CITY OF RINGGOLD

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

YOUR DRINKING WATER IS OUR PRIORITY

The City of Ringgold has developed a source water assessment plan to help identify and protect our source water from contamination.

These documents are available for viewing at City Hall, located at 150 Tennessee Street Ringgold, Georgia 30736.

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (also known as Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

This report is a snapshot of our water quality in 2025. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. We are dedicated to producing drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. While new challenges do emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, conservation, and community education when serving our customers.

Last year, we conducted tests for many different contaminants as part of our commitment to ensure safe drinking water. Our water met all the drinking water standards in 2025, therefore, no violations or exceedances were issued.

Best regards,

Edgar A Poe.

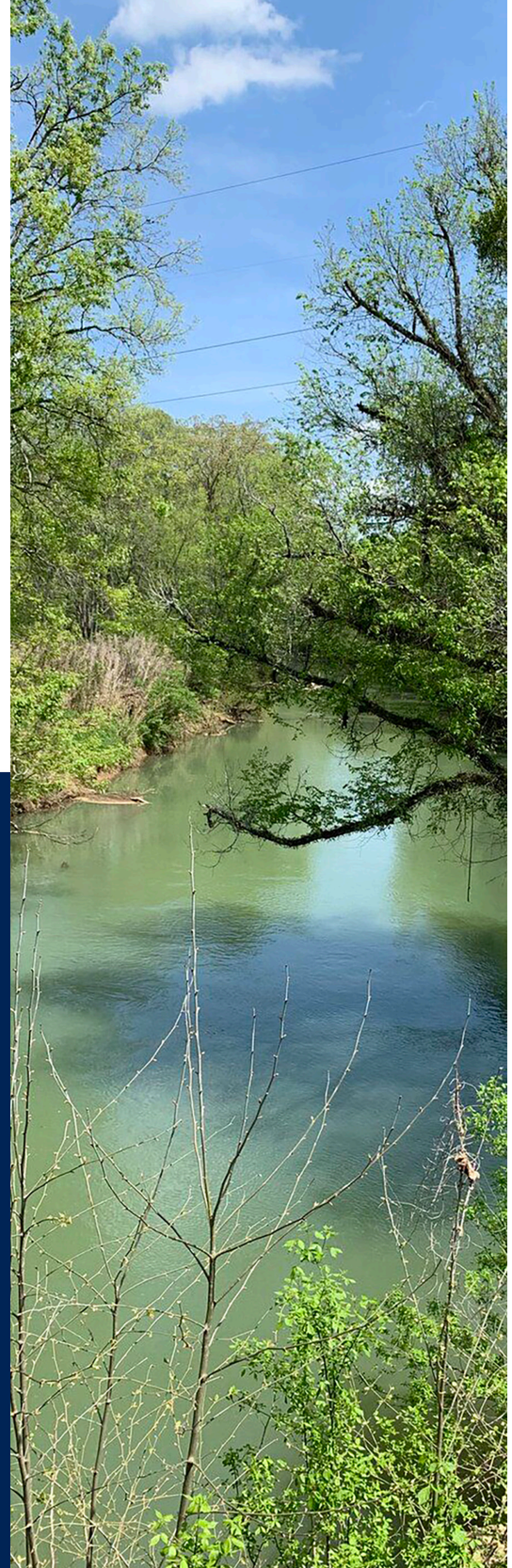
Mark Cady

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Ringgold Water Treatment Plant treats surface water from South Chickamauga Creek. During times of high demand, extreme drought, or other emergency conditions, the City of Ringgold also purchases water from Catoosa Utility District Authority (CUDA). They must meet or exceed the same strict quality regulations and requirements. You can view their complete consumer confidence report on their website www.catoosautility.com.

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people 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/ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).



Water Plant & Distribution System Projects

Peter's Lane Water Line Replacement: The City of Ringgold has replaced 4,000 feet of water line to replace critical aging infrastructure that will provide greater consistency to the water distribution system's ability to provide drinking water to our community.

Poplar Springs Well Development: The City of Ringgold is developing a well to provide an additional source of quality drinking water to the existing system.

Water Treatment Plant Backwash Treatment: The City of Ringgold will install a new tank system to capture the backwash water from the treatment plant filters and discharge this water into the sanitary sewer system.

Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation: The City of Ringgold is focused to provide filter rehabilitation and concrete structure rehabilitation at its water treatment facility to ensure continued quality water production.

Tennessee Street Water Line Replacement: Approximately 1,200 feet of water line was replaced on Tennessee Street in 2025.

Taylor's Ridge Storage Tank: A new water storage tank on Taylor's Ridge was installed and put in service in 2025, adding an additional 557,000 gallons of water storage.

Why Are There Contaminants In My 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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 (untreated) water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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.

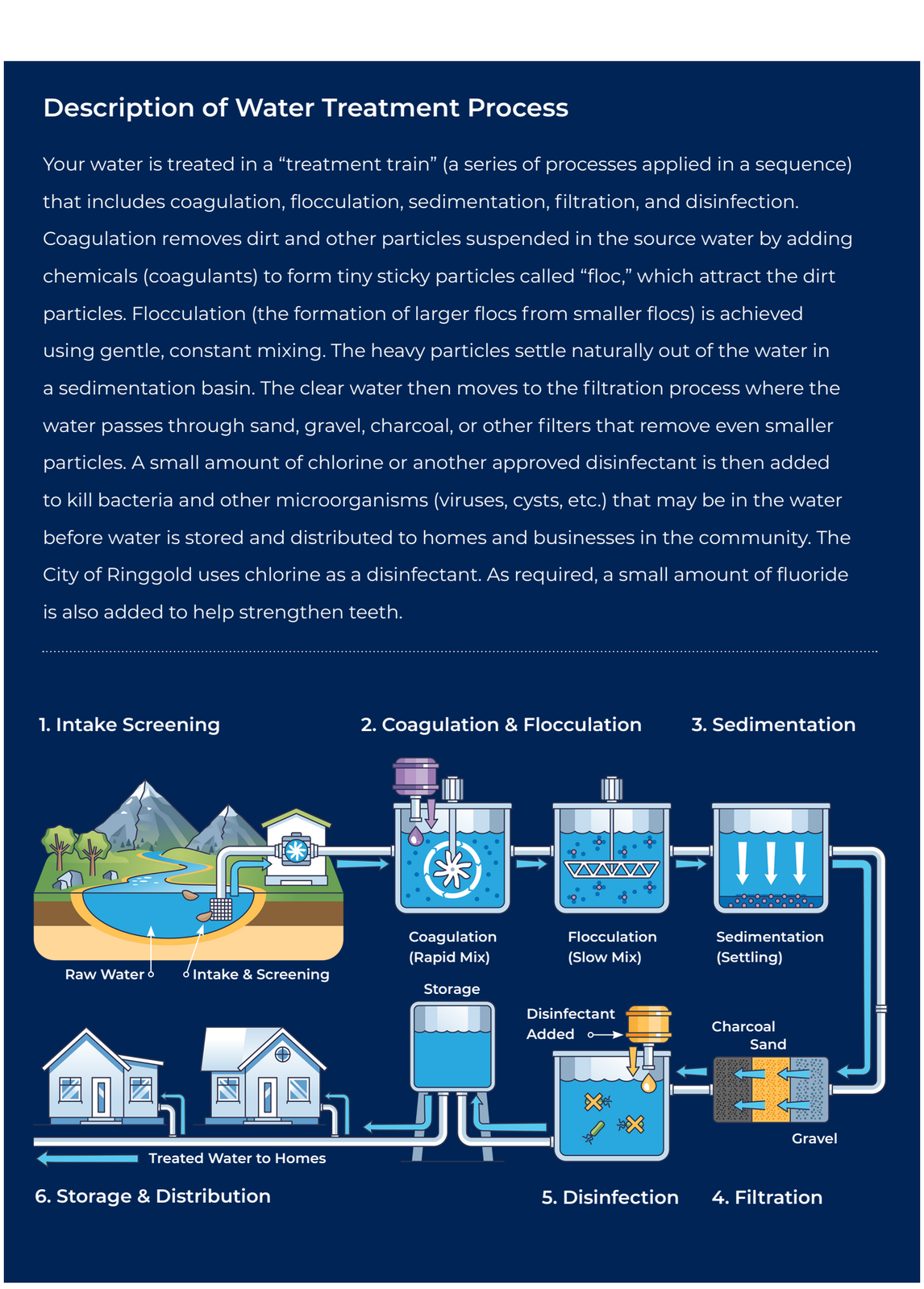
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

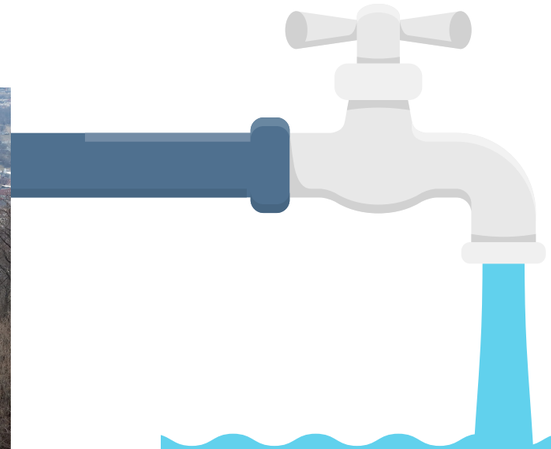
The EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal, or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or another approved disinfectant is then added to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community. The City of Ringgold uses chlorine as a disinfectant. As required, a small amount of fluoride is also added to help strengthen teeth.



Local Water Towers and the Main Treatment Facility



SAVE WATER

CREATE NEW HABITS

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? There are some low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water:

Take short showers – a five minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.

Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and conserve up to 500 gallons a month.

Use a water-efficient shower head. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

Running your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full can help conserve to 1,000 gallons a month.

Take short showers – a five minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.

Take short showers – a five minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.

Fixing or replacing a leaky toilet with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Water plants and lawns only when necessary and during the coolest part of the day to reduce evaporation.

Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. **Table A** lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. Certain contaminants are monitored for less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. To help you better understand terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you, we have provided the definitions in **Table B**.

TABLE A Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected in Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products **(There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)**								
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	4	4	2.31	0.78	2.31	2025	no	Water additive used to control microbes
Halo-acetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	n/a	60	32.9	26.6	41.2	2025	yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliform Bacteria	TT	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	2025	no	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	n/a	80	41.9	30.2	46.6	2025	no	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	77	68	88	2025	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive; Discharge from fertilizer and alumi-num factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	.32	.32	.32	2025	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)	n/a	TT	0.07	0.03	0.27	2025	no	Soil run off
100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.30. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.20. Any measurement above 1.0 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
Violations and Exceedances			NONE					

TABLE B: Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
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.**
TT	**Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.**
AL	**Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.**
Variances & Exemptions	**Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.**
MRDLG	**Maximum residual disinfection 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 contaminants.**
MRDL	**Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest permissible level of disinfectants in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.**
MNR	**Monitored Not Regulated**
MPL	**State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level**

Service Line Inventory

The Service Line Inventory is the foundation from which water systems take action to address a significant source of lead in drinking water. Establishing an inventory of service line materials and identifying the location of lead service lines is a key step in getting them replaced and protecting public health. Public access to this information can be found at: https://ga.epd.120water-ptd.com/

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection, and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (not water heaters)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

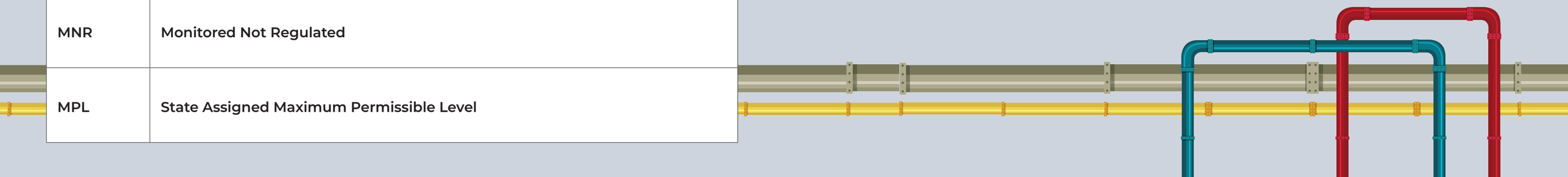


TABLE C: Most Recent Copper & Lead Sample Data								
Contaminate	MCLG	AL	Range High	Range Low	Sample Date	Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.094	0.17	06/2023	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.11	0.85	04/2025	0	no	
Lead (ppm)	0	15	0	4.5	06/2023	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppm)	0	15	0	1.5	04.2025	0	no	

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definitions
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NTU	TU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.

Lead and Copper Rule

Lead and copper samples are to be taken every 3 years, therefore, some of the data shown above is from the most recent samples collected in June 2023.

Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

Under EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), community water systems must now test for lead and copper in elementary schools and daycares. In April 2025, we collected 6 samples at 3 daycare facilities/schools. The data from those samples is included in the table above.

Information for Lead & Copper

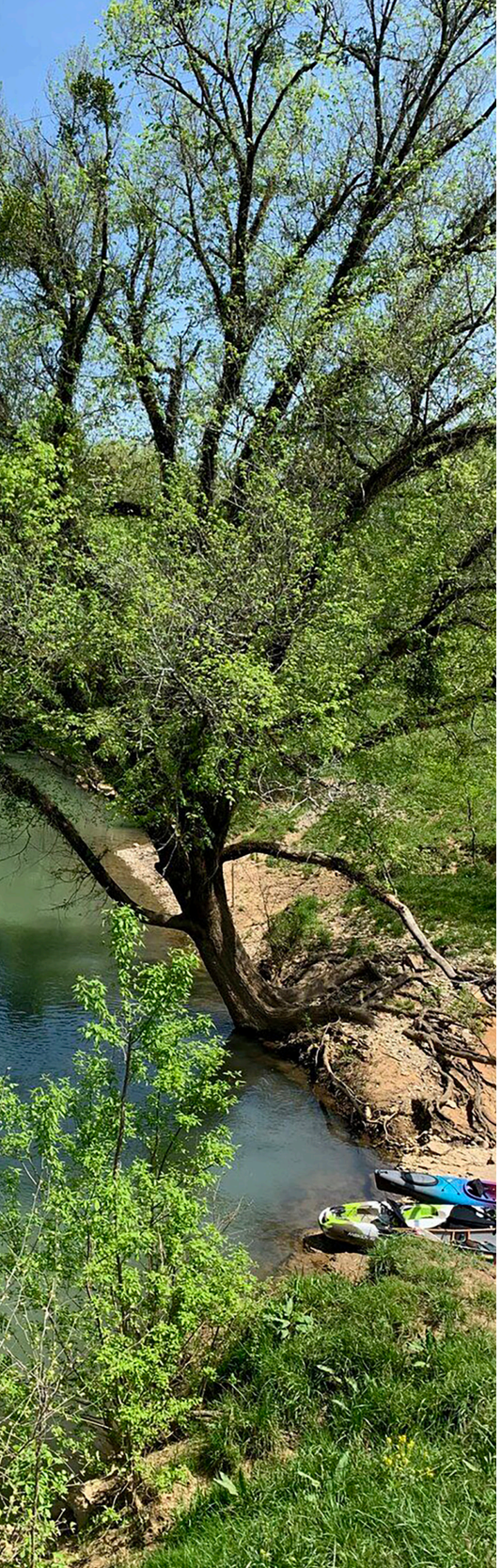
The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (formula-fed and breastfed) and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Ringgold water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing components 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 formulas, 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 have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Cady, the water plant director, at 706-935-3167. 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.



Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.

Pick up after your pets.

If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting it to a public wastewater system.

Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use **EPA Adopt Your Watershed** to locate groups in your community or visit the **Watershed Information Network's** *'How to Start a Watershed Team'*.

Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

By visiting Ringgold City Hall, located at 150 Tennessee St. Ringgold, GA during regular business hours, 8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays) or by visiting the city website at http://www.cityofringgoldga.gov, you can find information about upcoming city council meetings, and other events.

City Manager: Mark Vaughn
706-935-3061

Utilities Superintendent: Scott Black
706-935-6295

Water Treatment Plant Director: Mark Cady
706-935-3167

Water Treatment Plant Operator: James Nichols
706-935-3167