

# Water Quantity



## Who We Are:

Friends of the Big Sioux River is a water advocacy nonprofit on a mission to protect and restore the Big Sioux River and its watershed. We focus on four main areas: water quality monitoring, public policy and advocacy, river restoration, and education. These core areas all center around improving our local community and building a conservation ethic.

## What is Water Quantity?

- Water quantity is the ability of a water system to supply enough water for a community. This may include water for drinking, industry, pools, golf courses, agricultural irrigation, and private well use.
- Water quantity issues arise when the water source cannot be naturally replenished as quickly as it is being used. Additionally, water quantity issues can lead to water quality issues.
- Currently, Sioux Falls receives over half of its water from the Missouri River via the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System. As the city continues to grow, it will require more water to sustain the community.
- Strains on water supplies and aging water treatment systems can lead to higher water prices, summer watering restrictions, and expensive water treatment projects to transport and store freshwater.

## How Can You Improve Water Quantity?

### Urban Areas

- Conserve water inside your home and business.
- Install water-efficient fixtures and appliances. Look for WaterSense labeled products, which meet the EPA's specifications for water efficiency and performance.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle materials.
- Conserve water outdoors by planting water-smart landscapes. Plant native plants or those that use less water, and group plants according to their water needs.

### Rural Areas

- On farm fields, improve irrigation infrastructure and water supply.
- Control drainage with tools such as water and sediment control basins.
- Improve moisture management through implementing no till, cover crops, and prescribed grazing.
- Protect and maintain your private well.

## Volunteer For Friends of the Big Sioux River

- **Clean-Up Events:** FBSR offers companies, organizations, and community groups an opportunity to be directly involved in picking up trash on the streambanks of our local streams and rivers. If your business or group is interested in donating time to help clean up a stretch of a waterway, FBSR will provide all clean-up materials.
- **Water Testing:** From May through September, our incredible team of water testing volunteers collects water samples from the Big Sioux River and its surrounding tributaries. You can help make an impact in our watershed by becoming a water testing volunteer or joining us for a water testing ride-along this summer!

Learn more at [fbsr.org](https://fbsr.org)

Contact our Outreach and Donor Coordinator at [outreach@friendsofthebigsiouxriver.org](mailto:outreach@friendsofthebigsiouxriver.org) to schedule a clean-up event or to learn more about becoming a water testing volunteer.

