL	MCLG	Newton County Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Meets EPA Standards	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants								
Filtered Turbidity	TT = 0.3 NTU 95% of Samples < 0.3 NTU	0 100 %	0.34 NTU	0.03 - 0.34 NTU	✓	None	2025	Agriculture, Geology
Total Organic Carbon	TT	N/A	1.70 ppm	0.90 - 1.70 ppm	✓	None	2025	Human & Animal Waste
Organic Compounds								
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	N/A	*65 ppb	20 - 65 ppb	✓	None	2025	Treatment Process By-Product
Haloacetic Acid	60 ppb	N/A	*52.0 ppb	18 - 52 ppb	✓	None	2025	Treatment Process By-Product
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	2.22 ppm	0.59 - 2.22 ppm	✓	None	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* TTHMs and HAA5s = Annual averages are used for compliance								

Inorganic Contaminants									
Substance	Action Level	MCLG	Newton County Water System, 90th Percentile	Detected Range	Number of Samples Above Action Level		Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.27 ppm		0.37 - 1.27 ppm	✓	None	2025	Additive / Naturally Occurring
Copper	1300 ppb	1300 ppb	61.2 ppb	1.70 - 309 ppb	0	✓	None	2023	Household Piping
Lead	15 ppb	0 ppb	0.6 ppb	0 - 57.3 ppb	1	✓	None	2023	Household Piping
Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)									
PFBA	Unregulated/Initial Monitoring	N/A	*0 ppb	*0 ppb	0		None	2025	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources in association with the production of these PFAS
PFPeA	Unregulated/Initial Monitoring	N/A	*0 ppb	*0 ppb	0		None	2025	
PFBS	Unregulated/Initial Monitoring	N/A	*.0022 ppb	0 - .0022 ppb	0		None	2025	
PFHxA	Unregulated/Initial Monitoring	N/A	*0 ppb	*0 ppb	0		None	2025	
* **Unregulated** = USEPA, in 2024, set MCL's for PFOA, PFOS at 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) and PFHxs, PFNA, HFPO-DA at 10.0 (ppt) for compliance beginning in the year 2027									
* The Newton County Water Resources Lead Service Line Inventory can be found on the Newton County website as well as https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drinking-water									

NCWSA by the numbers



2
billion gallons
delivered each year

0
We get zero tax dollars. Our operating budget is funded by rate payers.

Delivered 22 presentations to 370 adults

Hosted 1 workshop for 25 adults

Gave tours to 92 adults and 294 children

Made 76 classroom visits reaching 76 adults and 2,180 students

Participated in 6 career fairs reaching 4,182 students

Employees donated 78 school supply items

Judged in 3 science fairs

Employees donated 123 food items, 43 toys, and 71 bags of personal care items

Distributed hundreds of bottles of water

4
major streams include South, Yellow, Alcovy, and Little Rivers – We are in the Ocmulgee River Basin.



70
employees serving 28,000 customers



8
board members

640
miles of pipe – From end to end, that's from Newton County to Miami, FL!

Photo Credit:
Joe Cook, Georgia Rivers

Improvements to Serve Our Community



A. Scott Emmons Water Reclamation Facility/Industrial Wastewater Reclamation Facility Phase 2A

An industrial wastewater treatment facility to treat and distribute reclaimed water for non-potable use by industries in the Stanton Springs Industrial Park in Social Circle, GA is under development. This will reduce potable water demand of those industries while preserving treatment capacity at the existing A. Scott Emmons Water Reclamation Facility. The Industrial Wastewater Reclamation Facility will utilize ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis to meet reuse water quality standards. This facility will have an initial treatment capacity of 1.3 million gallons per day (MGD) with expandability to 5.25 MGD.

Stanton Springs Elevated Storage Tank (EST)

A 1.5-million-gallon (MG) tank project has been constructed to support the water needs of development in the eastern portion of the county including Stanton Springs.

CONSERVATION

THINK LIKE AND OTTER. PROTECT OUR WATER!

Water is our most precious resource. Saving water saves money. Follow these tips from Ollie to conserve water.



Stop the flow.

Don't let the water run while you are busy brushing your teeth. Turn it off and save a couple of gallons.

Scrape, don't prerinse.

Scrape food scraps into the trash before loading the dishwasher. Washing and rinsing dishes in the sink uses a lot more water than the dishwasher. Only run the washer when it's full.



Take a shorter shower.

If you shorten your shower by just a minute, it will save two gallons of water.

Fix leaks promptly.

A dripping faucet wastes up to 3,000 gallons yearly. Check toilets, pipes, and outdoor spigots regularly.



Water wisely.

Irrigate early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation. Plants need only an inch of water per week.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

To volunteer with Rivers Alive, contact sas@ncwsa.us.



PHOTO CREDIT:
JOE COOK, GEORGIA RIVERS

WATER QUALITY REPORT 2025

Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority
11325 Brown Bridge Road
Covington, GA 30016

Customer Service
(770) 787-1375

After Hours Emergency
Water: (770) 385-3939
Sewer: (678) 776-1295

Water Quality Questions
Sally Anne Short
(470) 321-0135

Follow Us
Facebook
Instagram
LinkedIn

VISIT US ONLINE
NCWSA.US

Awards

- Yellow River WRF Platinum Award NCWA (National Association of Water Agencies)
- Yellow River WRF Platinum Award GAWP (Georgia Association of Water Professionals)
- Scott Emmons WRF ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) Small Plant of the Year Demonstrating Excellence in Engineering
- Scott Emmons WRF2023 CMAA South Atlantic Chapter Project Achievement Award
- GFOA's (Government Finance Officers Association) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 8th consecutive year (2017-2024)
- Newton County Employer of the Year Award 2025
- Cornish Creek WTP - 2022 Georgia's Best Operated Water Treatment Facility
- 2019 Best Tasting Water - District, State, and People's Choice Winner
- 2024 Best Tasting Water - District, State, and People's Choice Winner
- Mike Hopkins, AWWA (American Water Works Association) George Warren Fuller Award