

What are the steps In preparing a Wellhead Protection Plan?

- ✓ Form a Community Planning team.
 - ✓ Identify the land area to be protected.
 - ✓ Identify land uses and possible sources of pollution in the wellhead protection area and determine how vulnerable the wellhead protection area is to pollution.
 - Implement ways to prevent groundwater pollution.
 - Develop an alternate way to supply water if the public well becomes polluted.
- (a check mark indicates items already completed)

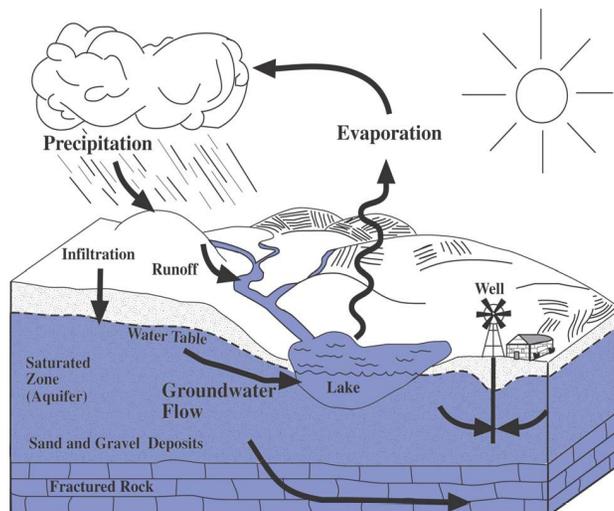
What can you do?

To help implement the 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
- Conserve water



SOURCE: MN Dept. Of Health, modified from *Using Ground-Water Data for Water Planning*, Educational Series-8, 1987, Minnesota Geological Survey.

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 to 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.

Where Does Your



Come From?



Public Wells of The City of Paynesville

Is implementing a **Wellhead Protection Plan**

*In a cooperative effort to protect the
quality of drinking water in the
Paynesville area.*

Our plans were made possible with the help
of the

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- MN Rural Water Association,
- MN Department of Health
- MN Department of Agriculture
- Stearns County SWCD
- Stearns County Environmental Services
- U of MN Extension Services

A community effort to protect public wells

The residents of the City of Paynesville and surrounding area rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply. There are several public and private drinking water wells located within the area. These wells draw water from groundwater aquifers located from 50' to several hundred feet underground. Groundwater aquifers are vulnerable to contamination from human land use activities.

The City of Paynesville is working to protect their drinking water supplies by implementing a WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN. The plan was prepared in conjunction with several local, county and state agencies. The plan's goals are defined in its MISSION STATEMENT:

“To promote public health, economic development and community infrastructure by insuring a potable water supply for all residents of the community.”

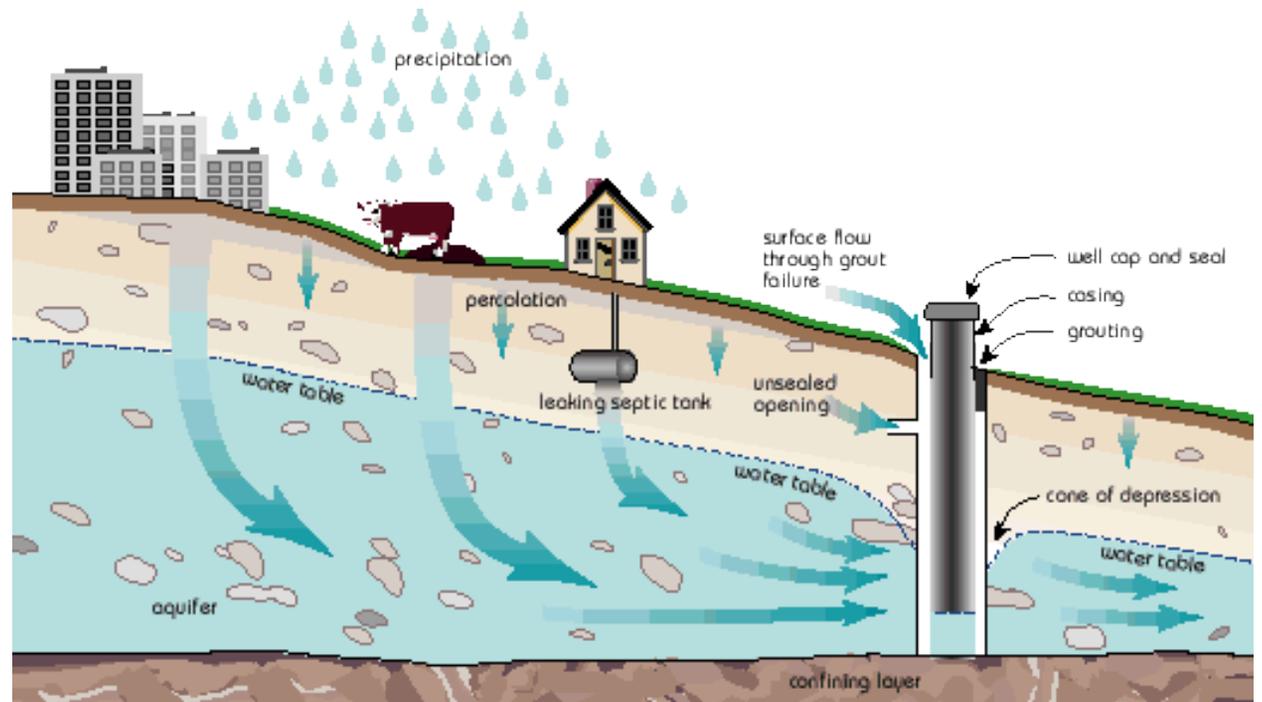
Citizens, students and other interested persons are encouraged to participate in the implementation of this plan. Protection of local ground-water resources is

EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Contact the city office at (320) 243-3714 ext 230

Or

Kay Cook at (320)597-2794
for additional information



Source: Montana NRCS

Most People in Minnesota get drinking Water from wells

Wellhead Protection is a way to prevent drinking water from becoming polluted by managing possible sources of contamination in the area that supplies water to a public well. Wellhead Protection will be an ongoing need for communities. Everyone has an important part to play in protecting drinking water wells—today and for the future. **Become involved in IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN for your community. Contact one of the listed providers for your community.**

Why do wells sometimes become Polluted?

Wells become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health get into the groundwater. Water from these wells can be dangerous to drink when the level of pollution rises above health standards. Many of our everyday activities can cause pollution. Much can be done to prevent pollution, such as wise use of land and chemicals. The expense of treating polluted water or drilling new wells can also be avoided. Help avoid drinking water contamination by being an environmentally aware citizen.