



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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R1 Releases Regional Water Quality Report Empowering Residents and Professionals to Protect Our Water

ROCKFORD, IL – Water touches every part of our lives, every day. Its quality affects our health, recreation, economy, and natural world, which is why it's vital to preserve and improve it. What is the state of our region's water? How can we protect it?

A newly released report from Region 1 Planning Council (R1) answers these questions and describes the complex factors that affect the Rockford region's water quality. The *Our Water's Health in the Rockford Region* report lays out the state of our local water sources so that anyone – environmental professionals and the public alike – can better protect this natural resource. There are two versions of the report: an overview intended for public use and a technical report intended for industry professionals. The report covers Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle counties.

The documents can be found on the Integrated Water Resource Planning page at <https://r1planning.org/planning/water/>. This plan covers the basics of surface, drinking, and groundwater; how they are interconnected; contaminants; and how human activities help and hurt.

Specific findings include:

- Significant positive and negative impacts of land use on water health (particularly urban development and agriculture)
- Streams that ranked as high quality and those that were considered impaired
- Types of aquifers in the region and how they contribute to our drinking water

"This report underscores the importance of water quality activities that are happening in the region right now," says Tim Verbeke, Director of Regional Planning. "Environmentally friendly activities like replacing lead source pipes, encouraging green infrastructure, and ongoing monitoring ensure clean, safe water for current and future residents."

The Regional Water Quality Plan demonstrates the shared commitment R1 and its local agency partners have for creating integrated, proactive, and holistic measures toward protecting local waterways. R1 would like to thank A3E Environmental Consultants for providing subject matter expertise used in the report.

As the region moves forward, it calls on residents, farmers, businesses, and policymakers to collaborate in safeguarding water quality and promoting sustainable development for a healthier, more resilient community. For more information, visit the Integrated Water Resource Planning section of R1's website to view the final documents (<https://r1planning.org/planning/water/>).

ABOUT R1 – [Region 1 Planning Council](#) is a special-purpose, regional government agency providing cross-jurisdictional, government-to-government collaborative planning for Northern Illinois. The regional planning model provides an efficient means to promoting a well-informed, comprehensive dialogue that holistically addresses regional issues by fulfilling the needs of government entities for long-range planning, securing funding, and analyzing and providing data in support of regional projects and initiatives.

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