

GROUNDWATER SURVEY RESULTS

November 2024



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www.mocogroundwater.org

Protecting Our Water, Preserving Our Future

THE GOOD GIFT

Is on a mission to protect groundwater in Central Maryland's rural communities through education, community engagement, and proactive stewardship. Montgomery Countryside Alliance conducted an online anonymous survey over a period of 8 weeks during the months of Sept - Nov 2024.



View of Potomac River by Susan Petro.

Method

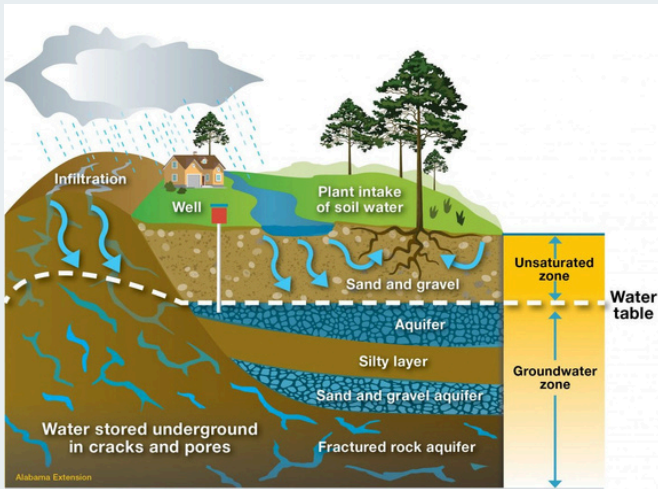


Map of the Piedmont and Poolesville Sole Source Aquifers.

Feedback was sought from residents, farmers, and business owners who rely on the Piedmont and Poolesville Sole Source Aquifers. 347 submissions were received surpassing the target of 200. The survey sought community input on current well water and septic practices including concerns on water quality. The survey publicized through social media, email, community events, Plenty Magazine, and community partners.

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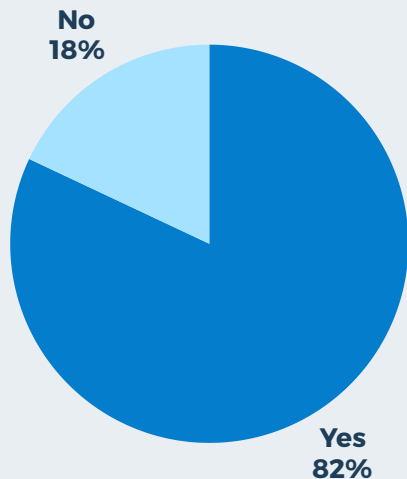




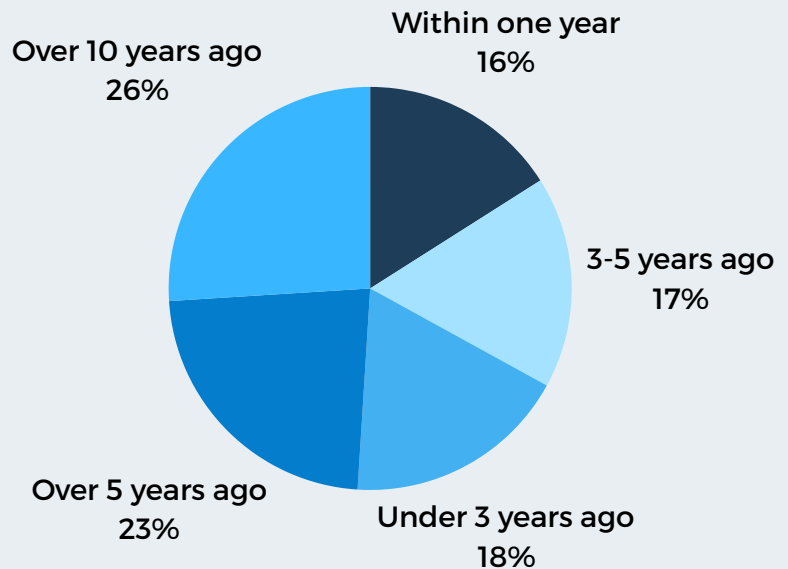
OVERVIEW

- **71%** of survey respondents live within the Agricultural Reserve or Rural Transition Zones in Montgomery County or get water from the Piedmont Sole Source Aquifer in Frederick and Carroll Counties.
- **93%** percent of those residents rely on private or municipal wells and have a septic system.

Have you ever had your well tested?

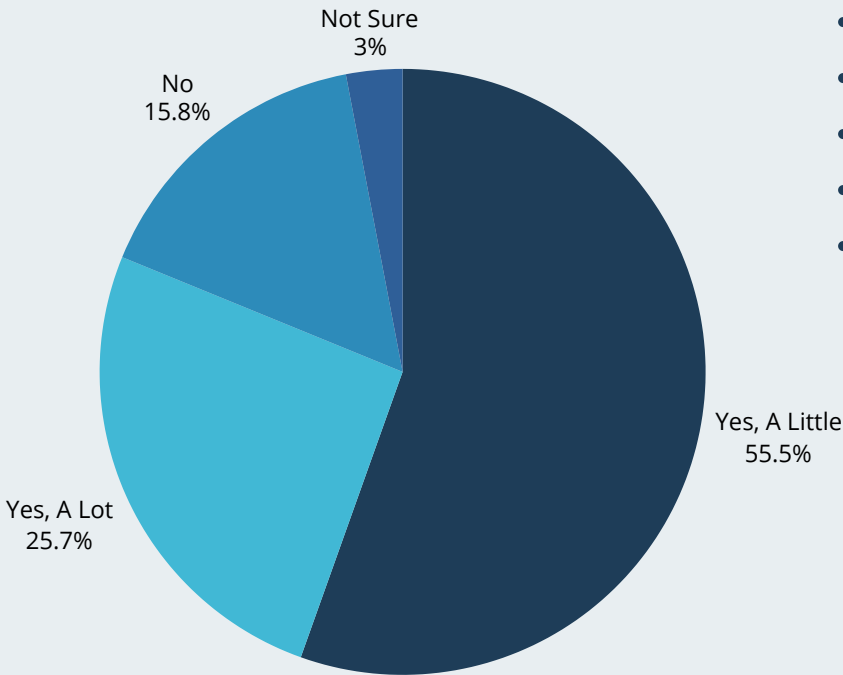


When was your well tested?



No perceived need and cost were the top reasons for not testing well water routinely.

Conservation Habits During Periods of Droughts



Uses of Well Water

In addition to drinking water residents are using well water for:

- Gardening and Lawncare
- Car Washing
- Pressure Washing
- Livestock
- Watering Trees/Orchards



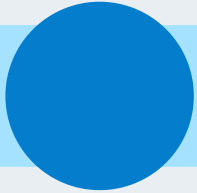
Conservation measures households have taken over the past 6 months

- Running dishwasher or laundry when full.
- Shortening showers
- Detecting and fixing leaks
- Sweeping patios, driveways, and hardscapes
- Cutting back on synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Transitional lawn areas to less water intensive gardens.

Long Term Concerns About Groundwater



Groundwater depletion



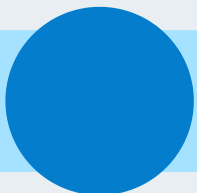
Pollution



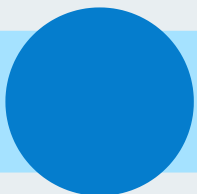
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs)



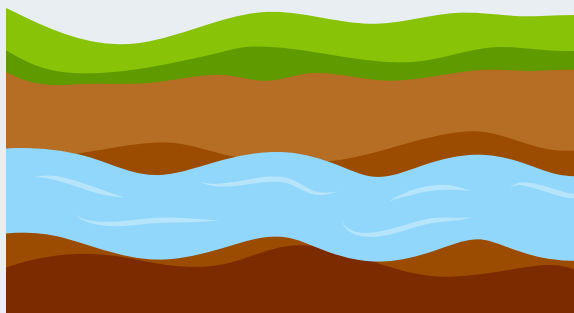
Future Availability



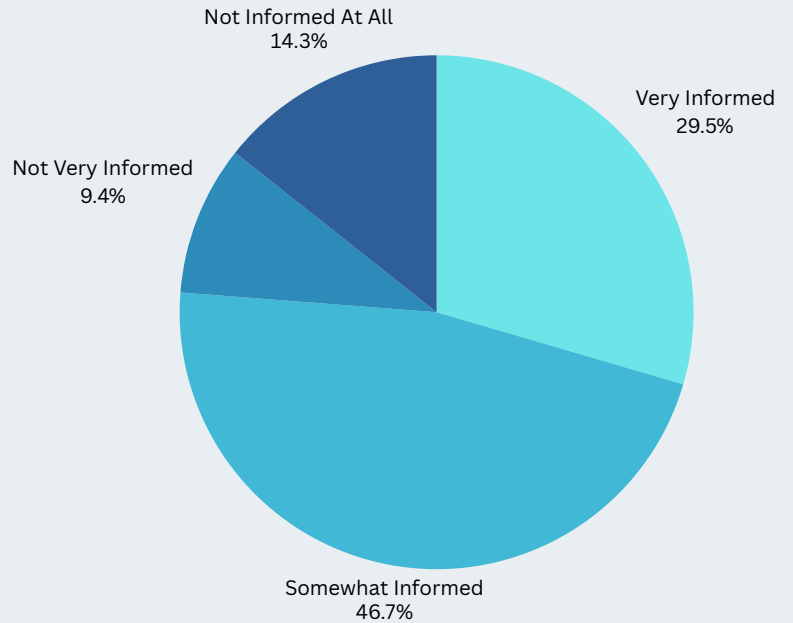
Construction and Development



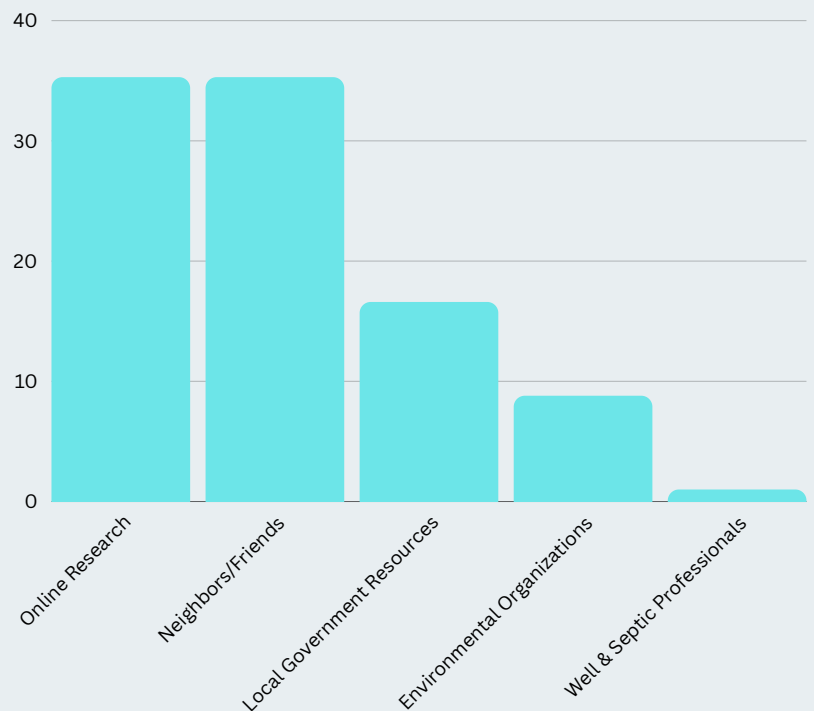
Agricultural Runoff



How informed do you feel about the maintenance needs of your well and septic system?



Where do you typically get information about well and septic maintenance? (Represented as percentage)



Key Takeaways

The survey results highlight strong interest among rural community residents related to groundwater issues. A significant portions of respondents reside, farm, or work within the Agricultural Reserve showing a vested interest in water quality and sustainability. While many households are aware of the importance of well and septic maintenance; a small percentage follow the annual testing schedule. Key concerns include water contamination, development impacts, and future water availability. This emphasizes the need and desire for proactive management and sustainable practices to protect vulnerable groundwater resources.

Scan to learn more or go to www.mocogroundwater.org



The Good Gift Campaign is a project of Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Funding for this project has been made possible through the Clean Water Montgomery Program, supported through the Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund.



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