

# 2024\* Water Quality Report

177,000 Constituents | <1% Rely on Private Wells for Drinking Water

## PFAS Sources and Detects

There are 72 presumed PFAS sources; and 50% of state-tested wells had at least one of the chemicals in 2023.

## Nitrate Exceedances

From 2022 to 2024, 0% of wells sampled exceeded the Preventive Action Limit for nitrate in drinking water.

## Wetland Loss

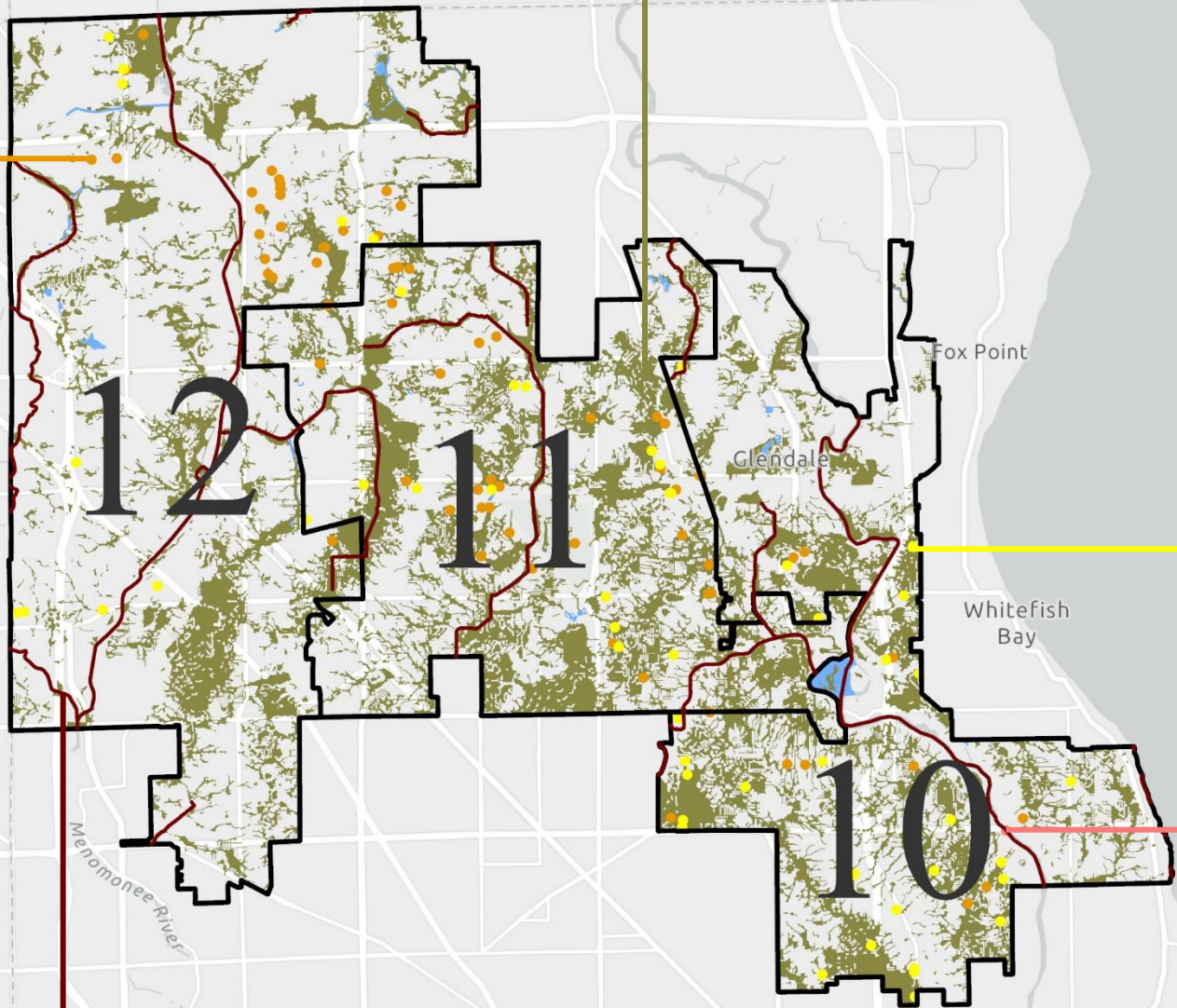
More than 13,000 acres of wetlands are categorized as lost but potentially restorable.

## Drinking Water Quality Violations

No public water systems reported contaminant violations between 2022 and 2024.

## Groundwater Contamination Cleanup Sites

Fifty-four groundwater sites are listed as contaminated.



## Impaired Surface Waters

Over 87% of river and stream miles are listed as impaired.

## Biosolids/Waste Landspreading Sites

Neither septage, municipal, nor industrial wastes are applied to land in the district.

## Outstanding/Exceptional Surface Waters

No rivers, streams, nor lakes are classified as quality surface water.

## Neonicotinoid Detects

Between 2019 and 2023, <1% of state-tested wells contained one of three neonicotinoids.

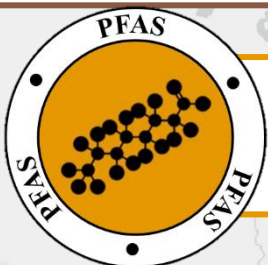




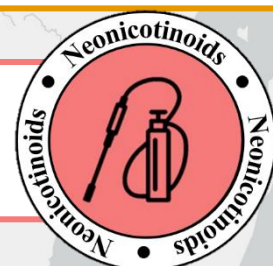
- **No wells sampled exceeded the Preventative Action Limit from 2022-2024.<sup>1</sup>**
- Elevated levels of nitrate are generally due to agricultural runoff and industrial discharges.
- Nitrate has been linked to blue baby syndrome, colon cancer, thyroid disease, and neural tube defects.



- **There are no current biosolids/waste landspreading permit holders.<sup>2</sup>**
- Liquid and solid waste is generated from paper mills, septic operations, and food processing plants.
- Landspreading waste can transport contaminants by contaminating groundwater and food and feed crops in the area.



- **One municipal well tested (no private wells were tested) by the state had detectable levels of PFAS in 2023.<sup>3</sup>**
- The 72 presumed sources include facilities that manufacture, manage, and/or discharge PFAS materials.<sup>4</sup>
- PFAS consumption can cause developmental effects in children, decreased fertility, and some cancers.



- **From 2019-2023, two private and monitoring wells sampled contained one or more neonicotinoids.<sup>5</sup>**
- 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.



- **No federal drinking water violations occurred in public water systems from 2022-2024.<sup>6</sup>**
- Common contaminants such as bacteria and metals often enter drinking water from agricultural and natural sources.
- Sustained ingestion at high levels can cause gastrointestinal ailments and developmental issues, respectively.



- **Fifty-four groundwater sites are contaminated with PAHs, PCBs, solvents, gasoline, heavy metals, and/or VOCs.<sup>7</sup>**
- 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.



- **Of the thousands of wetland acres lost, 45% of the total land acreage has the potential for restoration.<sup>3</sup>**
- 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 30 miles of surface waters are listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act.<sup>3</sup>**
- 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.



- **No surface waters are classified as Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters by the state.<sup>3</sup>**
- 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.