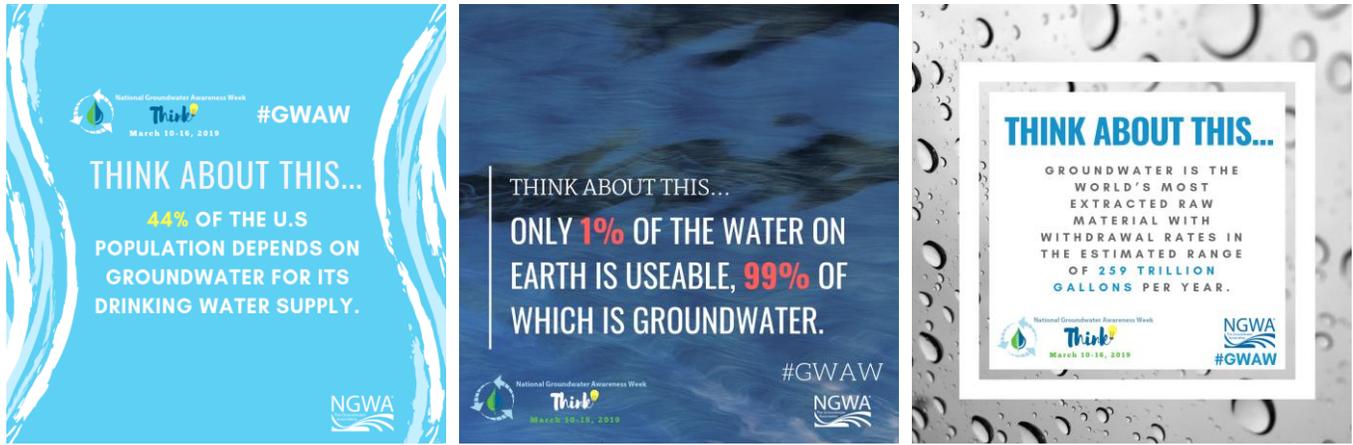


## National Groundwater Awareness Week



The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) invites you to celebrate National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 10-16, to increase awareness and protection of this vital resource. Life as we know it would be impossible without groundwater. Approximately 45 percent of Ohioans and nearly all (98 percent!) of Geauga County residents rely on it as their drinking water source. Groundwater is, in fact, the world's most extracted natural resource!

This year's National Groundwater Awareness Week theme, **Think**, was designed to urge each of us to consider various ways we can protect our most valuable natural resource. So **Think** about not running the water while you brush your teeth. Or **Think** about getting that leaking faucet fixed. **Think** about the farmers that rely on groundwater to grow the food we eat. And **Think** about having your well inspected to protect your drinking water system. In short, during #GWAW, **Think** about our future.

The first steps toward putting these thoughts into action is by monitoring and maintaining your well to safeguard your home's drinking water supply! Testing your water will give you a baseline of its quality and provide the ability to detect any changes in the future. Always be sure to test your water if you notice a change in its color, taste, or smell. Regularly inspect your well and provide any necessary maintenance. Also, if a water test reveals any naturally occurring contamination, investigate water treatment options. Let this week be an annual reminder to test your water, tend to your well system, and treat the water if necessary.

Throughout the year, there are also ways to ensure pollutants do not enter surface and groundwater from our property. Limit the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, being careful to follow instructions and application rates. Dispose of hazardous wastes properly by not dumping them on the ground, pouring them down the drain, or flushing them down the toilet. And if you own a septic tank, have it pumped every two to three years to maintain the system and prevent a breakdown that could pollute groundwater. Let National Groundwater Awareness Week serve as a helpful reminder to maintain our wells and protect our water. For more information visit [www.co.geauga.oh.us/Departments/Planning-Commission/Water-Links](http://www.co.geauga.oh.us/Departments/Planning-Commission/Water-Links) or [geaugaswcd.com](http://geaugaswcd.com). By working and thinking together, we can keep our groundwater resources pristine and plentiful!