

Seven Things to Know About the Quality of Our Groundwater

The City of Gresham and the Rockwood Water People's Utility District will pump water from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer (SGA) in the Portland Basin to expand our source of high-quality water for the 138,000 people we serve in East Multnomah County.

- 1 Groundwater is a safe, reliable source of drinking water**
Groundwater is fresh water from rain, melting ice and snow that soaks into the soil and is stored in tiny spaces between rocks, particles of soil and sand. Groundwater is commonly used and supplies 35% of the drinking water in the United States according to the US Geological Survey.
- 2 Over 1 million people in the Portland Basin drink ground water**
The City of Gresham and Rockwood Water as well as other cities in the region including Fairview, Milwaukie, Portland, Troutdale, and Wood Village already use groundwater as a source of drinking water for at least part of the year.
- 3 The Sand and Gravel Aquifer is naturally protected from human-caused contamination**
The Sand and Gravel Aquifer used as our groundwater source is the deepest aquifer in the Portland Basin. It is naturally protected from human-caused contamination by two deep layers of clay and silt. In addition, groundwater for the Alliance will be pulled from 700-1400 feet below the ground, which makes surface-level contamination unlikely.
- 4 Public drinking water is regulated more than bottled water sold in stores**
As a public supplier of drinking water, the Alliance must adhere to stringent water quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- 5 The Alliance is committed to high-quality water that meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water rules**
The City of Gresham and the Rockwood Water test for more than 300 regulated and unregulated substances in the groundwater to ensure it is safe for everyone.



**WATER
QUALITY**

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New treatment facilities will treat the groundwater

As part of the Cascade Groundwater Project, new treatment facilities are being built to ensure the water tastes great and to address future regulations. Most of the groundwater will be treated at the new Cascade Water Treatment Plant. It will treat 25 to 30 million gallons per day and is expandable to meet increased future demand.

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Nationally recognized for programs protecting our drinking water

Portland, Gresham, and Rockwood Water have robust programs in place to jointly protect our shared groundwater resources and prevent chemical spills that could seep into the ground and pollute drinking water.

About the Cascade Groundwater Alliance

The Cascade Groundwater Alliance is a partnership between the City of Gresham and Rockwood People's Utility District to build and operate an independent, safe, and reliable water system. For more information:

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