

ROCKFORD'S WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

The City of Rockford has completed the development of their Wellhead Protection Plan. This plan is designed to protect the groundwater aquifers that supply the Rockford municipal drinking water wells. The plan identifies potential sources of contamination that could pollute local groundwater wells and enter the community's water supply. The ultimate goal of this plan is help ensure that Rockford continues to provide its residents with a safe and abundant supply of clean drinking water for generations to come.

Wells can become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health get into the groundwater. Water from these wells can become dangerous to drink when the level of pollution rises above health standards. Fortunately, the City of Rockford's water supply currently meets (and exceeds) all State and Federal drinking water standards. The City regularly samples the water from their wells and provides an annual Consumer Confidence Report at <http://www.cityofrockford.org/city-departments/public-works/> for residents.

The Wellhead Protection Plan can only be successful if residents play a role in helping to protect the aquifer. To help us implement our plan, you can do the following:

- Help identify land uses and potential sources of contamination on your property (wells, tanks, septic systems, hazardous wastes, etc.).
- Make sure any potential sources of contamination under your control meet local, state, and federal regulations.
- Seal any unused wells on your property, according to Minnesota Well Code. See the Minnesota Department of Health website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/> for more information. Owners of active wells should refer to the Well Owner's Handbook at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/construction/handbook.pdf> for proper construction, maintenance, and sampling information.
- Use hazardous products only as directed and dispose of them properly when no longer needed. Visit the Wright County website at <http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/pandz/recycling.asp> for information on handling and disposal of wastes, including information on the waste collection facility that is available to Wright County residents. Hennepin County residents should visit their County's website at <http://hennepin.us/dropoffs> for information regarding waste disposal collection sites.
- Practice proper turf management techniques and avoid over-fertilization of your lawns and gardens. Visit the Minnesota Department of Agricultural website at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/waterprotection/lawnrespon.aspx> for more information.
- Identify whether your property contains a Class V injection well. Information about Class V wells can be found on the EPA's website: <http://water.epa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/class5/index.cfm>. If you have a Class V well on your property, make sure you follow all EPA rules regarding these wells.
- Conserve water whenever possible. Lawn watering is one of the largest uses of municipal water during the summer months. Tip for conserving water, while maintaining a healthy lawn, are included here: http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/Watersupply/conservationtoolbox_residential.htm
- Report spills (or illegal dumping) of hazardous wastes, fuels, or chemicals to law enforcement.

If you wish to view a copy of the Wellhead Protection Plan, contact the Public Works Department at (763) 477-4346.