

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
**UTILITIES  
DEPARTMENT**

Utilities Operations  
Utilities Maintenance  
Water Resource Management

This report contains information on the quality of the drinking water provided by the City of Plant City, where our water comes from and health risks the City's drinking water testing and treatment processes are designed to prevent.

Our drinking water meets all state and federal standards and Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements for Consumer Confidence Reports

Our constant goal is to provide our customers a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The City is committed to rigorous monitoring, source water protection, water conservation, community education and service to the needs of all our customers.

**EN ESPAÑOL.** El informe anual de la calidad de agua potable 2020 contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua potable que la ciudad de Plant City ofrece a usted, nuestro cliente. Nuestra fuente de agua es agua subterránea bombeada desde el acuífero de Floridan a través de cuatro pozos profundos ubicados dentro de los límites de la ciudad. Nuestra agua es tratada con Cloro con el propósito de ser desinfectada. Profesionales entrenados y con licencias recogerán y probarán las muestras de agua potable en todo el sistema de distribución de agua diariamente de acuerdo con las leyes del gobierno Estatal y Federal. Nuestra agua potable cumple con todas las normas del gobierno estatal y federal y también con todos los requisitos Federal de Agua Segura para tomar para el reporte de confianza del consumidor. Si no comprende la información contenida en este informe y desea asistencia, por favor comuníquese con la: **Ciudad de Plant City | Utilidad de Facturación | 813-659-4222**  
**302 W. Reynolds Street, Plant City, FL 33563**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER.** If you have questions regarding this report, please contact the **Utilities Operations Division | 813-757-9191 | 1500 W. Victoria Street, Plant City, FL 33563**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.** Be aware of decisions affecting your drinking water by attending City Commission meetings held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 PM. Scheduled meetings are at City Hall, 302 W. Reynolds Street | Plant City, Florida 33564. Meeting agendas are published on the City's web site, **[City of Plant City Commission Meetings](#)**, or call **813-659-4200 | City Clerk's Office**

**CONTACT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR UTILITY SERVICE**

Utility Billing | 813-659-4222 | **Utility Bills and Water Service**  
Utilities Maintenance | 813-757-9288 | **Report A Water Leak During Business Hours**  
Utilities Operations | 813-757-9191 | **Water Quality and After Hours Utility Emergencies**

**WHERE DOES OUR DRINKING WATER COME FROM?**

Our **WATER SOURCE** is groundwater pumped from the Floridan Aquifer beneath the City. Water is withdrawn through four deep wells located within City limits. Well depths are from 746 to 1,200 feet. In 2020, an average of 6.154 million gallons of water was produced for our customers each day

Plant City is inter-connected with the City of Lakeland's water supply, which is also pumped from the Floridan Aquifer.

Water through this connection is used when needed to supplement either City's supply.

In 2020, an average of 60,271 gallons of water per day of the total supply was obtained from Lakeland.

**For a copy of the City of Lakeland's Water Quality Report, please call their Department of Water Utilities | 863-834-6568**

Our water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes.

Polyphosphate is added to keep naturally occurring iron from settling in the water system and reduce lead and copper corrosion in the plumbing system.

Hydrofluosilicic Acid is also added for dental health purposes.

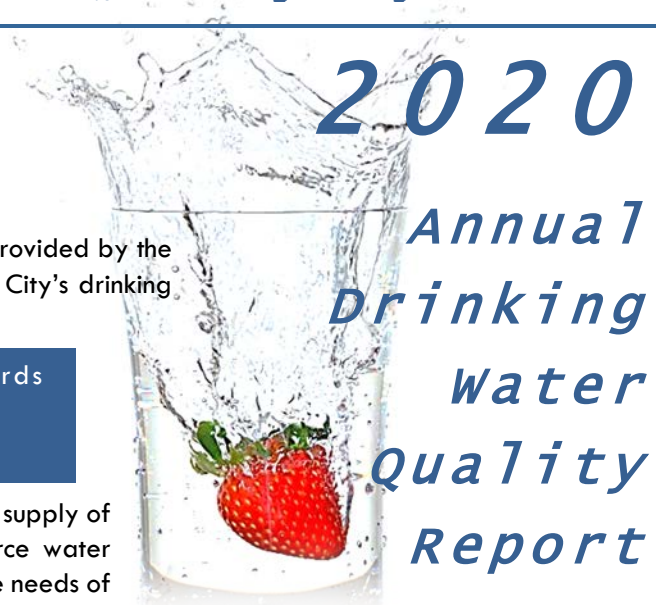
**OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED**

Our 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is a summary of the quality of the drinking water we provide to our customers.

Analytical data is from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests



**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT.** In 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information on any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 12 potential contaminant sources identified for our system. All rated as low. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at, **[City of Plant City - FDEP 2020 Source Water Assessment](#)**, or from the **Utilities Operations Division 813-757-9191 | 1500 W. Victoria Street, Plant City, FL 33563**



**HOW DOES THE CITY ENSURE OUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY?**

The **Utilities Operations Division** maintains four water production plants 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Highly trained and licensed professionals collect and test samples throughout the water distribution system on a daily basis in accordance with State and Federal laws and regulations.



Our water production program is committed to providing ample supplies of safe and dependable drinking water for the needs of our customers.

The City always strives to improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

In recognition of these efforts, the City was acknowledged in 2014 and 2018 as an Outstanding Class "C" Water Treatment Plant by the American Water Works Association.

In 2018, a City operator was recognized by the Florida Rural Water Association as a Drinking Water Operator of the Year.

In 2019, the City received the Medium Public Water System of the Year and the Water System Office Employee of the year by the Florida Rural Water Association.



**CROSS CONNECTIONS.** The City has a comprehensive Cross Connection Control Program. Backflow prevention assemblies are inspected, tested, maintained, and/or repaired annually to ensure required protection is provided. Potential cross connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow prevention assembly.

A cross connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line interconnects to equipment, boilers, systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems, swimming pools) or water sources of questionable quality (private wells). **Cross connection contamination** can occur when the pressure in equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (*backpressure*). Contamination may also occur on rare occasions when drinking water line pressure drops due to certain occurrences (water main breaks, abnormally heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be siphoned back into the drinking water line (*backsiphonage*).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross connections at home. A garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses lying on the ground can be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals.

Additional information, **Water Resource Management Division | Cross Connection Control Section**  
**813-659-4298 | 705 N. Alexander Street, Plant City, FL 33563** or the  
**Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791**

**WATER CONSERVATION.** Water conservation measures and using water resources efficiently are important first steps in protecting and preserving our drinking water resources. The City monitors and annually reports all water usage from the City's water distribution system and monitors and tracks irrigation of all City properties and rights-of-way. Reclaimed water use is also promoted by the City. In an effort to lead by example, the City uses reclaimed water for irrigation on multiple City properties.



**REPLACE** the toilet flapper. A leaking toilet can waste up to **200 gallons a day**

**INSTALL** low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads. Some use less than **3 gallons per minute**

**FLORIDA LAW.** Any person who purchases and installs an automatic irrigation system must install, maintain and operate technology which inhibits or interrupts operation of the system during periods of sufficient moisture.

**An example is a rain shutoff sensor**

**USE** an automatic shutoff nozzle. An unattended garden hose can waste almost **500 gallons of water an hour**. An automatic shutoff nozzle can reduce flow to less than **4 gallons per minute**.

**LEARN**

 Florida-Friendly landscaping, rain barrels and environmentally responsible water saving concepts.  
**UF | University of Florida, IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County | Lawn and Garden, Florida Friendly Landscaping | 813-744-5519 | 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584**  
<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsborough/lawngarden/florida-friendly-landscaping/>

 Florida-Friendly Landscaping Information | Educational Materials.  
**FREE Garden Hose and Indoor Water Saving Devices**  
**City of Plant City, Water Resource Management Division, Water Conservation Section**  
**813 659-4298 | 705 N. Alexander Street, Plant City, FL 33563 | [Plant City Water Conservation](#)**

## **IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

**ALL DRINKING WATER MAY CONTAIN CONTAMINANTS.** 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

**SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER.** 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:

- A.** Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock operations, and wildlife.
- B.** 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.
- C.** Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- D.** 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- E.** Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**PEOPLE WHO ARE AT HIGHER RISK.** 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/Center for Disease Control (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, (800-426-4791)**.

**LEAD.** 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's Utilities Operations Division 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>**.

**TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM).** Three samples during 2020 had a TTHM result which exceeded the MCL of 80 ppb. However, the City's system did not incur an MCL violation because all annual average results at all sites were at or below the MCL. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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***In the included table, you may see terms you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, the following definitions are provided:***

**AL=ACTION LEVEL:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. **HAA(5)=HALOACETIC ACIDS (FIVE):** Acid compounds including: monochloroacetic, dichloroacetic, trichloroacetic, monobromoacetic, and dibromoacetic acids. **HAA(6Br)=HALOACETIC ACIDS (SIX):** Acid compounds including: bromochloroacetic, bromodichloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dibromochloroacetic, monobromoacetic and tribromoacetic acids. **HAA(9)=HALOACETIC ACIDS (NINE):** Acid compounds including: bromochloroacetic, bromodichloroacetic, chlorodibromoacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, monobromoacetic, monochloroacetic, tribromoacetic and trichloroacetic acids. **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. **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. **MRDL=MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the 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 contaminants. **ND=NOT DETECTED:** Indicates the substance was not found by laboratory analysis. **ppb=PARTS PER BILLION OR MICROGRAMS PER LITER (µg/l):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample. **ppm=PARTS PER MILLION OR MILLIGRAMS PER LITER (mg/l):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample. **pCi/L=PICO CURIES PER LITER:** A measure of radioactivity in water. **TTHM=TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES:** A group of several trihalomethane (chemical) compounds including: chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane.

# 2020 WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

The below table contains the name of each substance, date of sampling, the highest level allowed (MCL), ideal goals for public health (MCLG), amount detected and usual sources of contamination

The City of Plant City routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. The below table shows results of our monitoring from January 1 to December 31, 2020 and also includes test results from previous years for contaminants required to be sampled for less than once per year. For these contaminants not required to be tested for in 2020, results are the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

## INORGANIC

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Sources
Barium (ppm)	2/20	N	0.012	0.0086 To 0.0171	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	2/20	N	.0015	0 To .0015	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2/20	N	0.690	0.427 To 0.690	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	2/20	N	17.20	13.20 To 17.20	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

## STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS (D/DBP)

**Bromate, Chloramines, or Chlorine:** The level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected (RAA/LRAA)	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Sources
Chlorine (ppm)	1/20-12/20 (Monthly)	N	1.56	0.70 To 2.10	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

## STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS (D/DBP)

**HAA5 and TTHM:** Level detected is the highest locational running annual average (LRAA). The average of sample analytical results taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Range of Results: Lowest to highest individual sample results.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected (RAA/LRAA)	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Sources
Haloacetic Acids (FIVE) (HAA5) (ppb)	1/20 –12/20 (Quarterly)	N	46.335 (Highest LRAA, Site 1)	25.99 To 51.13	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	1/20 –12/20 (Quarterly)	N	70.211 (Highest LRAA, Site 1)	43.52 To 100.96	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Sources
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	7/20	N	0.565	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

## RADIOACTIVE

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Sources
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2/20	N	2.7	1.9 To 2.7	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226+228 or Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2/20	N	2.0	0.5 To 2.0	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/l)	2/20	N	0.2	ND To 0.2	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits



More Information Regarding Our 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
**Utilities Operations Division | 813-757-9191**

To Request a Paper Copy  
**Utility Billing | 813-659-4222**

