

2024* Water Quality Report

177,000 Constituents | 29% Rely on Private Wells for Drinking Water



For policy questions, contact Water and Agriculture Program Director Sara Walling at swalling@cleanwisconsin.org. For data questions, contact Clean Water Manager Hannah Richerson at hricherson@cleanwisconsin.org. *Data available as of December 31, 2024.







- The 52 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

- From 2019-2023, no private nor monitoring wells sampled contained neonicotinoids.⁵
- 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.



• Sixteen groundwater sites are contaminated with PFAS, PAHs, solvents, gasoline, heavy metals, and/or VOCs.⁷

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



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O/E

PFAS

- Of the thousands of wetland acres lost, 14% 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.



- Over 25 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

¹Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Groundwater Retrieval Network (GRN); ²WDNR data request; ³WDNR GIS Open Data Portal; ⁴Adapted from Salvatore et al. (2022); ⁵Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) data request; ⁶Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO); 7WDNR Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS)



Crustal Lake