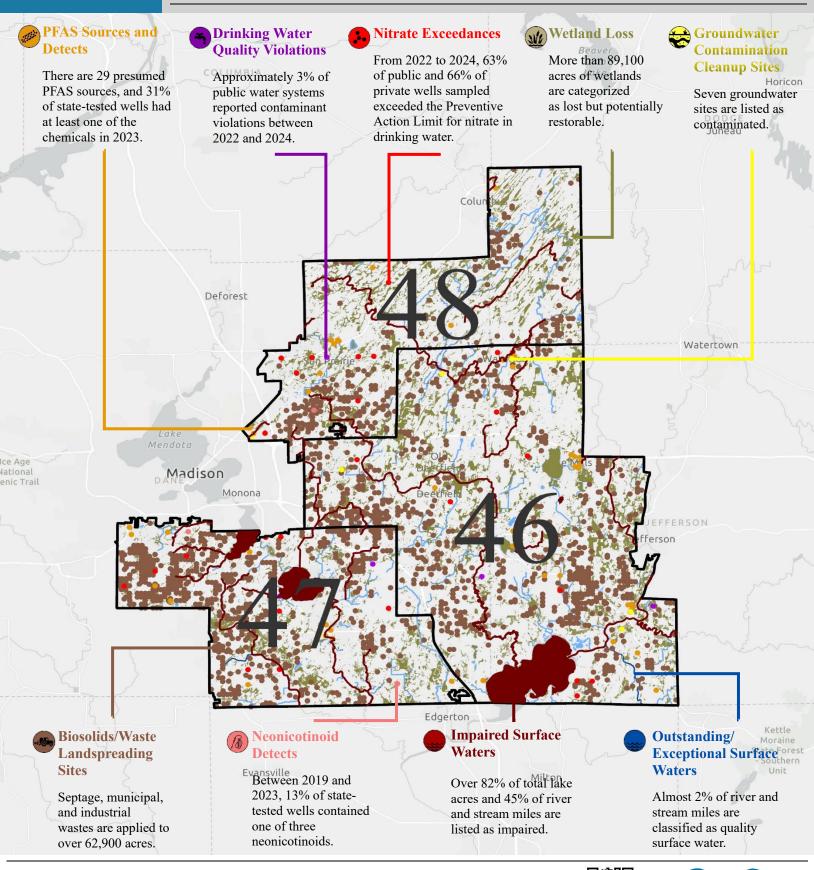
16 SENATE DISTRICT

2024* Water Quality Report

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









- Twenty-one private and 19 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 approximately 1.8 billion 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 2022-2024.6
- 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

