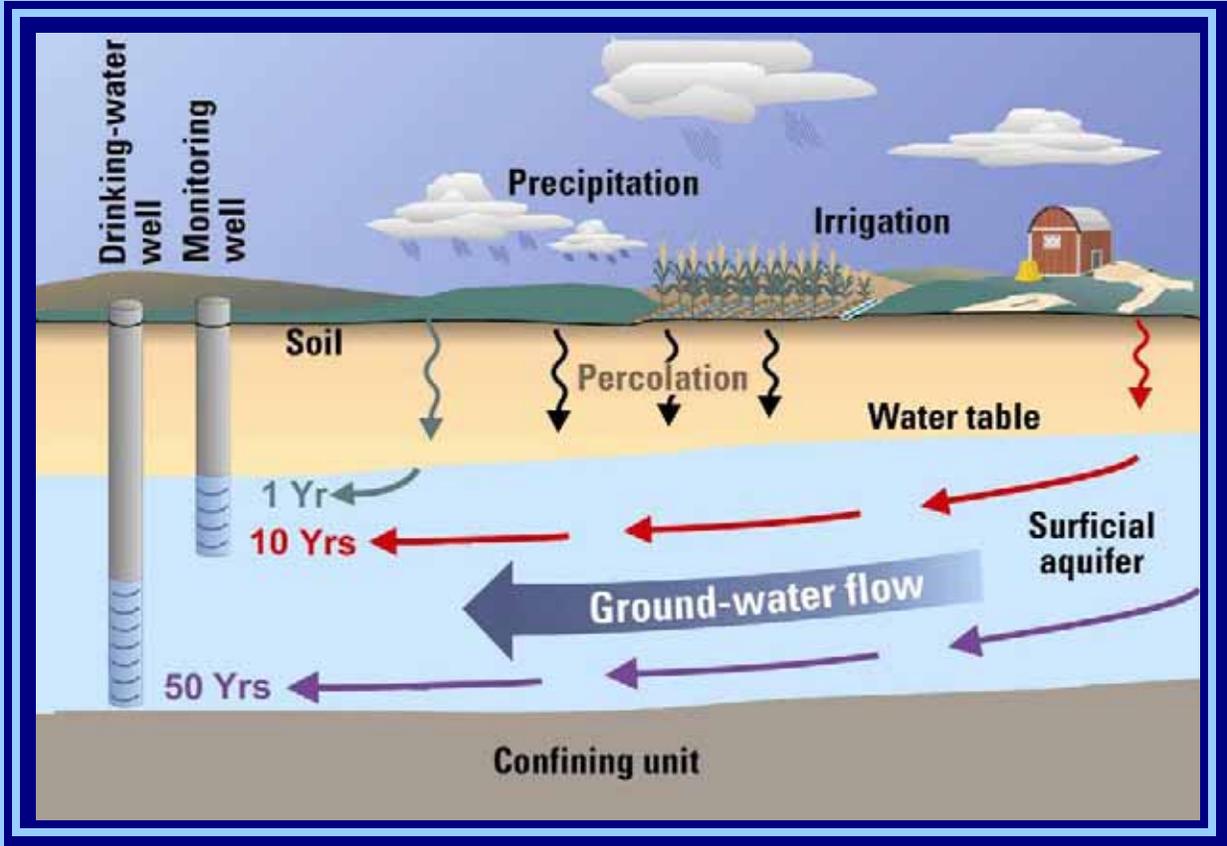


Minnesota Ground Water Directory



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Minnesota State Agencies with Ground-Water Responsibilities

(by Common Acronym)

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 296-3767
toll-free/TTY (800) 627-3529
www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Waters Division
500 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 259-5700
toll-free/TTY (800) 657-3929
www.dnr.state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), Minnesota Duty Officer

(651) 649-5451
toll-free (800) 422-0798
www.dps.state.mn.us

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 201-2480
www.eqb.state.mn.us/

Minnesota Land Management Information Center (LMIC)

658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 201-2488
www.lmic.state.mn.us/

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)

625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 201-6000
toll-free/TTY (800) 627-3529
www.mda.state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

Environmental Health Division
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975
(651) 201-5000
TTY (651) 201-5797
www.health.state.mn.us

Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS)¹

2642 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114
(612) 627-4780
www.geo.umn.edu/mgs/

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 296-6300
toll-free/TTY (800) 657-3864
www.pca.state.mn.us

 See [last page](#) for State agency office locations in greater Minnesota

1: The MGS is part of the University of Minnesota.

MINNESOTA

Ground Water

Introduction

Ground water is one of Minnesota's most precious resources. Like clouds, rain, lakes and streams, ground water is a part of the hydrologic cycle that sustains life by circulating water above, below and through all living things.

We are familiar with rain, streams and lakes because we see them regularly. But when water from these sources moves downward through soil, sediments or openings in rock, it enters a subsurface realm that is hidden from our view. If it travels deep enough, it becomes part of our valuable ground-water system.

Most ground water is always on the move, slowly flowing through openings in subsurface materials like the small pores between sand grains or cracks in rock.

Normally, Minnesota ground water flows into (and replenishes) streams, lakes or wetlands. Only a very small percentage of ground water exits as natural springs. Ground water also plays a major role in sustaining our lakes and streams, especially in times of sparse precipitation.

What are you drinking?

More than 70 percent of Minnesotans use ground water for their drinking water and household water supply. In Minnesota, ground water is more geographically available and naturally more pure than lakes or streams. Ground water is also tapped for irrigation and for industrial and commercial purposes.

By installing a well down to an appropriate depth, we can usually pump

Think Locally!

Although this directory focuses on services available from state agencies, it is usually wise to start by looking locally for information about ground water. Your county water-plan coordinator or environmental office may have information about local ground-water issues. Consult your local telephone directory or county web site for knowledgeable local contacts.

Minnesota Ground Water Directory

ground water into the well and through water supply pipelines to meet these needs. Even where no lakes or streams exist, adequate ground-water supplies often are available for our use and benefit.

Minnesotans' health, quality of life and economic stability rely upon a clean dependable supply of ground water for our cities and rural communities. But since ground water is normally out of sight, it is easy to forget how valuable and vulnerable a resource it is.

Is our ground water safe?

Ground water can be harmed or depleted if it is not carefully monitored, managed and protected. In Minnesota, we have worked long and hard to clean up ground-water contamination caused by human activities. Despite these efforts, elevated concentrations of contaminants such as nitrate from widespread land-use activities are still common in Minnesota ground water.

Cleaning up ground water is difficult and expensive. Experience shows that it is less expensive to protect ground water from contamination than to remove contaminants after the fact. Similarly, it makes good sense to protect our supply of ground water from overuse to avoid serious shortages. To ensure an adequate supply for the future, we need to continue

to assess ground-water resources and manage the amount of ground water used.

For all of these reasons, it is important to protect our supply of good-quality ground water now and into the future.

Who protects Minnesota's ground water?

The management and protection of Minnesota's ground water is a challenging, complex task. A wide range of environmental and health-based laws apply to ground water, and a wide array of expertise is needed to protect and manage it. For these reasons and other practical considerations, a variety of local, state and federal organizations are charged with specific ground-water-related responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities are unique to one agency or organization; some necessarily are shared.

This directory outlines the ground-water-related responsibilities and services of state organizations and lists contact information. The focus of this directory is on Minnesota state agencies, but general information about local and federal organizations is also included. Readers are encouraged to consider checking for assistance with local organizations before contacting state agencies; this is usually the best approach in most counties.

Minnesota Ground Water Directory

Quick Guide to Ground Water: Who Does What?

BWSR - Board of Water and Soil Resources
DNR - Department of Natural Resources
DPS - Department of Public Safety
EQB - Environmental Quality Board
LMIC - Land Management Information Center

MDA - Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH - Minnesota Department of Health
MGS - Minnesota Geological Survey
MPCA - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

In most counties, it's usually best to check with [Local Government Agencies](#) before contacting State agencies for assistance.

Key: Agencies listed in **bold** have lead or primary responsibility on the topic or issue.
 Agencies listed in regular type may get involved or have information.

Ground-Water Service or Issue

Organization

Data Collection and Analysis

Ground-Water Levels, Water Use (Quantity) and Sustainable Use	DNR, MGS, EQB, MPCA, MDA, MDH
Quality of Ground Water	DNR, MGS, MDH
Geology, Ground-Water Mapping, Modeling	MDH, MPCA, DNR, MGS, LMIC
Statewide Ground-Water Data Sets	LMIC, DNR, MGS
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data	

Note: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) works closely with state agencies in the above work areas.

Well Installation and Sealing (including notifications and permits)

Installing Wells	MDH, DNR, MDA
Unused (Abandoned) Wells	MDH, MGS, DNR
Well Disclosure during a Property Transaction	MDH
Identifying Well Owners	MDH, MGS
Geothermal Heating and Cooling systems	MDH

Note: Approximately ten delegated (local) well programs work with MDH to administer Minnesota's well program.

Permitting for Water Appropriations, Discharges, etc.

Water Quantity: water appropriations (withdrawals)	DNR
Water Quality: discharge permits, contamination pump out wells, etc.	MPCA
Chemigation	MDA

Drinking Water Protection and Testing

Testing and Inspecting Public Water Supplies	MDH
Testing Private (Household) Wells	MDH
Protecting Public Water Supplies	MDH, MPCA, DNR, MGS
Health Effects of Contaminants in Drinking Water	MDH

Ground-Water Contamination and Cleanup

Spills or Emergencies -- Report to the Minnesota Duty Officer	DPS
Agricultural Chemicals	MDA
Nonagricultural Chemicals	MPCA

Ground-Water Policy and Priorities

Coordinating Ground-water Policy and Priorities among Agencies	EQB
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Ground-Water Education

Educational Programs or Materials	DNR, MPCA, MDA, MDH, MGS, BWSR
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Minnesota Ground Water Directory

Ground Water: Who Does What? Listed by Topic

This section provides details about which state agencies offer services to address specific ground-water issues. However, it is only a summary. Use the contacts or Web site addresses in this directory to find out more. And remember that, in most counties, it's usually best to check with local government organizations before contacting State agencies for assistance.

Data Collection and Analysis

Ground-Water Levels, Water Use (Quantity) and Sustainable Use

Water Levels and Water Use

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) tracks ground-water use and ground-water levels. It also analyzes related trends, such as how climate and water use affect the quantity of available ground water. In some cases, the DNR oversees aquifer tests to determine whether pumping a new or existing well affects water levels in nearby wells. **DNR: (651) 259-5700**

The Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) maintains the County Well Index database which has water-level data from more than 300,000 wells statewide and the ability to select data by aquifer, location, and other parameters. **MGS: (612) 627-4780**

Sustainable Use

The Metropolitan Council (Met Council) is responsible for planning for the regional water supply for the seven-county metropolitan region. As a part of this responsibility, the Council periodically updates data and information on water supply and demand and prepares water use projections for the metropolitan area. **Met Council: (651) 602-1000**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) works with sustainable development issues. **MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864.** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has web pages and fact sheets about the sustainability of Minnesota's ground water. **DNR, Division of Waters: (651) 259-5700**

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has developed a planning guide for local comprehensive planning and sustainable development that shows how water issues should fit into the bigger picture of land use and other local government issues. **EQB: (651) 201-2480**

Quality of Ground Water

You can often find out about the quality of ground water in your area from your **county water plan coordinator**.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) sample wells on a statewide or regional basis. The MDA analyzes ground water samples for

Minnesota Ground Water Directory

chemicals originating from pesticides and commercial fertilizers. The MPCA analyzes ground water samples for nonagricultural chemicals, such as solvents and metals. The MPCA is also responsible for sampling related to feedlots and manure storage facilities. **MDA: (651) 201-6000, MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864**

Geology, Ground-Water Mapping and Modeling

Working with county staff, the Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) study underground conditions in selected county and multi-county areas. The study results include maps and information on ground-water depth and flow direction, and areas that are sensitive to contamination. For more information, contact your county water-plan coordinator or **MGS: (612) 627-4780, DNR: (651) 259-5700**

One example of how these maps and information are used is the Metropolitan Area Groundwater Model (Metro Model). The Metro Model is used as a water-use prediction and management tool by the Metropolitan Council (Met Council). The Metro Model is maintained by the Met Council. **Met Council: (651) 602-1000**

Statewide Ground-Water Data Sets

Several agencies have collected ground-water data from extensive areas around Minnesota. Some data sets that include fairly representative coverage of the entire state are listed below.

- ▶ The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has extensive ground-water quality data from a 1992 - 1996 statewide monitoring project that included 954 wells and additional data from more recent, smaller studies. **MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864**
- ▶ The Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) County Well Index database includes information for more than 300,000 wells statewide. **MGS: (612) 627-4784**
- ▶ The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has water-quality information for approximately 16,000 public water supply wells. **MDH: (651) 201-4700**
- ▶ The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has ground-water level information for approximately 1,500 observation wells. **DNR: (651) 259-5700**
- ▶ The Land Management Information Center (LMIC) stores and provides access to ground water data from several state agencies. **LMIC: (651) 297-4986**

Well Installation, Sealing and Permits

Installing Wells

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) administers standards for well construction, repair and sealing and licenses well contractors. When installing a new well, use a licensed well contractor and notify the MDH. Some city and county health departments oversee well installation for MDH. For information, check with your county or city health department, or **MDH: (651) 201-4600**.

If you are installing a well, be aware of the following additional requirements and restrictions:

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- ▶ If the new well will pump large amounts of water (more than 10,000 gallons a day or more than one million gallons a year), you will need a water-use permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). **DNR: (651) 259-5700**
- ▶ If the new well will be used for a dairy, or food processing or chemigation (irrigation with pesticides or fertilizers), you will need approval from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). **MDA: (651) 201-6000**
- ▶ In some areas, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) designates Special Well Construction Areas where installation of new wells is restricted or requires special well construction due to ground-water contamination. **MDH: (651) 201-4600**
- ▶ The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Closed Landfill Program regulates new well installation within the landfill's permitted boundaries. **MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864**

Unused (Abandoned) Wells

If you have an unused (not-in-use) well, you must either return the well to service, permanently have the well sealed by a licensed well contractor, or obtain a maintenance permit. For information, call your city or county health department, or the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). **MDH: (651) 201-4600**

In some areas of Minnesota, cost-share programs for sealing unused wells may be available. Check with your [county water-plan coordinator](#), your [local Soil and Water Conservation District](#) or the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). **MDH: (651) 201-4600**

The County Well Index database at the Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) is often used to check for records of unused wells before property transfers are made. **MGS: (612) 627-4780**

Well Disclosure during a Property Transaction

When you sell property, you're required to report to the buyer and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) the location of all wells and information on whether the wells are in use, not in use, or sealed. A well disclosure certificate must be filed with the County Recorder when recording the deed. **MDH: (651) 201-4600**

Identifying Well Owners

If you need to find the owner of a well, first look to see if the well is labeled with a unique well number (a six-digit number) to help identify the well. Then, contact the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). **MDH: (651) 201-4600** The Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) may also be helpful in finding well ownership information. **MGS: (612) 627-4780**

If the well is labeled with a DNR observation well number, contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). **DNR: (651) 259-5700**

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Drinking Water Protection and Testing

Testing and Inspecting Public Water Supplies

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) checks public water supplies regularly to ensure their safety. Water sampling results are compared to applicable water-quality standards to protect the public. For more information, contact your local water utility or **MDH: (651) 201-4700**.

Testing Private (Household) Wells

Private well owners should test their wells for bacteria, nitrate and arsenic when it is installed and at least once a year for bacteria and at least once every two years for nitrate, using a certified laboratory. Contact your local health department for information on certified laboratories in your area.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) or your local health department can help you in deciding whether tests for other chemicals are needed. Contact your city or county health department, or **MDH: (651) 201-4600**

Information is also available from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Nitrate Water Testing Program. **MDA: (651) 297-3491**

Protecting Public Water Supplies

Wellhead Protection Areas

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works with public water suppliers to develop and implement wellhead-protection plans to prevent contamination of water supplies. The term 'source-water protection,' which includes surface-water source protection, is also used for this activity. **MDH: (651) 201-4700**

The Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) provides geologic mapping to delineate wellhead protection areas. **MGS: (612) 627-4780**

Emergency and Contingency Planning for Public Water Supplies

Public water suppliers are required to have contingency plans for water shortages or other emergencies that may affect a water supply.

The Metropolitan Council reviews conservation and emergency plans in the metropolitan area. **Met Council: (651) 602-1000**

Contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding contingency plans needed for approval of ground-water appropriation permits for large water users. **DNR: (651) 259-5700**

Health Effects of Contaminants in Drinking Water

If testing shows that your drinking water contains nitrates or other contaminants, consult your

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local health department or the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) about the test results or for advice on whether or not a drinking water treatment device is needed. The MDH evaluates the health effects of contaminants in drinking water and sets levels at which water is safe to drink.

MDH: (651) 201-4901. Other more specific contact numbers at MDH include the following:

- ▶ Health Risk Limits for Drinking Water, MDH: (651) 201-4899 or (651) 201-4901
- ▶ Safety of Public Water Supplies, MDH: (651) 201-4700
- ▶ Private Wells, MDH: (651) 201-4600
- ▶ Drinking Water Treatment Devices: advice on when water-treatment devices are needed and the type of device needed for a particular contamination problem. MDH: (651) 201-4700 or (651) 201-4600 (for private wells)

Bottled-water Testing: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) requires periodic testing of water at bottling plants to ensure the water's quality. **MDA: (651) 297-2200**

Contamination and Cleanup

Reporting Spills

 Spills of over five gallons of petroleum or any quantity of other substances or material that can cause pollution must be reported to the Minnesota Duty Officer at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS). **Minnesota Duty Officer: (651) 649-5451, or toll-free (800) 422-0798**

Agricultural

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) oversees the cleanup of contamination resulting from pesticide and commercial fertilizer spills, leaks or accidents. **MDA: (651) 297-7286**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is responsible for feedlots and manure storage facilities. **MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864**

Non-Agricultural

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) oversees the investigation and cleanup of contamination originating from nonagricultural sources. Examples include chemical spills, leaks and waste disposal, including hazardous waste, as indicated in the list below. For more details and contact information, visit the [MPCA "Cleanup" Web page](#) or the [MPCA "Who to Call" Web Page](#).

MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864 (When appropriate, ask for a member of the Emergency Response Team.)

- ▶ Spills: cleanup of spills.
- ▶ Tank Leaks: Remediation of leaks from storage tanks.
- ▶ Petroleum Brownfields Program: working with voluntary parties to investigate and, if necessary, clean up property potentially contaminated with petroleum products and provide liability assurances to promote property re-use and re-development.

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- ▶ Closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfills: monitoring and cleanup of contamination resulting from closed municipal solid waste landfills.
- ▶ Open Solid Waste Landfills: Monitoring landfills still receiving waste.
- ▶ Superfund: cleanup of contamination from improper disposal or spills of hazardous materials, pollutants or contaminants that pose a threat or potential threat to public health or the environment.
- ▶ Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program (VIC): working with voluntary parties to investigate and, if necessary, clean up potentially contaminated property and provide liability assurances to promote property reuse.
- ▶ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action: working with existing facilities to investigate and clean up past contamination.

Permits for Ground-water Pump-out Wells

When ground-water cleanup involves pumping out contaminated ground water, permits are needed from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- ▶ For the water appropriation permit, contact the **DNR: (651) 259-5700**
- ▶ For a State Disposal System Permit, contact the **MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864**. Pump-out permit application forms are available to download from the MPCA Web site.

Ground-Water Education

Many state and county agencies have educational programs and materials on ground water. Check first with your **county water-plan coordinator** or **Extension office** ([Web Page](#)).

- ▶ The Minnesota Ground-Water Association (MGWA) has a ground-water education [Web Page](#). **MGWA: (651) 757-2790**
- ▶ The SEEK [Web Site](#) is an interactive directory of Minnesota's environmental education resources.
- ▶ The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has an environmental "Learning Resource Center" and library with videos, fact sheets, newsletters and much more. **MPCA: (651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864**
- ▶ Minnesota Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) provides resources for educators; some of those resources can be viewed on the WET [Web Page](#). **DNR: (651) 259-5706**

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Ground Water: Who Does What? Listed by State Organization

(Emphasis on Ground-Water Protection)

Minnesota statutes provide for a multi-agency approach to protect Minnesota ground water. In the tables below, state organizations are listed with examples of their major ground-water responsibilities.

In most counties, it's usually best to check with local organizations before contacting State agencies for assistance.

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) (651) 296-3767

Responsibilities: outreach with local government units, local water management, local cost-share programs, wetland conservation.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| ▶ Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) reserve, a program allowing landowners to take marginal agricultural land out of production for water-quality protection | (651) 296-0880 |
| ▶ Local water management | (651) 296-3767 |
| ▶ Twin Cities metropolitan area ground-water and surface-water planning | (651) 297-2906 |
| ▶ Wetland Conservation | (651) 296-3767 |

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Waters (651) 259-5700

Responsibilities: water-quantity monitoring and regulation, sensitivity mapping, development of a plan for using integrated pest management and sustainable agriculture on state-owned lands.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▶ Ground-water level monitoring | ▶ Geologic atlases, hydrogeologic assessments, geologic sensitivity mapping |
| ▶ Stream flow, including base flow from ground water | ▶ Water use (withdrawals) regulation |

Department of Public Safety (DPS) - Minnesota Duty Officer (651) 649-5451 or (800) 422-0798

Responsibilities: emergency management.

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- ▶ To report a spill, leak or environmental accident, call the Minnesota Duty Officer 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) (651) 201-2480

Responsibilities: oversight of the state Environmental Review Program, coordination of state ground-water protection programs, development of periodic ground-water policy reports and preparation of the decadal state water plan.

- ▶ Environmental review of proposed development
- ▶ Ground-water planning, policy and priorities development

Land Management Information Center (LMIC) (651) 201-2488

Responsibilities: the Land Management Information Center (LMIC).helps government and non-government organizations through the creative use of GIS and other geospatial information technologies.

LIMIC works with state, local and federal governments, professional associations, universities, nonprofit organizations and businesses to coordinate activities related to GIS technology and data development. Key service categories include data services, mapping, consulting services and decision support systems.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) (651) 201-6000

Responsibilities: Sustainable agriculture and integrated pest management, water-quality monitoring, development of best management practices, regulations to protect ground water from agricultural chemical contaminants, investigation and clean up of agricultural chemical contamination sites.

- ▶ Bulk pesticide and fertilizer storage permits
- ▶ Pesticide applicator licensing
- ▶ Waste pesticide and pesticide container collection
- ▶ Sustainable agriculture
- ▶ Statewide pesticide management plan
- ▶ Nitrogen fertilizer management
- ▶ Investigation and clean up of agricultural chemical contamination sites
- ▶ Agricultural best management practices

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) (651) 201-5000

Responsibilities: regulation of wells and borings, wellhead protection measures for public water supplies, ensuring the safety of public drinking water supplies and development of health risk limits.

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▶ Wellhead (source water) protection	(651) 201-4700
▶ Regulation of well installation, well repair and sealing of unused (abandoned) wells	(651) 201-4600
▶ Ensuring the safety of public drinking water supplies	(651) 201-4700
▶ Development of health risk limits	(651) 201-4901

Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) (612) 627-4780

Responsibilities: prepares geologic maps, publications and associated databases that describe the natural framework of geologic materials that hosts and conveys ground water.

- ▶ Conducts studies to understand the state's hydrogeologic framework, ground-water resources and ground-water conditions; provides data, reports and maps to communicate findings and provide essential support to other organizations involved in ground-water management.
- ▶ Characterizes aquifer systems and ground-water flow paths
- ▶ Provides the hydrogeologic background information to better understand or predict how land use might affect ground-water quality.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) (651) 296-6300 or (800) 657-3864

Responsibilities: water-quality monitoring and reporting, development of best management practices, regulations to protect ground water from non-agricultural chemical contaminants, pollution-prevention grants, technical assistance, environmental education resources, investigation and clean up of non-agricultural contamination sites.

If you have Internet access, you can find current contact information for specific topics, such as those listed below, in the MPCA's "Information Referral Index" [Web document](#) (in [PDF format](#)). You may also find the MPCA's "Who to Call" [Web page](#) helpful.

- ▶ Nonpoint sources of pollution (pollution from widespread sources)
- ▶ Clean Water Partnership and Section 319 financial assistance to local government for investigation of pollution sources in local surface and ground water
- ▶ Feedlots and manure management
- ▶ Individual sewage treatment systems (septic systems) help for local governments
- ▶ Business septic systems (*Environmental Protection Agency*)
- ▶ Municipal and industrial wastewater treatment permitting
- ▶ Land application of biosolids (sludge)
- ▶ Hazardous waste from businesses
- ▶ Solid waste facility permitting
- ▶ Underground and above-ground storage tank registration
- ▶ Stormwater
- ▶ Investigation and clean up of non-agricultural contamination sites

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Local Government Agencies

Many local government agencies are involved in ground-water issues. In Greater Minnesota, counties develop and implement comprehensive local water plans. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, counties develop and implement specific ground-water plans. These plans include an evaluation of county water resources and identify actions needed to protect them. See your county's local water plan or ground-water plan for information on ground-water issues in your area.

Local government agencies can often provide specific information about ground water in your area and, in some counties, they may operate some state ground-water programs. So check locally first. The following list of local organizations may be able to answer questions you have about ground-water issues. For telephone numbers, try the government pages in your local telephone directory. Some categories to check include "environmental services", "public works" or "health services".

- ▶ County water-plan coordinators
- ▶ County environmental offices
- ▶ Community health services
- ▶ City and county health departments
- ▶ Tribal governments
- ▶ Soil and water conservation districts
- ▶ County offices of the Minnesota Extension Service
- ▶ Metropolitan Council in the Twin Cities area
- ▶ City and county planning and zoning departments

Web Sites for Local Government Agencies

This table is designed to help online viewers find web sites of local organizations that may have ground-water related information or expertise for your area. Please keep in mind that many web site addresses change from time to time. If any of the web site links do not work anymore or you are viewing a paper copy of this document, try searching for the web site with an Internet search engine.

Selected Web Sites for Local Government Agencies

Association of Minnesota Counties

Directory of County Web Sites: [Web Page](#)

Home: [Web Page](#)

League of Minnesota Cities

Directory: [Web Page](#)

Home: [Web Page](#)

Minnesota Association of Townships

Links to Townships Web Sites: [Web Page](#)

Home: [Web Page](#)

Minnesota North Star Web Site

Counties, Cities, Townships, etc.: [Web Page](#)

Home: [Web Page](#)

MN Assoc. of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

SWCDs on the Web: [Web Page](#)

Home: [Web Page](#)

Metropolitan Council

Water: [Web Page](#)

Home: [Web Page](#)

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Federal Agencies

Even though most citizens' questions and concerns regarding ground water are best handled at the local and state level, federal agencies also play a valuable role in providing ground-water related information and protecting and monitoring Minnesota's ground water.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (763) 783-3100

2280 Woodale Drive,
Mounds View, MN 55112
<http://mn.water.usgs.gov/>

The USGS collects and interprets water-resource data and information in selected areas of Minnesota. USGS monitors ground-water levels, maps ground-water supplies, and studies ground-water quality. In addition, the USGS regularly cooperates with state agencies on ground-water data collection and analysis efforts.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region V (312) 353-2000

77 West Jackson
Chicago, IL 60604
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/gwdw/>

EPA is the federal agency charged with controlling and preventing pollution, and protecting the nation's natural environment. EPA sets standards for a variety of environmental programs and provides partial funding for some of Minnesota's ground-water related programs.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (651) 602-7900

U.S. Department of Agriculture
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101
<http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/>

NRCS provides voluntary technical and financial assistance to Minnesotans, in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Planning and implementation activities provided by NRCS focus on conserving natural resources on private lands, with an emphasis on positive impacts on surface- and ground-water quality. NRCS also cooperates with other agencies on specific ground-water quality projects in Minnesota.

Minnesota Ground Water Directory

Featured Web Sites

This table is designed to provide online viewers with easy access to selected web sites. Please keep in mind that many web site addresses change from time to time. If any of the web site links do not work anymore or you are viewing a paper copy of this document, try searching for the web site with an Internet search engine.

Selected Ground-Water Related Web Sites for Minnesota

DNR

Ground Water: [Web Page](#)
 County Geologic Atlases: [Web Page](#)
 Ground Water Level Monitoring: [Web Page](#)
 Ground Water Sustainability: [Web Page](#)

MDH

Ground Water: [Web Page](#)
 Well Management: [Web Page](#)
 Wellhead Protection: [Web Page](#)
 County Well Index: [Web Page](#)

MDA

Monitoring and Assessment: [Web Page](#)
 What's In My Neighborhood?: [Web Page](#)

MPCA

Ground Water: [Web Page](#)
 What's in My Neighborhood?: [Web Page](#)
 Ambient Monitoring: [Web Page](#)

EQB

Water Program: [Web Page](#)

BWSR

Metropolitan Ground Water Plans: [Web Page](#)

MGS

Home: [Web Page](#)
 Publications: [Web Page](#)

University of Minnesota Extension

Environment: [Web Page](#)

USGS (Minnesota)

Water Science Center: [Web Page](#)
 Publications: [Web Page](#)

Metropolitan Council

Water: [Web Page](#)

Minnesota Ground Water Association

Home: [Web Page](#)

Minnesota Ground-Water Information Guide

Home: [Web Page](#)

Minnesota Ground Water Directory

State Agency Regional Offices

State agencies have regional offices located around Minnesota. To contact state agency staff in the regional office closest to you, use the list below:

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

www.bwsr.state.mn.us

- Bemidji (218) 755-4235
- Brainerd (218) 828-2383
- Duluth (218) 723-4752
- Fergus Falls (218) 736-5445
- Marshall (507) 537-6060
- Mankato (507) 389-6784
- New Ulm (507) 359-6074
- Rochester (507) 281-7797
- Twin Cities Metro (651) 297-2906

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

www.health.state.mn.us

- Bemidji (218) 308-2100
- Duluth (218) 723-4642
- Fergus Falls (218) 332-5150
- Mankato (507) 389-2501
- Marshall (507) 537-7151
- Rochester (507) 285-7289
- St. Cloud: (320) 223-7300

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

- Bemidji (218) 308-2620
- Grand Rapids (218) 327-4416
- New Ulm (507) 359-6053
- St. Paul (651) 259-5774

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

www.pca.state.mn.us

- Brainerd (218) 828-2492
- Detroit Lakes (218) 847-1519
- Duluth (218) 723-4660
- Mankato (507) 389-5977
- Marshall (507) 537-7146
- Rochester (507) 285-7343
- Willmar (320) 214-3786

The author would like to express his appreciation to the following organizations for their contributions to this publication: Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, Minnesota Geological Survey, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Land Management Information Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U. S. Geological Survey.