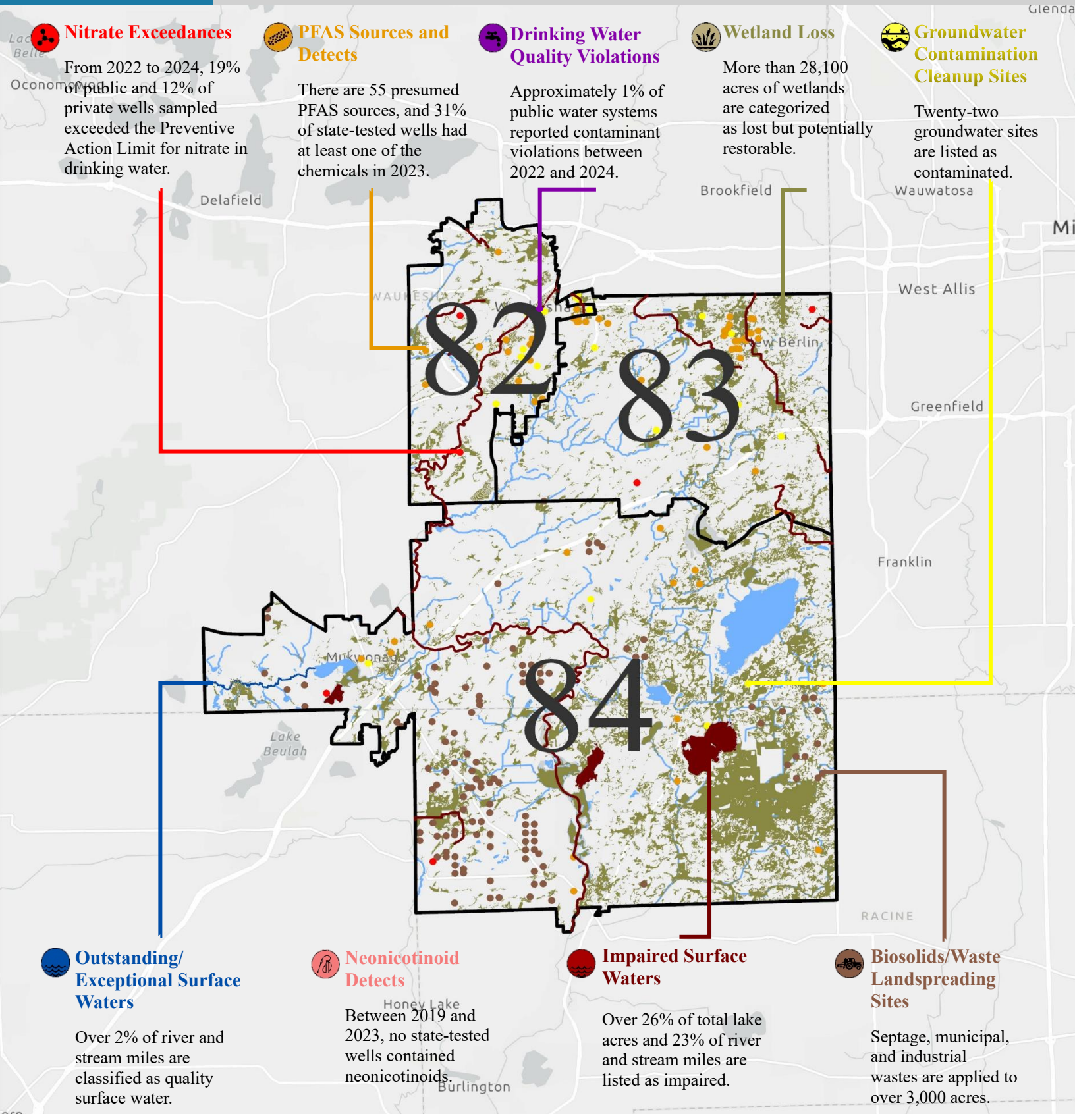


# 2024\* Water Quality Report

177,000 Constituents | 36% Rely on Private Wells for Drinking Water

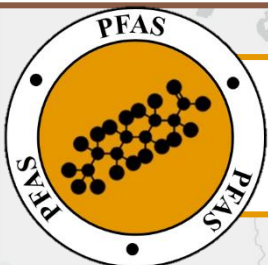




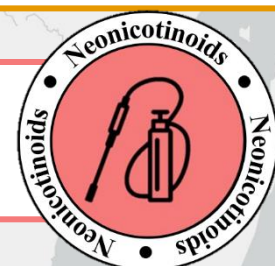
- **Three private and 12 public\* wells sampled exceeded the Preventative Action Limit from 2022-2024.<sup>1</sup>**
- Elevated levels of nitrate are generally due to agricultural runoff and industrial discharges.
- Nitrate has been linked to blue baby syndrome, colon cancer, thyroid disease, and neural tube defects.



- **Current permit holders have applied approximately 2.7 billion gallons of waste to over 145 separate fields.<sup>2</sup>**
- 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.



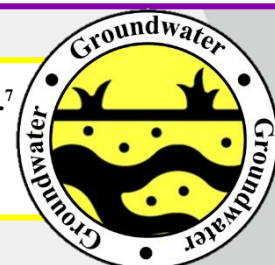
- **Two private and 10 municipal wells tested by the state had detectable levels of PFAS in 2023.<sup>3</sup>**
- The 55 presumed sources include facilities that manufacture, manage, and/or discharge PFAS materials.<sup>4</sup>
- PFAS consumption can cause developmental effects in children, decreased fertility, and some cancers.



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



- **Radium and lead/copper violations occurred in one public\* water systems from 2022-2024.<sup>6</sup>**
- These contaminants often enter drinking water from natural sources.
- Sustained ingestion at high levels can cause cancer and developmental issues, respectively.



- **Twenty-two groundwater sites are contaminated with PFAS, PAHs, heavy metals, solvents, gasoline, and/or VOCs.<sup>7</sup>**
- 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.



- **Of the thousands of wetland acres lost, 18% 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 2,600 acres and 55 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.



- **Over five miles of surface waters are classified as Outstanding or Exceptional 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.

Freeport

Rockford

Crystal Lake