

# ***Texas Groundwater Protection Committee***

## ***Groundwater Facts & References***

### **Groundwater provides an estimated\***

- | <u>Nationwide</u>   | <u>Texas</u>  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 27% of all freshwater withdrawals</li><li>• 43% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation)</li><li>• 21% of the public water supply withdrawals</li><li>• 98% of drinking water for the rural population</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 62% of all freshwater withdrawals</li><li>• 76% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation)</li><li>• 19% of the public water supply withdrawals</li><li>• &gt;99% of drinking water for the rural population</li></ul> |

*\*United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Ground Water Association (NGWA), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)*

In addition:

- Ninety two percent of Texans depend on public drinking water supplies. Nineteen percent of that supply, 1,027 million gallons per day, is from groundwater, serving over 5,428,588 Texans.
- There are 13,818 active public water supply wells in Texas ranging in depth from 18 to 5,407 feet.
- Nine major aquifers and 22 minor aquifers supply 62% of all the water used in the state.
- Also, 1,320,000 Texans rely on groundwater from their own wells for their drinking water and use 137 million gallons per day.
- The quality of Texas' groundwater is generally good, and after the required disinfection, meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water standards without additional treatment.

Only 2.5% of the water on the earth is fresh. Of this small amount, 68.9% is glaciers, 30.8% is groundwater, and lakes and rivers make up only 0.3% (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Study/WeighingWater/>).

For more information on groundwater visit:

- Texas Groundwater Protection Committee at <https://www.tgpc.texas.gov/> and its Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <https://tgpc.texas.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>
- Ground Water Protection Council at <http://www.gwpc.org/>
- Groundwater Foundation at <https://www.groundwater.org/>
- NGWA National Groundwater Awareness Week at <https://www.ngwa.org/get-involved/groundwater-awareness-week/groundwater-awareness-week-2020>
- USGS Groundwater Information by Topic at [https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/groundwater-information-topic?qt-science\\_center\\_objects=0#qt-science\\_center\\_objects](https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/groundwater-information-topic?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects) and its *Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015* at <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/cir1441>
- TWDB 2017 State Water Plan at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2017/index.asp>