

CARTHAGE WATER SYSTEM

PWS ID# "03-63-025"

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about from where your water comes, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

What If I Have Any Questions Or Would Like to Become More Involved?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Allen Smith, Director of Public Works, Town of Carthage at (910) 947-5041. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on third Monday of each month, unless otherwise posted, at the McDonald Building located at 203 McReynolds Street in Carthage.

What EPA Wants You to Know

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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).

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead In Drinking Water

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 Town of Carthage 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 us at (910) 947-5041. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We have been working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and prepared an inventory of all service lines in our water system. Contact us at (910) 947-5041 for access to the inventory.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The water that is used by this system is surface water, which comes from the town reservoir, located off Vass Carthage Road. Our alternate water source is Nick's Creek, located off of Highway 22, near Southern Pines. During this reporting period the Town purchased treated water from the Town of Southern Pines, which draws surface water from Drowning Creek. The water quality for the Town of Southern Pines can be viewed at this website: <https://southernpines.net/DocumentCenter/View/10141/Annual-Water-Quality-Report>.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background

information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for the Town of Carthage was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area.). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating
TOWN POND	Moderate
NICK'S CREEK	Moderate
DROWNING CREEK	Moderate

This information was obtained from the SWAP report dated September 10, 2020. The complete SWAP Assessment report for the Carthage Water Treatment Plant may be viewed on the Web at: <https://www.ncwater.org/?page=600>. Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this web site may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. If you are unable to access your SWAP report on the web, you may mail a written request for a printed copy to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634, or email requests to swap@deq.nc.gov. Please indicate your system the water sytem name and number, and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report please contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at 919-707-9098.

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the systems’ potential to become contaminated by PCS’s in the assessment area

Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year

The Town was compliant with State and Federal water quality standards and testing requirements.

Water Quality Data Table of Detected Contaminants

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2025.** The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less 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 of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

Herbicide - Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

Not-Applicable (N/A) – Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or for that particular Rule.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanogram per liter (ng/l) - One part per trillion is equivalent to about thirty seconds out of every million years

Pesticide - Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal – The “Level” (MRDLG) 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level – The “Highest Level” (MRDL) of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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 - The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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.

Extra Note: MCL’s 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.

Running Annual Average (RAA) - The average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

Turbidity

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	N	0.28	N/A	TT = 1 NTU	Soil runoff
		100%		TT = percentage of samples < 0.3 NTU	

* 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.

Inorganics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	N	0.47	N/A	N/A	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Contaminants

The table below summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please contact us at (910) 947-5041.

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water (90 th Percentile)	# of sites found above the AL	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	Sept 2024	0.116	None	ND	0.653	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90 th percentile)	Sept 2024	ND	1	ND	23.9	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectant Residual Summary

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
			Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	N	1.553	1.0	2.6	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloramine (ppm)	N	1.63	1.0	2.7	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (Highest)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
			Low	High			
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	N	32.0	12.5	38.0	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	N	52.0	16.7	45.6	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant (units)	TT Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA Removal Ratio)	Range Monthly Removal Ratio		MCLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination	Compliance Method
			Low	High				
Total Organic Carbon (removal ratio) (TOC)-TREATED	N	1.15	0.94	1.37	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment	Step 1

Synthetic Organic Chemical (SOC) Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Simazine (ppb)	Jan 2026 Apr 2026	N	0.09	0	0.09	4	4	Herbicide runoff

Secondary Contaminants, required by the NC Public Water Supply Section, are substances that affect the taste, odor, and/or color of drinking water. These aesthetic contaminants normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range		Secondary MCL
			Low	High	
Iron (ppm)	Various	0.03	ND	0.14	0.3
Manganese (ppm)	Various	0.005	ND	0.021	0.05
Sodium (ppm)	1/7/2025	4.02	N/A		N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	1/7/2025	ND	N/A		250
pH	Daily		6.7	9.2	6.5 to 8.5

