



Gallatin Local Water Quality District

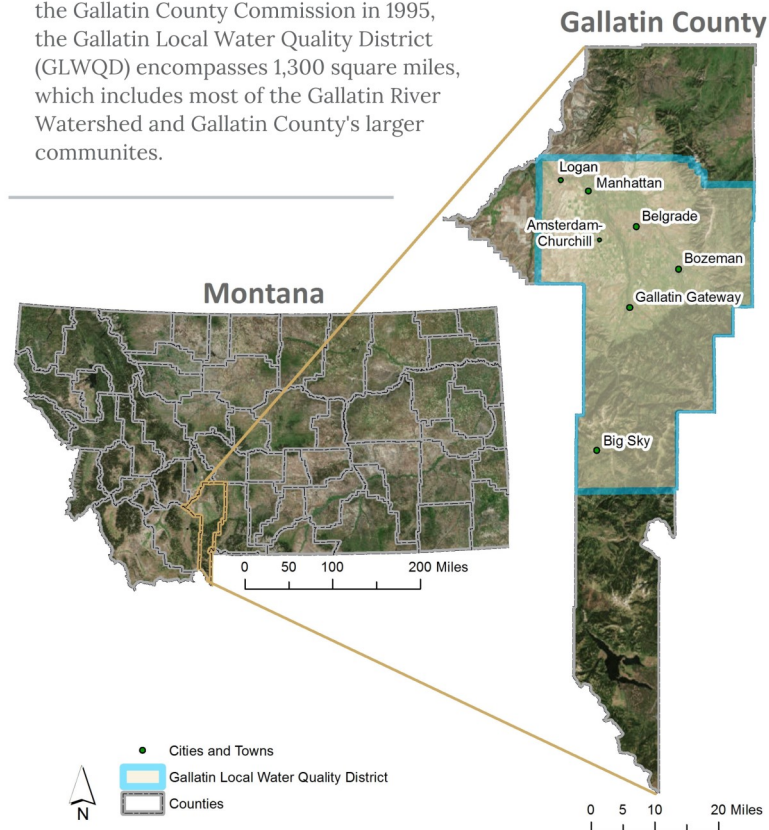
Gallatin County, MT

Working to

protect, preserve, and improve the quality of surface water and groundwater within the Local Water Quality District.

Created by

the Gallatin County Commission in 1995, the Gallatin Local Water Quality District (GLWQD) encompasses 1,300 square miles, which includes most of the Gallatin River Watershed and Gallatin County's larger communities.



Our department

is a non-regulatory department of Gallatin County government with three full time staff members. A board of directors governs the activities and direction of the department. Board meetings are the first Thursday of each month.



Gallatin Local Water Quality District



Water quality

is assessed through monitoring. Overall, water is generally very good quality in our headwaters watershed.

Surface Water:

The cause of the pollution in local streams and rivers is primarily non-point source (NPS) pollution, where the source is widespread and cannot be pinpointed to one cause. NPS pollutants that affect our local waterways include nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), sediment, *E. coli* bacteria, algae, pH, and others. Additional examples of water impairments include flow regime modification or aquatic habitat alterations.

Groundwater:

Groundwater is assessed through monitoring of water quality and measurements of water levels. Drinking water quality must be determined by testing using a certified laboratory. Common groundwater concerns include elevated nitrate, elevated arsenic, or the presence of bacteria. Other, localized issues also occur, as water chemistry is location dependent.

Our services

Monitoring and Research

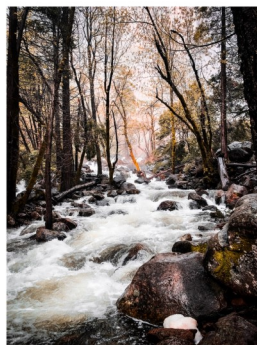
- Long-term groundwater monitoring network
- Long-term surface water monitoring network
- Big Sky groundwater nutrient monitoring
- Gallatin Stream Teams (a volunteer stream monitoring program)

Education and Outreach

- Well testing assistance and interpretation
- Education events for youth and adults
- Subdivision reviews
- Well and septic outreach courses and workshops

Information Collection and Dissemination

- Groundwater quality information database
- Interactive water quality mapper in cooperation with Gallatin County GIS
- Communication of findings through reports
- Public resource for area water data



www.glwqd.org

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