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SENATE DISTRICT

2024* Water Quality Report

177,000 Constituents | 0% Rely on Private Wells for Drinking Water



PFAS Sources and Detects

There are 40 presumed PFAS sources; no wells were tested by the state for the compounds in 2023.



Nitrate Exceedances

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



Drinking Water Quality Violations

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



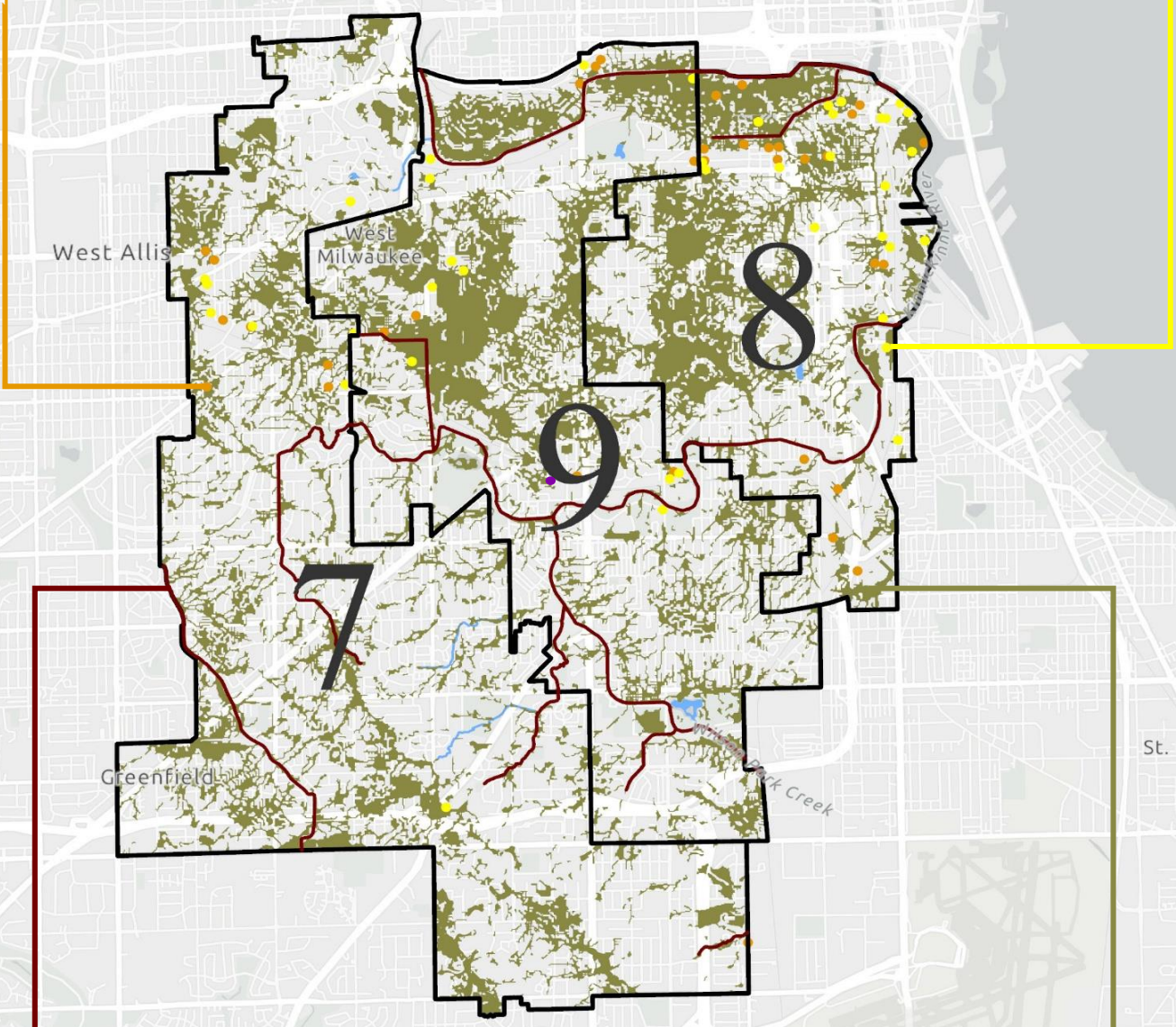
Biosolids/Waste Landspreading Sites

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



Groundwater Contamination Cleanup Sites

Forty-two groundwater sites are listed as contaminated.



Impaired Surface Waters

Over 91% of river and stream miles are listed as impaired.



Neonicotinoid Detects

Between 2019 and 2023, no wells were tested by the state for neonicotinoids.



Outstanding/Exceptional Surface Waters

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



Wetland Loss

More than 8,400 acres of wetlands are categorized as lost but potentially restorable.

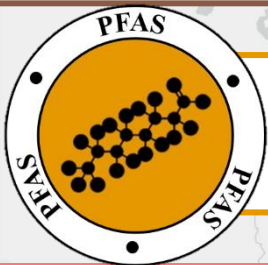




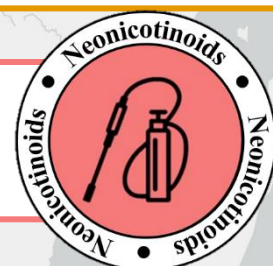
- **No wells sampled exceeded the Preventative Action Limit from 2022-2024.¹**
- Elevated levels of nitrate are generally due to agricultural runoff and industrial discharges.
- Nitrate has been linked to blue baby syndrome, colon cancer, thyroid disease, and neural tube defects.



- **There are no current biosolids/waste landspreading permit holders.²**
- 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.



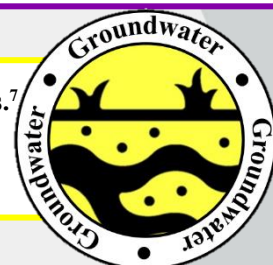
- **No wells were tested by the state for PFAS in 2023.³**
- The 40 presumed sources include facilities that manufacture, manage, and/or discharge PFAS materials.⁴
- PFAS consumption can cause developmental effects in children, decreased fertility, and some cancers.



- **From 2019-2023, no wells were sampled for 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.



- **No federal drinking water violations occurred in public* water systems from 2022-2024.⁶**
- 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.



- **Forty-two groundwater sites are contaminated with PAHs, PCBs, solvents, gasoline, metals, cyanide, and/or VOCs.⁷**
- 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, 53% 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 20 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.



- **No 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.



*Public wells include [municipal, other than municipal, non-transient non-community, and transient non-community systems](#). ¹Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Groundwater Retrieval Network; ²WDNR data request; ³WDNR GIS Open Data Portal; ⁴Adapted from Salvatore et al. (2022); ⁵Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection data request; ⁶Environmental Protection Agency Enforcement and Compliance History Online; ⁷WDNR Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System