A Painted Rocks Gauging Site

Park at the Painted Rocks parking lot and follow the path south to the Little Spokane River. Near the Rutter Parkway bridge is a circular corrugated metal stilling well with a locked box on top. This is the U. S. Geological Survey gauging station containing equipment which continuously measures the elevation of the surface of the river. This information and information from a similar gauging site near Dartford seven miles upstream is used to calculate how much water is flowing out of the Aquifer through springs between the two sites.

B Spokane Hatchery

Griffith Spring, located at the Spokane Hatchery, is a place where water flows out of the Spokane Aquifer. Water from these springs, and other springs in the area, flow to the Little Spokane River. The Hatchery needs very clean water to grow its fish. To keep the water clean, the hatchery asks that people stay out of the springs area. Group tours can be arranged by calling (509) 892-1001.

C Water Reclamation Facility

4401 N. Aubrey L. White Parkway. If your home is connected to the City of Spokane-Spokane County sewer system, all the water that goes down your drain and into the sewer ends up at this facility. Spokane County is presently constructing a second water reclamation facility to serve this area. The wastewater is treated with solids removal, aeration, bacterial activity, and disinfection. Groups tours can be arranged (509)625-4600.

D Original 1907 Well

Turn north onto Waterworks at the blinking yellow light near the 4600 block of Trent Avenue. Follow Waterworks to the Upriver Dam visitor parking lot. The first public water supply wells in the Aquifer were dug here in 1907. More water supply wells have been dug near the dam since 1907. The City of Spokane operates the dam and monitors its water distribution system from the facility at Upriver Dam. Group tours can be arranged by calling (509) 742-8156.

E Gravel Pit

Drive along Thierman Street and Heacox Avenue between Sprague and Broadway. This gravel pit is another place to see the rock material of the Aquifer in the Spokane Valley. No vegetation hides the rock material because the pit is still being used. The pit extends below the water table and exposes the water of the Aquifer.

F Sullivan Park

The park is just north of the river on the west side of Sullivan Road. You can see many big boulders like the kind in the Aquifer along the Spokane River at Sullivan Park. When the Spokane River is low, springs are visible around the Sullivan Road bridge pilings. This is water from the Aquifer flowing into the river.

G Well Field

The Consolidated Irrigation District well field is at the corner of Idaho Road and Kildea. The objects that look like R2D2 robots are pumps that bring water from over 100 feet below ground up into the tower above you. From the tower water is distributed to where it is used: a house, a field, or a business. Not all pumps and water towers look like these. Many pumps are located inside small buildings.

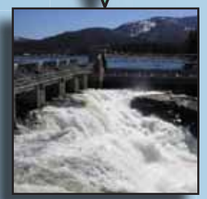
H Hand Pump

From Interstate 90 take exit 299 (last exit in Washington). Park in the Centennial Trail access parking lot just south of the interchange. Walk east about half a mile along the Trail and across the river to the hand pump and sign. Before electricity many people used hand powered pumps to get water from the ground.

I Recharge From Lateral Lakes

Hayden Lake and other lakes adjacent to the Rathdrum Prairie contribute water to the Aquifer through seepage from streams flowing out onto the aquifer or from the lake bottoms. Hayden Lake (image at left) is located on the east side of the Rathdrum Prairie. Take Highway 95 north from Coeur d'Alene to the City of Hayden, and turn right (east) on Honeysuckle Ave and then right on Hayden Lake Road. The spillway and canal that control lake levels can be seen on the left.

J Post Falls Dam and Millrace Head Gate



From Interstate 90 take exit 5 (Spokane Street). Turn south on Spokane Street one block, turn right on 4th Street and drive ahead to the parking lot. The Post Falls Dam restricts the Spokane River during the summer months to produce 14.75 megawatts of electricity and to maintain a constant elevation in Lake Coeur d'Alene. Three dams constructed at Post Falls by the Washington Water Power Company (now called Avista Utilities) began operation in 1906. The Millrace Head Gate provided critical water for irrigation and commerce to lower elevations in the region.

K Kootenai County Prairie Transfer Station

From I-90, take the Spokane St exit, turn north to W Seltice Way; turn left on W Seltice Way to McGuire Rd; turn right on McGuire and drive to Prairie Ave; turn left on Prairie and drive west; the station is on the right. Buildings are covered thereby preventing contaminated runoff, and the buildings' concrete floors are underlain with HDPE liners. Wash water is not used so wastewater is not generated, and the main facility has a 10,000 gallon collection system for incidental and accidental spills.

L Ice Dam Site - Farragut State Park

Head north on US Highway 95 from Coeur d'Alene approximately 18-miles to Highway 54 Junction. Turn right heading east on Highway 54 to Farragut State Park. Approximately 5 miles turn right at Visitor's Center to obtain permit. Proceed east on Highway 54 approximately 0.5 miles to South Road junction. Turn right and follow South Road to viewpoint at end of road. This is the southern-most edge of the ice dam that created Glacial Lake Missoula. This area is also an important part of northern Aquifer recharge. Enjoy the view and the interpretative signs.

M Coeur d'Alene Wastewater Treatment Plant

From I-90, take the Northwest Blvd exit, and drive south on Northwest Blvd; turn right on West Hubbard street, drive west for about 750 feet; the plant is located between the road and the river. Coeur d'Alene constructed a secondary-level municipal treatment plant in 1939 as one of the first such municipal plants in the world. The plant's staff performs over 700 laboratory tests per month, and they sample the river weekly and record weather observations.

N Panhandle Health District Building

Panhandle Health District's (PHD) building is located at 8500 N Atlas Road in Hayden. Stormwater is managed on the site using examples of low impact development to prevent untreated stormwater disposal into the Aquifer. These examples range from sidewalk surfaces to planter placement and choice of plants. A 37,000-gallon cistern stores rainwater for irrigation of the lawns and drought-resistant native plants on the site. PHD added interpretive panels throughout the site and conducts tours upon request.

O HARSB Land Application Site

The Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB) manages sewer service to the residents of the City of Hayden as well as to the Coeur d'Alene (Kootenai County) Airport and the Hayden Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District. HARSB operates a wastewater reuse facility during the growing season that consists of 400 acres (south east corner of W Boekel Road and N Huetter Rd in Hayden) that are irrigated with 1.2 million gallons of reuse water daily. The reuse water is applied at rates that are completely consumed by alfalfa and hybrid poplar trees.