

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



**BENT TREE
COMMUNITY, INC.
PWS 2270003
JASPER, GEORGIA**

REPORT DATA: JAN - DEC, 2025

WATER QUALITY REPORT

BENT TREE COMMUNITY, INC.

JASPER, GEORGIA 30143

INTRODUCTION

Reporting date covers 01/01/25 - 12/31/25

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments require that, beginning in October 1999, all community water systems provide customers with an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. This report is presented by the Bent Tree Community, Inc. Water System to its customers. The report reflects the operation of the BTCI Water System from January 01, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

In order to do a better job for you, along with meeting new federal and state regulations, we are providing all of our customers with information regarding the water system at Bent Tree.

REGULATORY AGENCY - There are two (2) regulatory agencies administering to the quality of the BTCI Water Program. Both are governmental agencies. EPA, The Federal - Environmental Protection Agency and EPD, The State of Georgia - Environmental Protection Division. Both of these agencies pass down non-funded mandates to BTCI for compliance that must be met.

ENGINEERING - The BTCI Water Program is an engineered structure. Engineers were employed in 1988 to help plan the BTCIWP. This plan is in effect today. The plan is based on growth, which then specifies a time table for improvements in water treatment, water distribution and water storage.

INFORMATION ON THE WATER SYSTEM:

Bent Tree provides water to 1153 service connections. The water source is Lake Tamarack and the Chestnut Cove creek reservoirs. A 500,000 gallon per day surface water treatment plant provides the treatment of water under state and federal guidelines. Storage capacity is 878,000 gallons and water distributed through water lines from 2 inch to 10 inch in diameter. Currently, 250,000 gallons per day is being produced. All customers are metered and pay on the usage or pay a minimum bill.

DETAIL OPERATIONAL PLANS - The BTCIWP meets the governmental requirements of its permit each day. The improvements made over the years, and those planned for in the future, will continue to see that quality is met. There are four (4) areas of the BTCIWP:

- 1). Supply
- 2). Treatment
- 3). Storage
- 4). Distribution

A failure of anyone of these four (4) areas will create a failure for service to our customers.

SUPPLY - Lake Tamarack, along with the Chestnut Cove reservoirs, make up the supply of water for the BTCIWP. BTCI has a permit today for withdrawal of 500,000 gallons in a 24 hour period.

TREATMENT - The Trident Surface Water Treatment Plant, constructed in 1994, has a current capacity of 500,000 gallons or 347 gallons per minute treatment capacity. The existing building was constructed to house an additional 500,000 gallons in increments of 250,000 when needed. In 2018, a third Trident unit was installed. We are required to treat with chlorine, and fluoride.

STORAGE - One of the key elements in the process is storage. Because the water demand peaks at several key times in a 24-hour period, the system must be able to deliver during that peak. To do this, there must be ample storage. Also, during periods when power may be off, and pumps are not able to pump, as well as treatment not taking place, water still must be delivered to the service area. Storage allows for the withdrawal of water into the service area. At the present time, there are ten (10) tanks which provide 878,000 gallons of storage for the six (6) water districts inside BTCI. Current storage gives BTCI customers two to three days of water if interruption from some source occurred.

DISTRIBUTION - The BTCIWP consists of 60 miles of water lines. Most of the original installation was light weight PVC pipe 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Due to the general topography of Bent Tree, leaks are prevalent throughout the entire system. Where we have water line breaks, the water typically comes to the surface and can be immediately repaired, but where 20-foot joints are leaking small amounts and new leaks are forming consistently, the total line must be replaced. In conjunction with the Engineering Study of 1988, BTCIWP is replacing approximately 5,000 feet of pipe with 6-inch C900 PVC Pipe per year. This is the best PVC pipe available and is also providing our community with updated fire protection.

STAFF - The BTCIWP Staff is made up of 8 employees who monitor the plant operation, water distribution system, meter readings, and overall supply, treatment, storage, and distribution. The employees work together to ensure a successful implementation of all aspects of Bent Tree's Water Program

We hope that some of this information is helpful to you. We strive each day to improve on our performance in providing you quality service. Mountain systems are extremely difficult to operate. Water must be taken from the low point to the high point, brought back down to the low point and at all times, and be within a pressure range that provides adequate service. Staff is committed to giving you quality service and we believe that this is done on a daily basis.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS:

Bent Tree has contracted with the State of Georgia Laboratory to test drinking water samples each month. The reports come back to BTCI and then a second report is forwarded to the State. This report contains the number of hours the plant has run on a daily basis, the number of gallons treated and the level of chlorine used at the plant on a daily basis.

DEFINITIONS

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) - “The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.” This is the only level that is regulated through testing.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG) - “The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.”

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT) - “ A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.”

ACTION LEVEL (AL) - “ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeding, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.”

VARIANCES AND EXEMPTIONS - “State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.”

RL – Reporting Limit

* MINIMUM DETECTION LEVEL (MDL) - Not Regulated

* < LESS THAN

* SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (SMCL) - Not Regulated

**BENT TREE COMMUNITY, INC. WATER PROGRAM
COMPLIANCE WITH ADDITIONAL DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS**

* RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS -
All Requirements Met.

* SPECIAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS -
No "Special" Monitoring Required -

* MONITORING AND REPORTING OF COMPLIANCE DATA -
No violations

* VIOLATION OF TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH VARIANCE, EXEMPTION,
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OR JUDICIAL ORDER -
No terms violated

* VIOLATION OF TREATMENT TECHNIQUES -
Treatment Techniques Include:
1. Filtration And Disinfection
2. Lead And Copper Corrosion Control
3. Acrylamide And Epichlorohydrin
No Violations.

REQUIRED EDUCATION AND HEALTH INFORMATION

- CONTAMINANTS AND HEALTH RISKS -

- 1) “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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).”
- 2) “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 advise about drinking water from their health care providers. “EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate 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).”

Basic Watershed Principle - The following will inform the customers of BTCI Water System of basic quality principles.

The source of BTCI’s drinking water includes Lake Tamarack and its tributaries. As the water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals, such as BTCI’s natural wildlife habitat or from human activity, such as construction or from natural erosion.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- 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, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm 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, 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 contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.”

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PFAS

(Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

What they are- A large group of man-made chemicals used since the 1940s for their resistance to heat, water, and oil.

Common uses- Nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, food packaging, firefighting foam, and stain-resistant products.

Why they matter- PFAS are often called “forever chemicals” because they don’t break down easily in the environment or the human body.

Where they are found- Soil, water supplies, air, wildlife, and even human blood worldwide.

Health concerns- Linked to increased risk of certain cancers, liver damage, immune system effects, hormone disruption, and developmental issues.

Exposure- Drinking contaminated water, eating contaminated food, using PFAS-containing products.

Regulation- Governments are beginning to limit and monitor PFAS, but many are still in use.

Bottom line- PFAS are persistent, widespread chemicals with potential health risks, making them a growing environmental and public health concern.

Beginning in 2025 the EPA has mandated comprehensive PFAS monitoring for all public water systems serving more than 3,300 people. Our first sample was in January of 2026 with great results. Bent Tree Community’s water supply had **ZERO** detected compounds.

SPECIAL REPORTING AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NITRATE, ARSENIC, LEAD, AND TRIHALOMETHANES

EPA is granted the authority to require additional health information under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Administrator has utilized this authority by including the following information regarding Nitrate, Lead, Arsenic, and Trihalomethanes. Note that certain portions of the following language must be included in your CCR based on finding these contaminants at specific levels. The required levels and the specific language for inclusion into your CCR (if appropriate) is as follows:

If the analysis of your finished tap water indicates any of the following, you must include required verbatim statements. Results are as follows:

1. Nitrate/Nitrite - above 5mg/L (or ppm) (50% of the MCL) but below 10 mg/L (100% of the MCL)
MCL 10 **Result is not detected** 04/15/2025
2. Arsenic - above 25 ug/L (50% of the MCL), but below 50 ug/L (100% of the MCL)
MCL 10 **Result is not detected** 02/09/2025
3. Lead - above 15 ug/L (or ppb) (the action level) in more than 5% but fewer than 10% of the sites sampled. EPD Policy states that if a water program passes the Lead/Copper testing for 3 consecutive years, the next time tested will be during 1 out of the following 3 years. BTCIWP passed 2023; therefore, the next time tested will be 1 time out of 2024 - 2027. Testing was done in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020, and 2023. In 2023, **All sites passed**
4. Trihalomethanes - have a running annual average of 3.37 ppb but below the current MCL of 80 ppb. **No Violation.**

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. Bent Tree's water treatment facility 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>.

2025 Contaminant Table

<i>COTAMINANT</i>	<i>YEAR</i>	<i>UNITS</i>	<i>MCL/MRDL</i>	<i>GOAL / MCLG</i>	<i>AMOUNT DETECTED</i>	<i>RANGE DETECTED</i>	<i>MAJOR SCOURCES</i>	<i>VIOLATION?</i>
Disinfectant								
Chlorine	2025	mg/L or PPM	4.0 MG/L	.2 - 4.0 mg/L	1.82 MG/L	1.0 to 2.0 mg/L	Used as a disinfectant in drinking Water	NO
Inorganics								
Sodium	2025	mg/L	N/A (Recommended between 30 MG/L and 60 mg/L)	0	6.5 mg/L	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment from rocks and soils	NO
Fluoride	2025	mg/L Or PPM	4.0 mg/L	4.0 MG/L	.7 mg/L	.7 to 1.0 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth	NO
vDisinfection by Products								
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	2025	µg/L	60 ppb	0	(Highest level Detected) 18 ppb	7.3pp to 15.67ppb	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	2025	µg/L	80 ppb	0	(Highest level Detected) 16 ppb	5.5ppb to 22.8ppb	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	NO

Acronym Key

MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
mg/L	Milligrams Per Liter or PPM
ppm	Parts per million or mg/L
µg/L	Microgram or PPB
PPB	Part Per Billion or µg/L

2025 CCR Supplemental Lead and Copper CCR Information For (GA2270003) Bent Tree Community Water System

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. Bent Tree 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 the Bent Tree Water Plant ([770-893-2636](tel:770-893-2636)) or email btwater@etcmail.com.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Lead and Copper Range Data.

Analyte	Date Sampled	Action Level	Range		Units	Violation
			Low	High		
Copper	9/26/2023	1.3	.0082	.38	ppm	NO
Lead	9/26/2023	15	0	5.2	Ppb	NO

To access all individual Lead tap Sample results for Bent Tree, contact: Bent Tree Water Plant at ([770-893-2636](tel:770-893-2636)) or email btwater@etcmail.com

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 Bent Tree please contact the Bent Tree Water Plant ([770-893-2636](tel:770-893-2636)) or email btwater@etcmail.com. The SLI can also be found on the Bent Tree website <https://www.bent-tree.com/Home> scroll all the way down to the bottom and it will be located next to the “Water Quality Report” tab.

Bent Tree's Water Treatment Facility provides water to all 3,500 acres and 1,126 homes in Bent Tree.

The purpose of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is to provide the BTCIWP customer with knowledge of the program and also knowledge of the water that they drink.

STATEMENT -

THE BENT TREE WATER DELIVERED TO YOUR HOUSE FROM THE BTCI WATER SOURCE, WATER TREATMENT, WATER STORAGE AND WATER DISTRIBUTION IS SAFE TO DRINK AND MEETS ALL STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS AS PERMITTED BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

SOURCE -

You can reach BTCI regarding your water bill Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm by dialing 770-893-2629 ext. *2703. If you have an outage or wish to report a water leak, you may call 770-893-2628, 24 hours per day.

If you have any questions concerning the drinking water quality or wish to see the latest sample report sent to the State of Georgia, you may call 770-893-2636.