The City of Tuscaloosa is pleased to provide this Annual Water Quality Report to you. This report provides information on the sources of our water, the results of our tests, and important information about water and health.

The City of Tuscaloosa is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Lead is rarely found in source water. It is primarily from corrosion of materials that were used in interior plumbing that connects pipes, conduit, or from pipes connecting a house to the main water pipe in the street. Lead is no longer used in manufacturing these products, but older plumbing components still remain in some older homes. When water sits for several hours in these older pipes lead can leach into the water.

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. The EPA and the CDC make the following recommendations:

- Never use warm tap water to mix baby formula. Use only water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking.
- Before using any tap water for drinking or cooking, flush your water system by running the tap on COLD for 1–2 minutes. Flushing can minimize the potential for lead exposure.
- Periodically remove the aerator on the tip of the faucet to wash out any contaminant particles.
- Boiling water will NOT reduce lead in water.

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 your family’s exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

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**PLAIN LANGUAGE DEFINITIONS**

To help you better understand the terms used in this report, please note the following abbreviations and definitions:

- **mg/L** - milligrams per liter; equal to parts per million; equal to mg/L (milligrams per liter)
- **µg/L** - micrograms per liter; equal to parts per billion
- **ng/L** - picograms per liter; equal to parts per trillion; equal to ng/L or nanograms per liter
- **pCi/L** - picocuries per liter; a measure of radiation
- **mrem/year** - millirems per year; a measure of radiation
- **pCi/L** - picocuries per liter; a measure of radiation
- **µg/L** - micrograms per liter; equal to parts per billion
- **v&c** - variances & exemptions
- **ppb** - parts per billion; equal to micrograms per liter
- **ppm** - parts per million; equal to milligrams per liter
- **miliAmperes** - milliAmperes
- **MC** - microcurrent; a unit of electric charge
- **ppm** - parts per million; equal to mg/L (milligrams per liter)
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**THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT**

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was signed into law on December 16, 1974. Amended in 1996, the SDWA added provisions for consumer involvement and right-to-know. The Consumer Confidence Report or Annual Water Quality Report is the centerpiece of public right-to-know in the SDWA. This report provides consumers the detected amounts of contaminants, sources of contamination, and plain language definitions.

The amendments recognized that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immuno-compromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

**EPACDC guidelines on 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.**

**STATEMENTS ON LEAD IN WATER**

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**ED LOVE WATER PLANT RECEIVES THE OPTIMIZATION AWARD**

In 2020, the City of Tuscaloosa was awarded the Water Fluoridation Quality Award by the CDC. This is awarded to water treatment plants that achieved optimal fluoride levels for all 12 months of the year.

In 2019, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), recognized the Ed Love Water Filtration Plant for achieving optimized performance goals. To win this award, plants must exceed the US EPA requirements by a factor of three or more for the entire year. The City is proud to thank the staff of the City of Tuscaloosa Water Treatment Plants for their dedication to ensure that customers receive the best possible water quality.

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Water Billing Office Turn On/Off
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
205-248-5500
Drive Thru: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lakes Division
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
205-349-0279

Distribution Division Line Breaks/Leaks
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
205-248-5960

Tuscaloosa 311 Call Center
Operational Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
311

Dial 311 connects you to all non-emergency City Services

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or by visiting EPA’s website www.epa.gov/safewater.

The City of Tuscaloosa’s Mayor and Council

Walt Maddox, Mayor
Mathew McCrady, City staff, District 1
Raevan Howard, District 2
Norman Crow, District 3
Lee Busby, District 4
Kip Tyner, District 5
John Faile, District 6
Casady Lanier, District 7

The Tuscaloosa City Council meets every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Tuscaloosa City Hall, 2201 University Boulevard. The Tuscaloosa News publishes the agenda for each meeting, and The City of Tuscaloosa posts the agenda on the website www.tuscaloosa.com. You may contact the City Clerk for more information at (205) 248-5911.

**2022 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

Testing Performed January - December 2021

Ed Love Water Filtration Plant
1125 Jack Warner Parkway North East Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404-1056
Telephone 205-248-5630
Fax 205-349-0213

Jerry Plott Water Filtration Plant
2101 New Watermelon Road Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406
Telephone 205-248-5600

For Additional Information Contact: Kimberly Michael
Associate Director

AWQR-2022
THE SOURCE OF OUR DRINKING WATER
Lake Tuscaloosa is our primary source for drinking water. It is a 5,885-acre impoundment of North River and several other creeks. It holds over 40 billion gallons of excellent quality water.

OUR WATER TREATMENT PROCESSES
The Ed Love Water Filtration Plant and the Jerry Plot Water Filtration Plant supply water to nearly 200,000 customers in the metropolitan Tuscaloosa area. These facilities operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Ed Love Plant has the capacity to treat 45.7 million gallons/day. The Jerry Plot Water Filtration Plant can treat 14 million gallons/day. Each plant utilizes the basic five steps of treatment: coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and chlorination. The speed of treatment and the chemicals used to accomplish the five steps differ somewhat for each plant. The biggest difference in the two plants is in the filtration step.

The Ed Love Water Treatment Plant utilizes conventional filtration consisting of two layers of filter media. An 18-inch layer of anthracite coal sits on top of the filter and helps trap organic material and dirt. The second layer of 12 inches of torpedos sand traps dirt and protozoans. The sand is similar to the sand found on many beaches around the world. What makes this sand special is its high degree of uniformity, which allows the sand to pack together tightly, increasing the filter's effectiveness. Water flows by gravity.

The Jerry Plot facility utilizes pressure to squeeze water through membranes made of Polyvinylidene Fluoride, PVDF. This lightweight plastic polymer is formed into long hollow tubes. The hollow tubes have an appearance reminiscent of spaghetti. The water molecules pass through the filter and collect in the hollow center of the fibers. Dirt, pathogens, organic material, and bacteria are left on the outside of the fibers. After filtration, the water receives a dose of chlorine in the form of sodium hypochlorite. This chemical is commonly known as bleach. The water goes to a storage tank called a clear well. This tank gives the chlorine time to disinfected the water before it is pumped to the distribution system, and our customers. Facilities in our distribution include:

- Water Mains in service, 4” and larger 705 Miles
- Water storage tanks 13
- Water storage capacity 25.4 Million
- Water booster pump stations 10
- Public fire hydrants 3760

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE NUMBER 4
The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) required water systems serving more than 10,000 people to monitor for 30 unregulated contaminants over a three-year span. The chart below contains the results for monitoring in 2018 and 2020, which were our assigned sampling periods.

DRIED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS
We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, and we are pleased that we have surpassed water quality standards set by the EPA and the ADEM.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. MCL’s, defined in a List of Definitions in this report, are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS
Below is a list of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants for which our water system routinely monitors. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was in accordance with the regulatory schedule.

WATER QUALITY REPORT
TABLE OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER PARAMETERS MONITORING PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2021
WATER SOURCE LAKE TUSCALOUSA

Our Great Lake!