



LET'S
KEEP
IT
CLEAN



GROUNDWATER IS THE WATER WE DRINK.

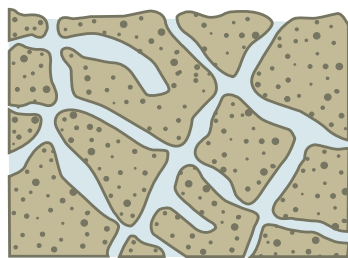
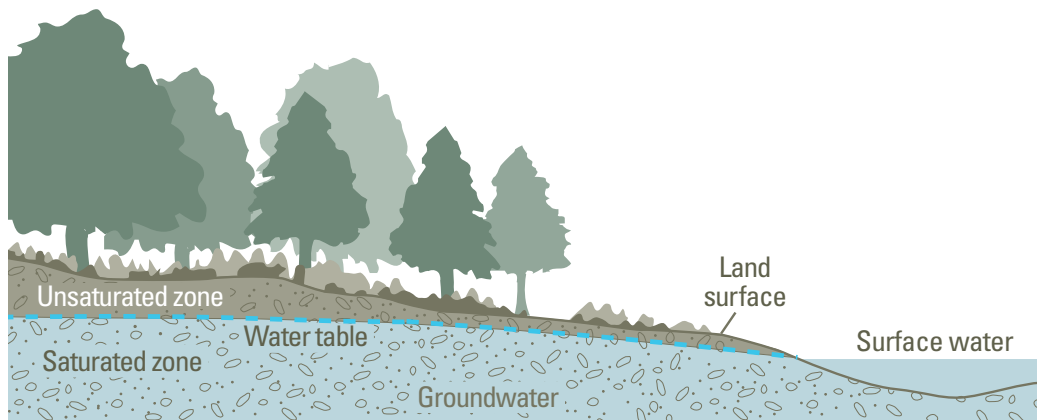
THE WATER THAT GROWS OUR
FOOD. THE WATER WE SWIM AND
PLAY IN. SOUND IMPORTANT? IT IS.
IS GROUNDWATER WORTH
PROTECTING? WE HAVE NO OTHER
CHOICE. LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN.

DIVE IN A LITTLE DEEPER.

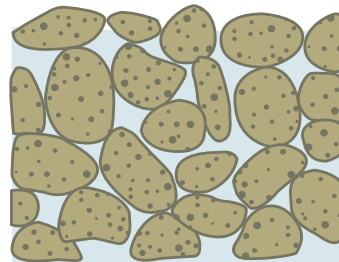
Groundwater, obviously, is the water in the ground. But it is not an underground ocean or lake. It's the water that fills all the tiny spaces between the soil particles and cracks in rocks underground, like water saturating a sponge.

Groundwater, like all water on earth, is a finite resource. It is a part of the water cycle; therefore it comes from precipitation—rain and snow—which percolates through the soil and becomes groundwater. Groundwater can naturally discharge into lakes and streams, or it can be pumped out through wells.

GROUNDWATER FILLS THE SPACES BETWEEN SOIL PARTICLES AND FRACTURED ROCK UNDERGROUND.



Fractured Rock



Gravel

Image compliments of US Geological Survey, adapted by The Groundwater Foundation

GROUNDWATER IS IMPORTANT AND FINITE.

Water is essential to life. Less than 1% of the water on Earth is readily available. And 98% of that available water is groundwater.

Groundwater is critical to our existence, to our economy and to our wellbeing:

IT'S THE WATER WE DRINK

Groundwater is the source of drinking water for over half the population of the United States.

IT GROWS THE FOOD WE EAT

Groundwater is a major source of irrigation for agriculture.

IT PROVIDES OUR RECREATION

Groundwater is a source of recharge for our lakes and rivers.

HERE'S WHAT WE CAN DO

Protecting your water supply doesn't have to mean millions of dollars in investment. There are plenty of opportunities for you as an individual and your community as a whole to play a vital part in protecting your drinking water. Individually we act; collectively we make a difference!

IDEAS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Each of us can make personal choices that impact our groundwater.

Here are a couple of things to remember:

WHAT IS Poured ON THE GROUND, ON THE GRASS, OR DOWN
THE DRAIN TODAY CAN END UP IN YOUR DRINKING WATER LATER.

WHAT WE DO TO OUR GROUNDWATER TODAY WILL AFFECT IT FOR
YEARS TO COME.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW.

SEE OUR TOP TEN TIPS ON OUR WEBSITE TODAY.

WWW.GROUNDWATER.ORG

IDEAS FOR COMMUNITIES

AS A COMMUNITY, WE CAN BROADEN OUR IMPACT. GET STARTED:

BECOME A GROUNDWATER GUARDIAN COMMUNITY. You and other concerned citizens form a Groundwater Guardian team with the goal of educating residents and protecting your community's groundwater. You will be part of a national network of Groundwater Guardians acting locally and having a global impact. The Groundwater Foundation provides recognition for your community for the efforts you complete on behalf of groundwater.

RECRUIT SITES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUNDWATER GUARDIAN GREEN SITE PROGRAM. The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program is designed for locations such as golf courses, ball parks, city parks, educational or corporate campuses...any location that has managed turf. This program offers education and recognition for sites that really want to be green in every sense of the word. It is important to implement groundwater-friendly management practices, so let's get sites in your community on board and part of this program!

HOLD A "TEST YOUR WELL" EVENT. Over 42 million Americans rely on private wells to supply drinking water for their families. A Test Your Well event is a perfect time to make sure your community's private wells are safe. One other idea is to join the well care® Well Owners Network (www.watersystemscouncil.org/network.php) to learn more about how you can ensure your well will provide safe drinking water for years to come.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION. What does that mean? Wellhead protection means protecting the source of your drinking water...and that is pretty important. Make sure your community is making the right decisions that won't put your community's drinking water supply at risk.

WHAT HAVE OTHER COMMUNITIES DONE?

Learn from the experience of others to create workable solutions for your community, too.

HASTINGS, NE: Hastings Utilities has established a well permitting program for the city of Hastings and developed an incentive program for abandoned wells and septic tanks.

SIDNEY, NE: converted grass lawns to more drought-tolerant surfaces.

MARSHFIELD, WI: implemented a permanent pharmaceutical take-back program for the community.

DAYTON, OH: developed a model for multi-jurisdictional groundwater protection.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY: is developing a storm water master plan for the entire campus.

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, CAPE COD, MA: annually makes available hundreds of rain barrels to residents of the cape.

LOMPOC, CA: has developed a water rebate program for retrofitting plumbing fixtures with more efficient systems.

NORTH AMERICA: tens of thousands of future environmental stewards are being fostered through the children's groundwater festivals taking place annually.

From Arkansas to California to Indiana to New Jersey: rivers and lakes are kept clean by hundreds of volunteers involved in annual clean up programs.

Add your community's name to the list of community-wide proactive protection efforts!

LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN.

It's time to put a plan into action—that's what the Groundwater Foundation is all about.

We want to help communities proactively protect their drinking water supply, both for economic and health reasons—critical elements to the wellbeing of a community. The Groundwater Foundation will help you develop a plan to protect groundwater in your community. We will work directly in your community, generating interest and understanding about groundwater through educational activities for schools, community events, businesses, and more. You will also receive a toolkit which will provide numerous resources to enhance the efforts.

For more information, visit groundwater.org and click on the **LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN** button. To get started immediately, contact us now. Call **1-800-858-4844** or **402-434-2740**. Or e-mail us at **info@groundwater.org**.



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Nebraska Department
of Environmental Quality



The Nebraska
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preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations