

## What were the steps in preparing the City's Wellhead Protection Plan?

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1. A Community Planning team was formed.
2. The land area to be protected was identified and its vulnerability to contamination was determined.
3. Land uses and possible sources of pollution in the wellhead protection area were identified.
4. Ways to prevent groundwater pollution are being implemented.
5. An alternate way to supply water if the public well becomes polluted was determined.

## What can you do?

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### To protect local groundwater:

- Serve on work groups
- Attend wellhead protection meetings
- Help identify land uses and possible sources of contamination on your property
- Recognize and manage possible sources of contamination on your property
- Use hazardous products as directed and dispose of them properly
- Conserve water

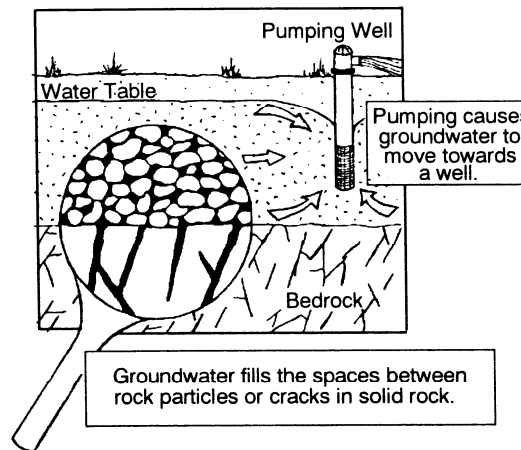
## What is Groundwater?

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

# DRINKING WATER

## Come From?



## The City of ROCKFORD, MINNESOTA

Has developed a

## WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

in cooperation with

Minnesota Rural Water Association  
Groundwater-Source Water Protection Program

For More Information Contact:

Rockford Public Works Department  
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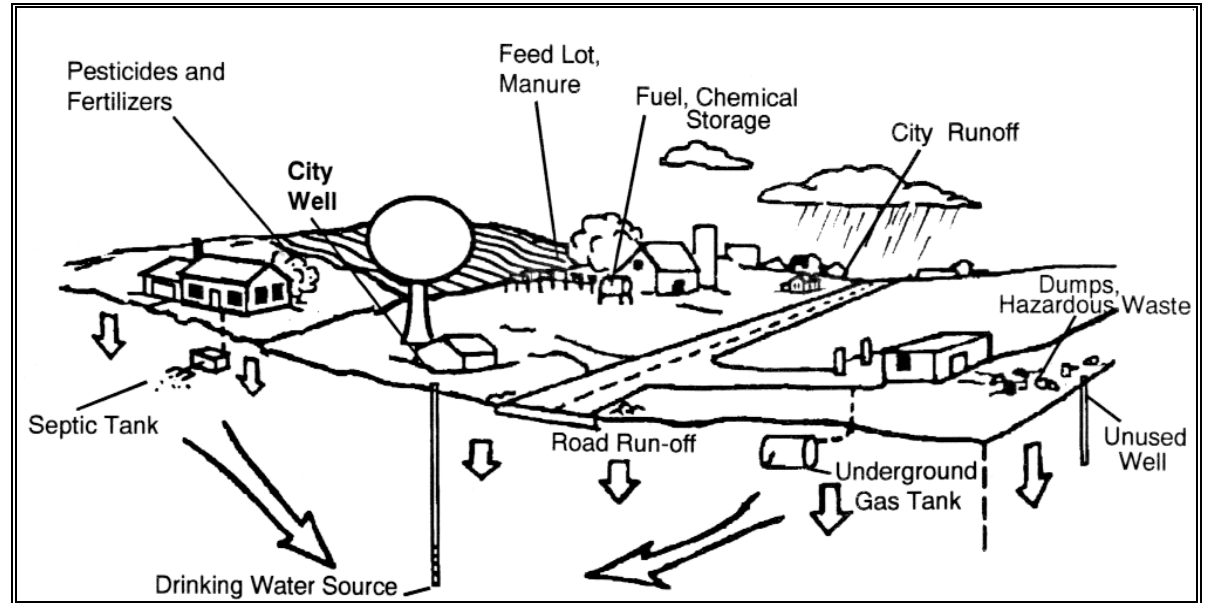


## A community effort to protect public wells

*The residents of Rockford, Minnesota rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply. The City owns and operates four wells located within the City. These wells draw water from groundwater aquifers located several hundred feet underground and may be adversely affected by human land surface activities.*

*The City of Rockford has worked with its residents to protect the drinking water supply by developing and carrying out a WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN. The plan has been prepared in conjunction with several local, county and state agencies. The Minnesota Department of Health is the lead agency for the State's program and has been assisting communities with defining wellhead protection areas and developing plans to protect wells. Minnesota Rural Water Association has also provided technical assistance to small public water suppliers to help meet the system's Wellhead Protection goals.*

**Contact (218) 685-5197 for additional information**



**Examples of Source Water Contamination**

## 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 which 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 developing a WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN for your community. Contact one of the listed agencies for additional information, or call your community's public works department.***

## 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.*