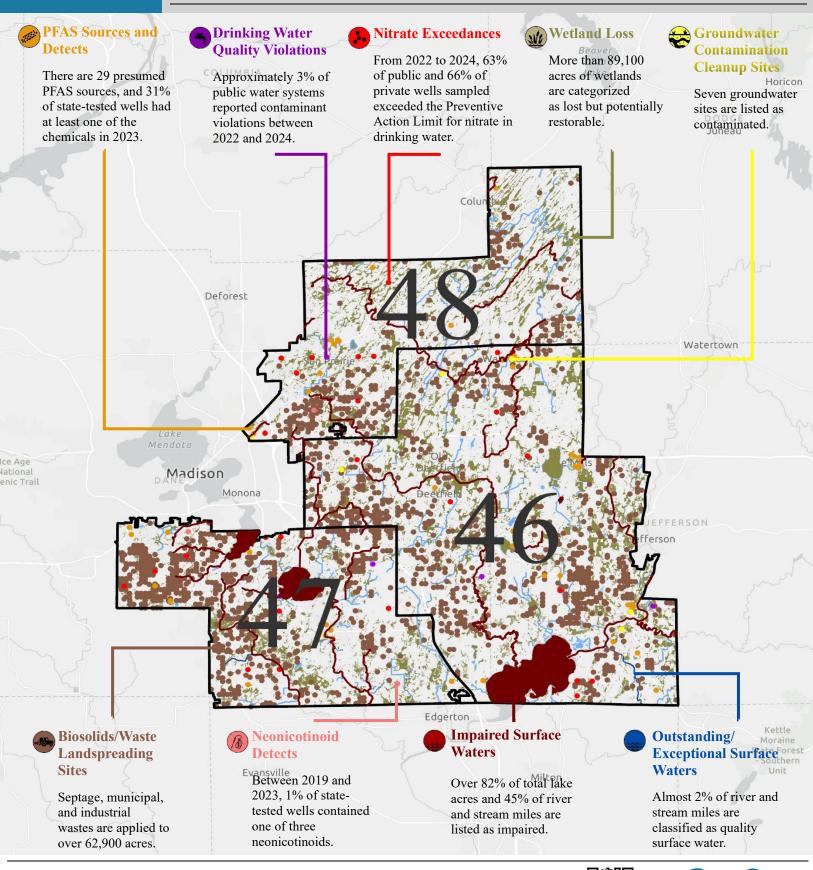
16 SENATE DISTRICT

2024* Water Quality Report

177,000 Constituents | 28% Rely on Private Wells for Drinking Water









- Twenty-one private and 15 public wells sampled exceeded the Preventative Action Limit from 2022-2024.
- Elevated levels of nitrate are generally due to agricultural runoff and industrial discharges.
- Nitrate has been linked to blue baby syndrome, colon cancer, thyroid disease, and neural tube defects.
- Current permit holders have applied over 548 million gallons of waste to over 2,600 separate fields.²
- The liquid and solid waste is generated from paper mills, septage operations, and food processing plants.
- Landspreading waste can transport contaminants by contaminating groundwater and food and feed crops in the area.

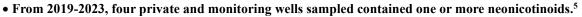




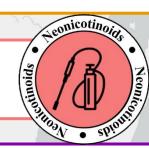
Five private and 11 municipal wells tested by the state had detectable levels of PFAS in 2023.³

- The 29 presumed sources include facilities that manufacture, manage, and/or discharge PFAS materials.⁴
- PFAS consumption can cause developmental effects in children, decreased fertility, and some cancers.

Merrill



- Neonicotinoid insecticides are applied to agricultural crops, lawns and gardens, golf courses, and more.
- Negative impacts to non-target insect species cause food chain issues in fish, birds, and potentially other taxa.





- Nitrate, bacteria, and arsenic violations occurred in five public water systems from 2022-2024.
- These contaminants often enter drinking water from agricultural operations and natural sources.
- Sustained ingestion at high levels can cause cancer, gastrointestinal ailments, and developmental issues, respectively.

Appleton

Petenwell

• Seven groundwater sites are contaminated with PAHs, solvents, gasoline, heavy metals, and/or VOCs.

- These chemical mixtures enter water through industrial discharges, underground storage tank leaks, and landfill leachate.
- If ingested through drinking water, the pollutants pose serious cancer and organ damage health risks.



Fond du Lac



- Of the thousands of wetland acres lost, 18% of the total land acreage has the potential for restoration.³
- Degradation and loss of Wisconsin wetlands is primarily due to invasives, development, and conversion to cropland.
- Wetlands absorb pollutants before they enter water, including drinking water; without them, we lose natural filters.
- More than 29,000 acres and 215 miles of surface waters are listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act.³
- The mercury, phosphorus, lead, and/or PCBs throughout are often from agricultural and industrial discharges.
- Ingestion of these pollutants can lead to organ damage, cardiovascular and reproductive issues, cancer, and more.





- Over 10 miles of surface waters are classified as Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters by the state.³
- These waterbodies support fisheries and wildlife and have high water quality from effective management and protection.
- As some drinking water is sourced from surface water, these are essential public health resources, too.

Freeport

Rockford

Crystal Lake

