

Ottawa County Water Resource Study Brief Summary

Water Resource Study (Phase I)

- After wells in four subdivisions in Allendale Township went dry, and reports of high sodium chloride in wells increased in different areas of the County, Ottawa County initiated a Water Resource Study in 2013.
- The County hired the **MSU Institute of Water Research (IWR)** to complete the Study. The findings of the Phase I Study indicated the following:
 - Groundwater levels in some areas of the County are declining
 - Sodium chloride levels in groundwater are increasing in certain areas of the County.

Water Resource Study (Phase II)

- A three-year \$450,000 Phase II Study is now (2014) being conducted by the **MSU IWR**. The goals of the Study are the following:
 - #1: Quantify the current sustainability of groundwater quantity in Ottawa County's glacial and bedrock aquifers
 - #2: Quantify the current sustainability of Ottawa County's glacial and bedrock aquifers based on chloride concentrations
 - #3: Estimate the future sustainability of Ottawa County's glacial and bedrock aquifers based on projected water quantity and chloride concentrations at 5 years, 10 years, and 20 years into the future
 - #4: If the Study findings indicate that that current groundwater usage practices may not be sustainable, develop a set of options which local decision-makers and private-sector interests can utilize at their discretion to address and mitigate the over-usage of available groundwater and the occurrences of chloride contamination in Ottawa County.
- **MSU IWR Staff for Phase II Study:**
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- **Phase II Study Funding Sources:**
 - Ottawa County
 - The State of Michigan
 - All Ottawa County townships
 - Grand Haven Community Foundation
 - The Ottawa County Farm Bureau
 - West Michigan Lakeshore Assoc. of Realtors