



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Greene County Public Health joins NGWA's National Groundwater Awareness Week

XENIA, OH -- Today, Greene County Public Health officially joined National Groundwater Awareness Week (#GWA2018), an annual observance established by the National Ground Water Association to highlight the responsible development, management, and use of water. This year's observance will be the week of March 11-17, 2018. Our goal for National Groundwater Awareness Week is to improve public appreciation for one of our most valuable natural resources. Well owners, especially, should take this opportunity to evaluate their systems for maintenance issues to protect their wells from waterborne illnesses and other contamination.

Established in 1999, National Groundwater Awareness Week provides an opportunity for people to learn about the importance of groundwater and how the resource impacts lives. "Approximately 132 million Americans rely on groundwater for drinking water, so, simply put, the resource makes life possible," said Aaron Martin, public relations and awareness manager of NGWA. "Additionally, groundwater is used for irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and several additional purposes, making it one of the most widely used and valuable natural resources we have."

Consider the following:

- Americans use **79.6 billion gallons** of groundwater each day.
- Groundwater is **20 to 30 times larger** than all U.S. lakes, streams, and rivers combined.
- **44 percent** of the U.S. population depends on groundwater for its drinking water supply.
- More than **13.2 million households** have their own well, representing **34 million people**.

The 2018 GWA2018 theme of "Tend. Test. Treat." was established to encourage a more holistic approach to sustain an adequate supply of quality water. Testing your water might prompt well inspection and maintenance, and water treatment can mitigate naturally occurring contamination revealed by the test. So, **test** your water, **tend** to your well system, then **treat** the water if necessary. Your well should be tested anytime there is a change in taste, odor, appearance, or after the system has been serviced. Greene County Public Health provides well water sampling for a fee. To schedule a water sample, call 937-374-5607.

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NGWA encourages every person to be a “groundwater advocate” both during National Groundwater Awareness Week and beyond by protecting and conserving groundwater. For more shareable information on the event, including:

- Social media toolkit
- Facts about groundwater
- Event FAQs
- Logos and graphics
- Videos

Please visit GroundwaterAwarenessWeek.com or WellOwner.org. For more information on Greene County Public Health, please visit www.gcph.info or call 937-374-5600.

The National Ground Water Association is a not-for-profit professional society and trade association for the global groundwater industry. Members around the world include leading public and private sector groundwater scientists, engineers, water well system professionals, manufacturers, and suppliers of groundwater-related products and services. The Association’s vision is to be the leading groundwater association advocating for responsible development, management, and use of water.

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