



Key Findings From Community Interviews

1. Although there are a variety of local and statewide initiatives and programs intended to maintain high water quality in Itasca County, there is not a comprehensive coordinated system in place across all levels of government to protect public waters.
2. Most elected officials in the County (townships, cities, and county) understand the correlation between good water quality and the well-being of tourism and the recreation economy in Itasca County.
3. Across Itasca County, the focus on water quality varies widely. Some communities faced with drinking water quality and supply issues are more inclined to invest tax dollars in capital improvements as a high priority. In other parts of the county, elected officials urge more education and testing.
4. Two primary strategies were recommended by all people interviewed: education and testing.
5. One finding indicated that when people expect “everyone” to be responsible, then perhaps no one takes ownership.