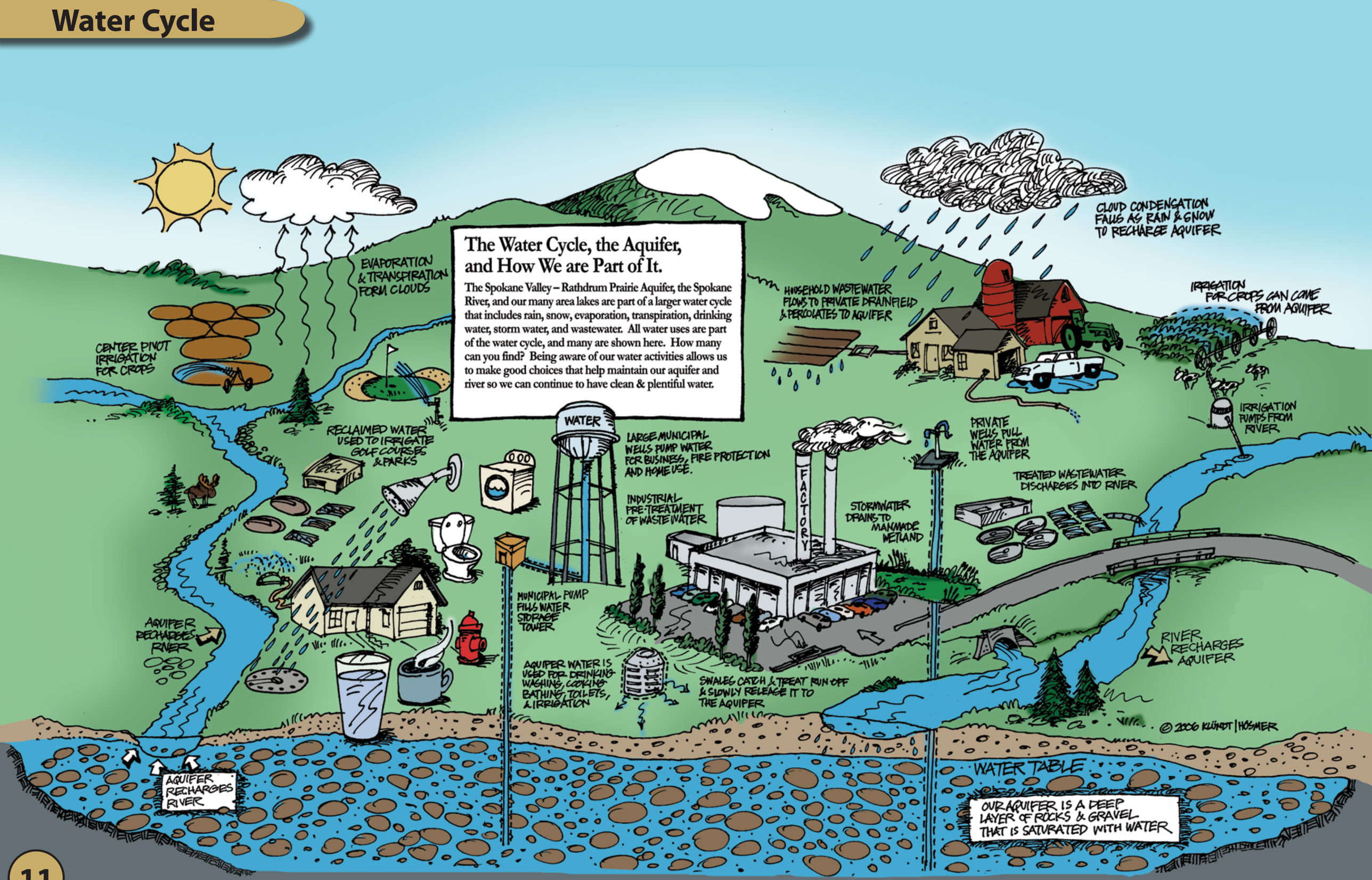
Water Cycle


The Water Cycle, the Aquifer, and How We are Part of It.
The Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, the Spokane River, and our many area lakes are part of a larger water cycle that includes rain, snow, evaporation, transpiration, drinking water, storm water, and wastewater. All water uses are part of the water cycle, and many are shown here. How many can you find? Being aware of our water activities allows us to make good choices that help maintain our aquifer and river so we can continue to have clean & plentiful water.
EVAPORATION & TRANSPIRATION FORM CLOUDS
CLOUD CONDENSATION FALLS AS RAIN & SNOW TO RECHARGE AQUIFER
CENTER PIVOT IRRIGATION FOR CROPS
HOUSEHOLD WASTEWATER FLOWS TO PRIVATE DRAINFIELD & PERCOLATES TO AQUIFER
IRRIGATION FOR CROPS CAN COME FROM AQUIFER
IRRIGATION PUMPS FROM RIVER
RECLAIMED WATER USED TO IRRIGATE GOLF COURSES & PARKS
WATER
LARGE MUNICIPAL WELLS PUMP WATER FOR BUSINESS, FIRE PROTECTION AND HOME USE.
PRIVATE WELLS PULL WATER FROM THE AQUIFER
TREATED WASTEWATER DISCHARGES INTO RIVER
FACTORY
INDUSTRIAL PRE-TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER
STORMWATER DRAINS TO MANMADE WETLAND
MUNICIPAL PUMP FILLS WATER STORAGE TOWER
AQUIFER RECHARGES RIVER
RIVER RECHARGES AQUIFER
AQUIFER WATER IS USED FOR DRINKING WASHING, COOKING BATHING, TOILETS, & IRRIGATION
SWALES CATCH & TREAT RUN OFF & SLOWLY RELEASE IT TO THE AQUIFER
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WATER TABLE
AQUIFER RECHARGES RIVER
OUR AQUIFER IS A DEEP LAYER OF ROCKS & GRAVEL THAT IS SATURATED WITH WATER