

Our Groundwater is our most important natural resource! You can help your community identify areas of drinking water concern, here's how:

The Town of Charlestown Office of Wastewater Management is seeking the voluntary submission of laboratory analytical data from any property owner testing their private drinking water well. The Town of Charlestown and the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) recommend homeowners conduct annual sampling of all private wells according to the DOH guidelines (see Link).

<http://www.health.ri.gov/drinkingwaterquality/for/privatewellowners/>

Every residence and business in Charlestown relies solely on our local groundwater for drinking water (through private and public wells) and every household and business in Charlestown relies on septic systems for sewage disposal. The main pollutants that emanate from septic systems are Nitrate, Phosphate and bacteria.

A recent University of Rhode Island Study examined over 40 private drinking water wells in the Quonochontaug area and indicates that groundwater Nitrate concentrations are elevated far above natural levels in this area. Nitrate in drinking water *is* a health concern, especially for infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and the elderly. While groundwater Nitrate was high in the study area, it was below the level of an immediate health hazard.

The more data we collect, the better we can understand the nature and extent of impacts of not only Nitrate, but also Bacteria, Phosphate and salt water intrusion in our collective drinking water supply.

If you have laboratory analytical data (report) or plan on having a sample taken, please consider forwarding your lab data to the Town. We can add the data you provide to a map of the Town to visualize groundwater quality. This will allow us to pass along guidance for common drinking water related issues, where appropriate.

Laboratory analytical reports may be submitted to:

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