

Groundwater Protection

Monitoring our renewable resource



Why do we care about groundwater?

About 40% of the City's drinking water supply comes from groundwater via an aquifer underlying the neighborhoods of Downtown, Bear Creek and Southeast Redmond. City supply wells typically pump over one billion gallons from the aquifer annually. The City has had a monitoring network in place since 2007 to ensure that our drinking water supply is safe.

How do we test our drinking water?

The City regularly tests the water at our supply wells for a variety of compounds, which are described in the annual water quality report. These tests are performed on a regular basis with test frequency dependent upon the compound.

Is the aquifer tested?

Yes! The City has a groundwater monitoring program to serve as a type of early warning system for our supply wells. Monitoring wells are used to measure groundwater quantity and quality on a semi-annual basis. Additional measurements are taken as needed for:

- Changes in groundwater flow direction due to temporary construction dewatering
- Spills or suspected point source pollution

Learn more on the City's groundwater and wellhead protection site: www.redmond.gov/groundwater



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How do we prepare for changing water quality regulations?

The City regularly monitors and participates in regional, State and Federal activities and proposed regulations. For example, the City participated in the Washington State Department of Health's rulemaking process for PFAS State Action Levels (PFAS explained below). Additionally, the City provided comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding their recently updated Health Advisory Levels for PFAS. The City has sampled for PFAS in the past at its monitoring and supply wells and regularly evaluates its sampling plans to prepare for any new regulations.

What happens if a contaminant is found in a supply well?

If a contaminant is found at a supply well at or above a regulated level defined by the EPA, the supply well would be shut down and customers would be informed. An investigation would take place to find its source and eliminate the problem. The well would not be restarted until it was safe to do so. Learn about how the City's groundwater monitoring program helps avoid this scenario on the back page.

What are PFAS?

PFAS, short for poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, are man-made water-resistant chemicals that are used in everyday products like fast food wrappers, fabric, personal care items and cleaning products. Some PFAS chemicals, like those found in certain firefighting foams, are restricted or no longer manufactured due to health concerns, but they continue to persist in the environment because of their strong chemical structure.

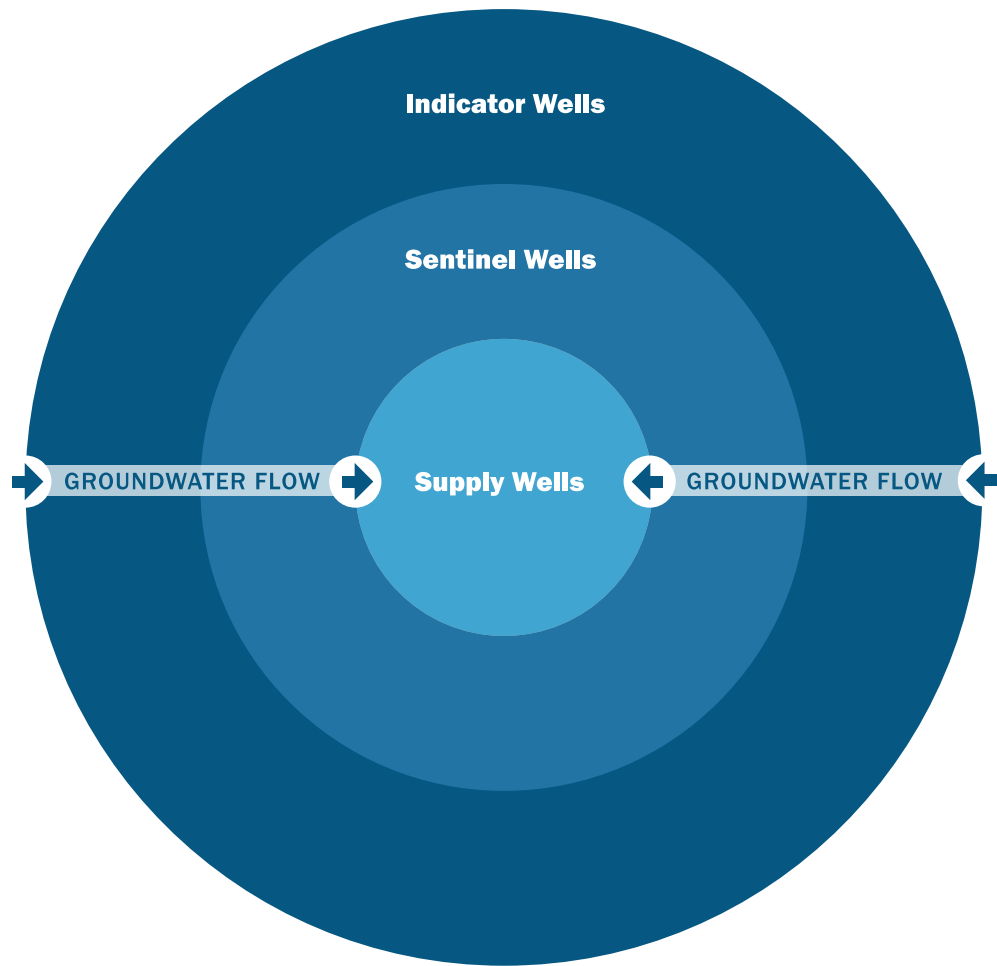
Visit www.epa.gov/pfas to learn more.

Groundwater Monitoring Wells

An Early Warning System

In addition to helping us understand our aquifer, the City's groundwater monitoring network serves as an early warning system for our drinking water supply wells. Sentinel and indicator groundwater monitoring wells help us detect potential contaminant in the groundwater so the City can take action before it reaches a supply well. Water operations staff are notified if a contaminant is found in a monitoring well, and investigations are started to find and mitigate the pollution source.

Groundwater monitoring wells are sampled regularly as per the City's groundwater quality assurance program plan. Sentinel wells have been strategically located directly in the groundwater flow path prior to reaching supply wells. Indicator wells add an additional layer of protection further away from the supply wells and help the City understand changes to the aquifer and catch changes in groundwater flow due to temporary construction dewatering activities.



What can community members do to help protect our groundwater?

Help keep Redmond clean and green. Learn more at redmond.gov/1225/Taking-Action

If you see a spill, call our Pollution Prevention Hotline at 425-556-2868

Where can I get additional information?

redmond.gov/DrinkingWater

For drinking water supply questions:

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