NEWSLETTER

Issue #57 April 7, 2026

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14 Mile Watershed Friends and Supporters . . .

Ideas for Protecting Our Lakes and Watershed

This Month's Focus: Protecting Our Groundwater

Our groundwater is a very precious commodity. Groundwater pollution from human activities and natural sources happens across Wisconsin. ***This is of particular concern for the 70% of Wisconsinites who get their drinking water from groundwater***.

Other groups concerned about groundwater quality include farmers who rely on safe groundwater for crop and livestock production, and business owners who rely on groundwater for manufacturing and commerce. ***Lakes, rivers and streams are fed by groundwater***. Fish and wildlife can't thrive when groundwater contaminants impact the surface water they are dependent upon.

Improper disposal of **hazardous products**—such as solvents, oils, paints, pesticides, batteries, and cleaning chemicals—can have serious and long-lasting effects on **groundwater quality** and public health.

How Improper Disposal Pollutes Groundwater

When hazardous wastes are dumped on the ground, poured into drains, or thrown into regular trash bins, they often end up seeping into soil and eventually reach underground aquifers. Pollutants like heavy metals, petroleum products, and chemicals can infiltrate through layers of soil, contaminating water supplies used for drinking and irrigation. Because of our sandy soils here in Adams County, hazardous materials can quickly seep down to the groundwater. Once underground, contaminants move slowly through aquifers, meaning cleanup is difficult and expensive. The contamination can persist for decades.

Prevention and Management
Effective prevention focuses on **proper hazardous waste management.**

Key steps include:

- **Reducing and reusing** hazardous materials whenever possible.
- **Storing and disposing** of such products safely—at least 300 feet away from wells.
- **Using designated hazardous waste collection programs** instead of dumping or burning.
- **Containing spills and leaks** immediately to prevent soil infiltration.

Groundwater pollution from hazardous waste disposal is largely preventable—but once it occurs, recovery is slow and costly. Safe handling and disposal of hazardous materials remain among the most effective ways to safeguard clean water supplies.

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN SWEEP
FREE TO ADAMS COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS
SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH 8 AM TO NOON
ADAMS COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE
1420 STATE HIGHWAY 21

Must provide ID and proof of residency. Round up of Electronics, Appliances, Tires, Drug Take Back.
Please box up items for quick removal. **Some examples of Hazardous Materials**:

Automotive: Automotive fluids Batteries Used Oil and Antifreeze Gasoline	**Garden and Lawn Care**: Pesticides Weed Killer Insecticides Poisons
Household: Oil & Lead-based Paint Cleaning Solvents Pharmaceuticals Turpentine & Varnish	**Miscellaneous**: Grease & Rust Solvents Unknown Chemicals Adhesives Paint Thinners/Stripper

Free Electronic Takeback: Anything with a cord, including TV's (Not appliances, just electronics)
Appliances: ½ price at $7.50 each. Includes: air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, ice makers, freezers, microwaves, stoves/ovens, furnaces, dehumidifiers and water heaters
Car and Light Truck Tires: ½ price at $4. On or off rim!
Please note: Regular waste/brush/concrete WILL NOT be accepted during this event. Normal operations will resume Monday morning.

SEASONAL REMINDER:

We are approaching ***Spring Wildfire Season in Wisconsin***. The greatest wildfire risk occurs after the snow melts until full vegetation green-up, usually March through June. Strong spring winds increase fire danger by drying out vegetation, making it burn and spread easily. Taking precautions now to mitigate hazards on your property can increase the chance your home or cabin will survive a wildfire.

EVENT REMINDER

The Rome Annual 'State of Our Lakes' Lunch will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 11:00 - 2:00 at the Rome Town Hall

DONATE

The 14 Mile Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of surface and groundwater in the 14 Mile Creek Watershed in central Wisconsin.
See us at *14milewatershed.org* ***or*** *https://www.facebook.com/14MileWatershed*

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