2024

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Gulf Breeze Regional Water System

GULF BREEZE REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

CITY OF GULF BREEZE
1961

inside.

About this report.

"This Water Quality Report is required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to keep you informed about your drinking water. State law outlines not only the content of this report but also its format—even the font size—so the information can sometimes be dense or difficult to navigate.

What's most important is this: your water is clean, safe, and reliably delivered by the Gulf Breeze Regional Water System, which is owned and operated by the City of Gulf Breeze.

For decades, the City has taken a thoughtful approach by working with a citizens advisory board, the Gulf Breeze Regional Water Board, made up of residents from inside and outside its city limits. This board plays a key role in advising the City Council on long-term planning for the utility. Gulf Breeze is unique in offering this kind of advisory board, giving all customers—whether inside or outside city limits—a voice in shaping decisions. That's especially important, given that our service area is nearly ten times the size of the city itself.

This booklet was created at the recommendation of the Gulf Breeze Regional Water System Board to help you better understand the quality, source, and delivery of your drinking water."

JB Schluter, Mayor, City of Gulf Breeze and Board Member of the Gulf Breeze Regional Water Board

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2024

We're pleased to present to you the 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source, for this reporting period, is the Fairpoint Regional Utility System (FRUS) and Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA). If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact David Forte, Director of Public Services, at (850) 934-5100.

Our water source.

Our source of water is purchased from the **FRUS** and **ECUA**. FRUS is a wholesale purveyor of water, owned and operated by the City of Gulf Breeze, Midway Water System and Holley-Navarre Water System. FRUS consists of six (6) wells which draw from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer and are chemically treated with lime and orthophosphates for pH adjustment and chlorine for disinfection. Additional information regarding FRUS water supply can be obtained from Donna Lupola, (850) 939-2427 x234.

ECUA has 28 active wells distributed throughout its service area that pump water from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer. In general, ECUA customers receive water from the wells (two to five) located closest to their residence. Each well is considered a separate treatment plant, where water quality parameters are adjusted to maximize operational efficiencies and to comply with regulatory standards.

The Sand and Gravel Aquifer is a high-quality, prolific source of water for our community.

Because it does not have a confining layer above it, virtually everything that falls on the ground has the potential to affect the quality of our water supply.

- Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters are installed on twelve (12) wells for iron or organic contamination removal.
- Calcium Hydroxide (lime) is added for pH adjustment.
- Phosphoric Acid is added for corrosion control in the distribution system.
- Chlorine is added for disinfection.
- Fluoride is added at select wells and helps prevent tooth decay.

Additional information regarding the ECUA water supply can be obtained from the ECUA Laboratory Manager at (850) 969-6689.

Due to the quality of water received from FRUS and ECUA, the only treatment necessary by the City of Gulf Breeze is re-chlorination to boost the disinfection residual in our system.

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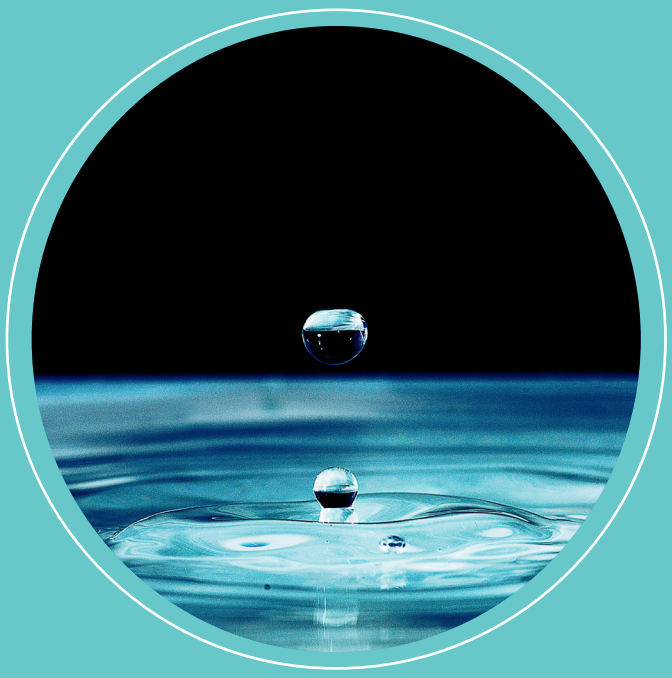


In 2024 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on the FRUS and ECUA systems.

The assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the supplier's wells. A search of the data sources indicated no potential sources of contamination near the FRUS wells. For ECUA, there are 35 potential sources of contamination identified, with a low to moderate susceptibility level. These assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained from the City of Gulf Breeze.

- ***We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.*** If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. Regular sessions are held the first and third Monday of every month. All meetings are at 5:30 p.m. in Gulf Breeze City Hall located at 1070 Shoreline Drive.

Source water assessment.

The City of Gulf Breeze Water System and FRUS routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Additionally, the Gulf Breeze Regional Water System has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UC) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UC and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UC. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. All analytical results were detected under their respective Minimum Reporting Level (MRL), therefore the results were not required to be included in their own separate table. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR), please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024, and presented in this report, are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative, is more than one year old.

In the 2024 Tests Results Table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: 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.

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

- Picocurie per liter (pCi/L) - measure of the radioactivity in water.
- "ND" means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- N/A - does not apply or not applicable.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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 microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

About source 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:

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 by-products 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.

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 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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 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 (800-426-4791).

2024 TEST RESULTS TABLE

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants (Sampled by FRUS And Midway Water)							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	4/17 & 6/20	No	2.3	ND – 2.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/l)	7/23& 12/23	No	2.62	ND-2.62	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants (Sampled by FRUS and Midway)							
Arsenic (ppb)	7/23 & 8/23	No	0.6	ND – 0.6	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	7/23 & 8/23	No	0.084	0.052– 0.084	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	8/28/23	No	0.83	0.06-0.83	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	7/23&8/23	No	0.4	ND-0.4	NA	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing and solder
Mercury (ppb)	7/23 & 8/23	No	0.2	ND – 0.2	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	6/24 & 8/24	No	0.99	ND -0.99	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage
Sodium (ppm)	8/23 & 7/23	No	120	1.7-120	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) (Sampled by Gulf Breeze Regional Water System)							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	**Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)**	**MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Results**	**MCLG or MRDLG**	**MCL or MRDL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan – Dec 24	No	1.13	1.04 – 1.21	MRDGL=4	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	July-24	No	1.6	1.2 – 1.6	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead & Copper Survey.

Done on 9-23-24

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.

Gulf Breeze Regional Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

- Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.
- You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water.
- If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Gulf Breeze Regional Water System at (850) 934-5100.

For more information

Follow the QR code for Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure.

2024 TEST RESULTS: LEAD & COPPER

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Range of Tap Sample Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	8/23	N	0.27	0 of 30	0.02 – 0.48	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	8/23	N	2.3	3 of 30	ND - 360	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper Sampling

Corrosion of pipes, plumbing fittings and fixtures may cause metals, including lead and copper, to enter drinking water. To assess corrosion of lead and copper, Gulf Breeze Reginal Water System conducts tap sampling for lead and copper at selected sites triennially. The most recent set of lead and copper tap sampling is available for review. To view the lead and copper tap sampling data, contact Gulf Breeze Reginal Water System at 850-934-5100 or visit the link below.

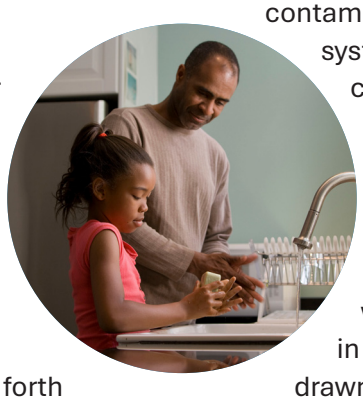
Lead and copper tap sampling data:

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency has revised the Lead and Copper rule for all public drinking water systems. They have mandated that drinking water systems produce an inventory list of all service line material. The service line is the piping that extends from our water main to the customer's meter as well as the piping that extends from the meter to the customer's home. Gulf Breeze Regional Water System has prepared this inventory in accordance with federal regulations. To view this service line inventory, contact Gulf Breeze Regional Water System at (850) 934-5100 or visit the link below.

Service line inventory:

System Improvements.

In 2019 the Gulf Breeze Reginal Water System under the guidance of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, began implementing a residential cross connection program. As a public water provider, Gulf Breeze Regional Water System is responsible for overseeing prevention of water contamination from cross connections in the water distribution system. The cross-connection plan was developed using recommended practices of the American Water Works Association set forth in *Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control: AWWA Manual M14, Third Edition*.

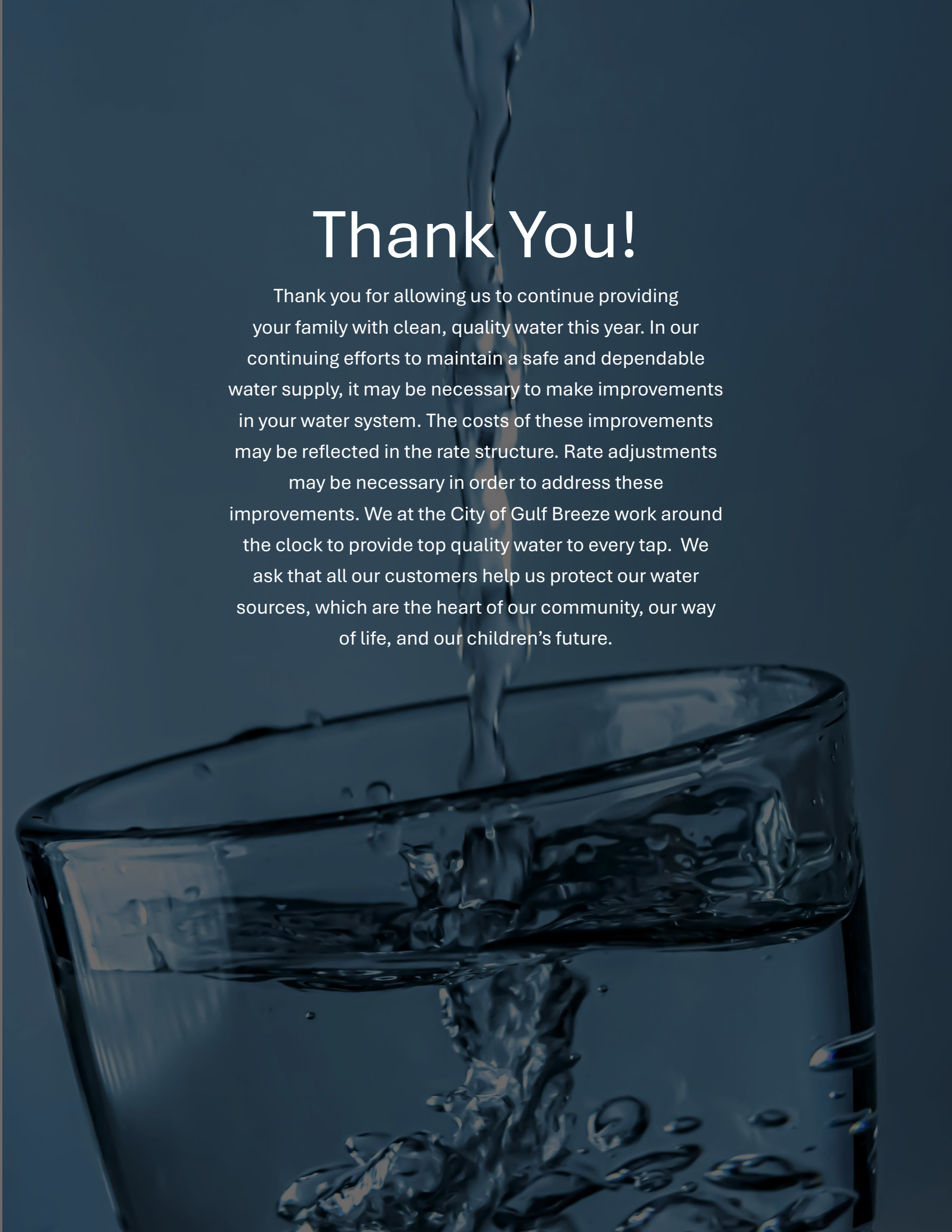


We have been installing residential back flow devices at any connection that has an alternate water source such as an irrigation meter or a permitted well. These steps have been taken to prevent serious chemical or microbiological contamination events in our drinking water systems that could shut down the community's water supply. Water users can help prevent back flows by always having an approved backflow device at the hose spigot and an air gap between the level of liquid and whatever you are filling. In other words, don't leave the end of the hose in a place where contaminants can be drawn back through the hose and into your water pipes. These devices are inexpensive and can be found at most local hardware stores.

For more information on back flow and cross-connection go to **www.epa.gov or floridadep.gov.**

Thank You!

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We at the City of Gulf Breeze work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.



GULF BREEZE REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

CITY OF GULF BREEZE 1961

City of Gulf Breeze, Florida

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