

What is Groundwater?

Groundwater is the water that fills the small spaces between rock particles (sand, gravel, etc.) or cracks in solid rock. Rain, melting snow, or surface water becomes groundwater by seeping into the ground and filling these spaces. The top of the water-saturated zone is called the “*water table*.”

When water seeps in from the surface and reaches the water table, it begins moving towards points where it can escape, such as wells, rivers, or lakes.

An *aquifer* is any type of geologic material, such as sand or sandstone, which can supply water wells or springs.

The groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles) of the well. How fast groundwater moves depends on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.

What are the steps in preparing a Wellhead Protection Plan?

1. Form a Community Planning team.
2. Identify the land area to be protected.
3. Identify land uses and possible sources of pollution in the wellhead protection area and determine how vulnerable the wellhead protection area is to pollution.
4. Implement ways to prevent groundwater pollution.
5. Develop an alternate way to supply water.

What Can You Do?

To help prepare a plan:

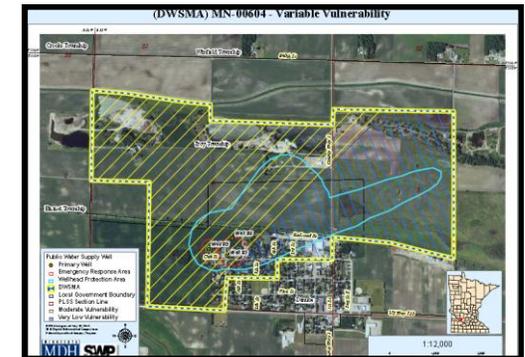
- Serve on work groups
- Attend wellhead protection meetings
- Help identify land uses and possible sources of contamination on your property

To protect local groundwater:

- Recognize and manage possible sources of contamination on your property
- Use hazardous products as directed and dispose of them properly



Where Does Your *DRINKING WATER* Come From?



The City of Danube, Minnesota

is developing a *SOURCEWATER PROTECTION PLAN*

In cooperation with
Minnesota Department of Health
&
Minnesota Rural Water Association
Groundwater –Source Water Protection
Program

For Plan Development Assistance Contact:
MN Rural Water Association
1-800-367-6792
www.mrwa.com