

GROUNDWATER



Protecting Drinking Water
for Generations to Come

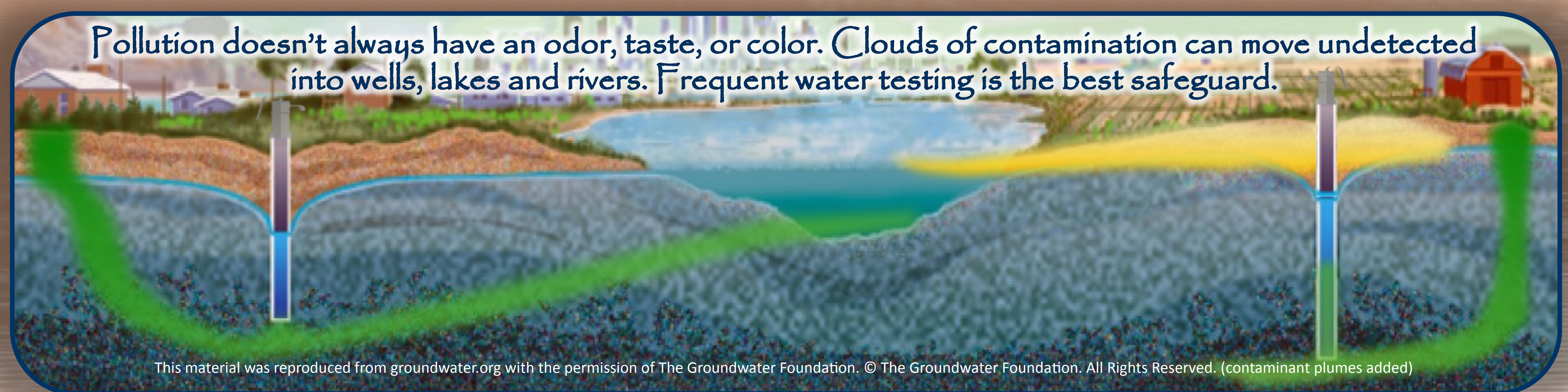
Groundwater protection is critical for plentiful, safe drinking water, full lakes, and flowing rivers.



The groundwater we drink is directly connected to the surface where we live. Everyday activities can have negative consequences on the quality of our groundwater.



When it rains, stormwater can carry pollutants from the surface into the groundwater. These pollutants move through groundwater depending on the speed and direction of groundwater flow, and the pollutant's physical and chemical properties.



Did you know?

- **94% of Anoka County residents depend on private and city wells that tap into groundwater to supply their water needs.**
- **Deep Anoka County groundwater aquifers filled with pristine glacial meltwater thousands of years ago.**
- **Groundwater connects to our lakes and rivers, and keeps them full and flowing even when it doesn't rain.**
- **Groundwater in Anoka County exists in tiny spaces between soil particles.**
- **Anoka County's high water table, sandy soils, and high population make our groundwater vulnerable to overuse and contamination.**

How to be groundwater-savvy

- **Properly dispose of hazardous household waste** - Things like paint, pharmaceuticals, and car fluids can pollute groundwater if improperly disposed.
- **Test your well** - Private well water testing is the homeowner's responsibility. Test at least once for arsenic, and every six months for bacteria and nitrate. 8.2% of private well tests in Anoka County show unsafe arsenic levels.
- **Know your water softener** - Salt from your water softener permanently pollutes groundwater. Calibrate your water softener or update to a high-efficiency model to limit chloride pollution in groundwater.
- **Manage and maintain septic systems** - All of the water that goes into your septic system soaks into the ground, so be careful what goes down the drain. A malfunctioning septic system can pollute groundwater.
- **Practice smart lawn care** - By only mowing down to three inches and mulch mowing your lawn clippings, you can significantly reduce your lawn's irrigation and fertilizing needs.