



# **Town of Christiansburg**

# **2017 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**



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## A Note from Town Manager Randy Wingfield



Every year, our water systems undergo extensive testing to ensure our drinking water is safe. The results of these tests, performed during the 2017 calendar year, demonstrate that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

It is important to me that residents are fully informed about the quality of their drinking water. This report covers test results, general information about our drinking water and drinking water treatment plant, and additional resources the public may find useful.

If you have further questions, please contact our Director of Engineering, Wayne O. Nelson, P.E., at (540) 382-6120.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Wingfield".

Randy Wingfield, Town Manager

# Treatment Plant Information



Residents tour the sedimentation basins at the New River Valley Regional Water Authority's water treatment plant.

The New River Valley Regional Water Authority (NRVRWA) owns and operates a water treatment plant capable of processing 12.4 million gallons per day as well as two raw water pump stations located near the New River. The NRVRWA is a bulk supplier and provides finished water to the Town of Blacksburg, Town of Christiansburg, Virginia Tech and Montgomery County. This means the NRVRWA services an estimated population of 65,000.

The original raw water intake and water treatment plant were constructed in 1957 with a capacity of 4.1 million gallons per day. In 1968, the water treatment plant capacity was expanded to 10 million gallons per day, and a raw water booster pump station was also constructed. In 1977, the water treatment plant capacity was again expanded to its current capacity of 12.4 million gallons per day, and a new raw water intake was added. Minimal upgrades and improvements have taken place since 1977, with the majority of work being routine maintenance and replacement.

The NRVRWA recently completed a comprehensive evaluation of the existing raw water pump facility and the water treatment plant. The evaluation found that the facilities required a number of upgrades to maintain a safe work environment, improve efficiency and ensure the facilities are able to continue providing high quality water to customers. Because of this, the water treatment plant will soon undergo major renovations.

The NRVRWA is also working on various projects that will expand service and provide redundant feeds to its members. This means that in the event of a malfunction or failure of critical infrastructure, there are alternate routes and systems to deliver water.

# About Your Water

Christiansburg is a member of the New River Valley Regional Water Authority (NRVRWA), which provides the Town of Christiansburg with drinking water sourced from the New River. The NVRWA treats surface water obtained from the New River using conventional treatment methods such as coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and, finally, disinfection. The water is pumped from the treatment system through a network of pipes to storage tanks, where it is then distributed to your tap. The Town of Christiansburg operates and maintains four pump stations, four water storage tanks and 150 miles of water main. On average, the Town delivers 2,317,502 gallons of drinking water to residences and businesses each day.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells.

Drinking water, including bottled drinking 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Possible contaminants include:

- ***Microbial Contaminants***, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban runoff, and septic systems
- ***Radioactive Contaminants***, which can be naturally occurring, or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

# Health Information

## Vulnerability to Contaminants

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. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, the elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

A source water assessment was conducted in 2002 that determined the New River to be highly susceptible to contamination. This is common of other water systems in Virginia when the source is from surface waters. Information from this report may be obtained through the NRVRA ([www.nrvwater.org](http://www.nrvwater.org)).

## Lead in Homes

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 Town of Christiansburg is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking and 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/saferwater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/saferwater/lead).

## Cryptosporidium

In 2017, the New River Valley Regional Water Authority monitored for Cryptosporidium in our source water prior to treatment, as required by the EPA's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR). Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite found in surface water throughout the United States. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection.

Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium from source water, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Under the LT2ESWTR, the average Cryptosporidium concentration determines if additional treatment measures are needed. Twenty-four samples are required for analysis over a two-year period. During 2017, the average concentration of Cryptosporidium was 0 oocysts per liter in the 18 samples collected. Based on the Cryptosporidium monitoring results so far, and the current performance of the treatment plant, we anticipate meeting the requirements of LT2ESWTR.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

# Sampling Results

The New River Valley Regional Water Authority and the Town of Christiansburg routinely monitor contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that are applicable for the calendar year of this report.

The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change.

## Regulated Contaminants<sup>a</sup>

Contaminants (units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Level Detected	Range (lowest - highest)	Violation	Typical Sources
<b>Nitrite and Nitrate (ppm)</b>	10	10	0.62	N/A	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Haloacetic acids [HHAAs] (ppb)</b>	N/A	60	41	17-48	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)</b>	N/A	80	43	16-59	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total organic carbon (removal ratio)</b>	N/A	TT in compliance if $\geq 1.0$	1.0	1.00-1.45	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Barium (ppm)</b>	2	2	0.022	N/A	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chlorine (ppm)</b>	4	4	2.99	0.70-3.90	No	Water additive to control microbes
<b>Turbidity (NTU)<sup>1</sup></b>	N/A	TT, 1 NTU max TT, $\leq 0.3$ (95% of the time)	0.12, 100% of the time	0.05-0.12	No	Soil runoff
<b>Fluoride (ppm)</b>	4	4	0.75	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

## Lead & Copper Contaminants<sup>a</sup>

Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Sample Date	Violation	Sites above action level	Typical sources
<b>Copper (ppm)</b>	1.3	1.3	0.085	Sept. 2017	No	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Lead (ppb)</b>	0	15	<2 <sup>c</sup>	Sept. 2017	No	1 <sup>d</sup>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

<sup>a</sup>These tables only show those contaminants that were detected in the water.

<sup>b</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The EPA requires that we report the highest single turbidity result measured during the year.

<sup>c</sup>The 90th percentile was below the detection limit of 2 ppb.

<sup>d</sup>The Town of Christiansburg participates in lead and copper monitoring with the Town of Blacksburg and Belview distribution systems. The site above action level was not in the Town of Christiansburg's water distribution system.

# Definitions

The following definitions may assist in understanding the results table on the previous page.

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** or **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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level** or **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 Residual Disinfectant Level Goal** or **MRDLG** is 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** or **MRDL** is 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.
- **Treatment Technique** or **TT** is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Violation** means that the level of a contaminant or disinfectant in your drinking water has exceeded the maximum level allowed by the EPA.
- **Action Level** means the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that an owner shall follow.
- **PPB (parts per billion)** means one part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).
- **PPM (parts per million)** means one part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

## Additional Resources

- **Attend a Water Authority meeting**

Community members are welcome to attend New River Valley Regional Water Authority meetings, which are held every third Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. in Room 4000 at University Gateway Center, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

- **Take a tour of the water treatment plant**

To schedule a tour, please contact Executive Director Caleb Taylor at (540) 639-2575.

- **Dispose of household hazardous waste**

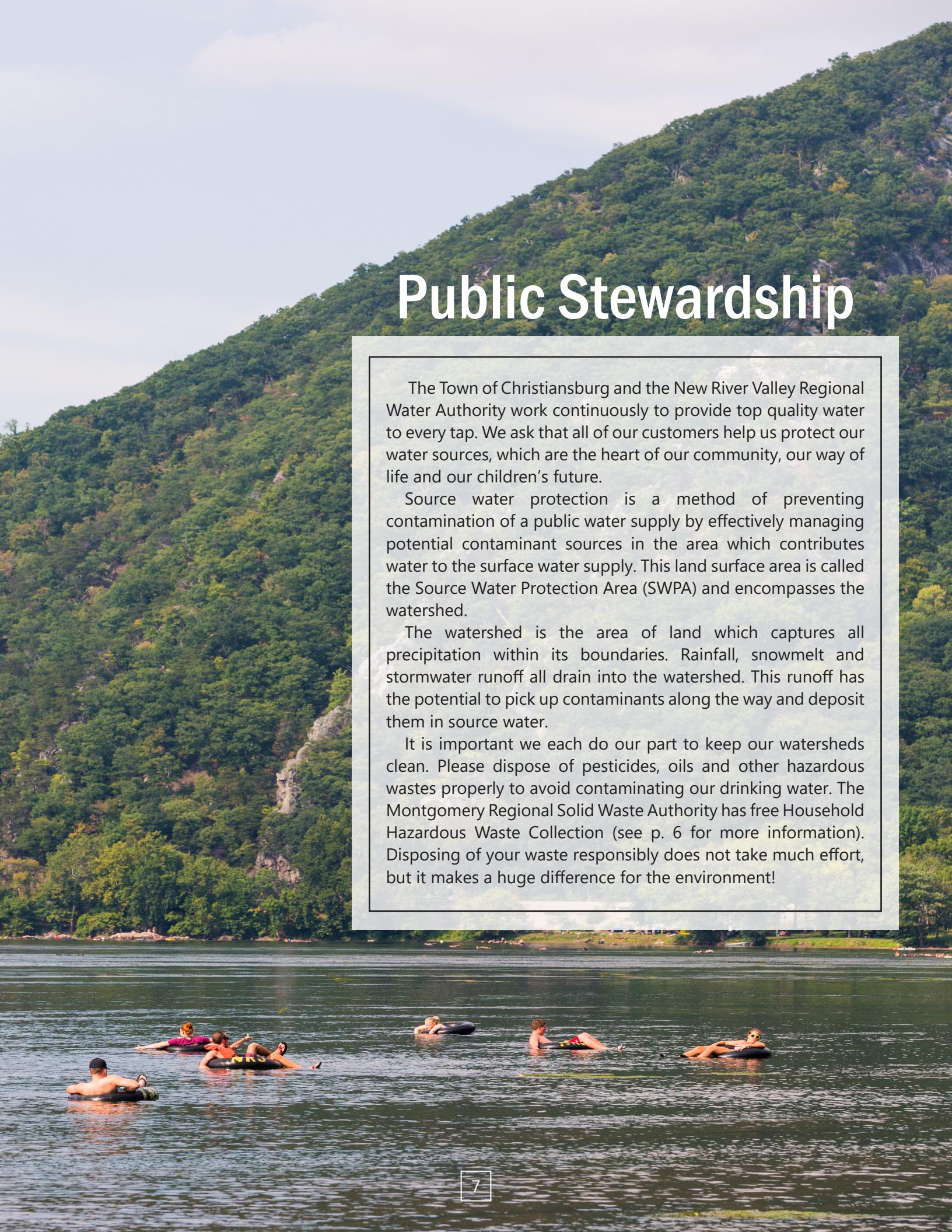
A monthly collection day is held from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of every month for disposal of household hazardous waste materials. You must preregister by calling (540) 381-2820 and dial 0 for an attendant. Collection is located at 555 Authority Drive in Christiansburg. For more information, please visit their website: [www.mrswa.com/household-hazardous-waste.html](http://www.mrswa.com/household-hazardous-waste.html).

- **Learn more:**

If you have questions about this report, please contact the Engineering Department at (540) 382-6120. For more information about water in the New River Valley, please visit [www.nrvwater.org](http://www.nrvwater.org).

The EPA ([www.epa.gov/Your-Drinking-Water](http://www.epa.gov/Your-Drinking-Water)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking)) websites offer a substantial amount of information on many issues related to water resources, water conservation and public health.

The Virginia Health Department's Office of Drinking Water ([www.vdh.gov/ODW](http://www.vdh.gov/ODW)) provides current information on water issues in Virginia, including valuable information about our watershed.



# Public Stewardship

The Town of Christiansburg and the New River Valley Regional Water Authority work continuously to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Source water protection is a method of preventing contamination of a public water supply by effectively managing potential contaminant sources in the area which contributes water to the surface water supply. This land surface area is called the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) and encompasses the watershed.

The watershed is the area of land which captures all precipitation within its boundaries. Rainfall, snowmelt and stormwater runoff all drain into the watershed. This runoff has the potential to pick up contaminants along the way and deposit them in source water.

It is important we each do our part to keep our watersheds clean. Please dispose of pesticides, oils and other hazardous wastes properly to avoid contaminating our drinking water. The Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority has free Household Hazardous Waste Collection (see p. 6 for more information). Disposing of your waste responsibly does not take much effort, but it makes a huge difference for the environment!