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 if the public well becomes polluted.*

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*
- *Conserve water*

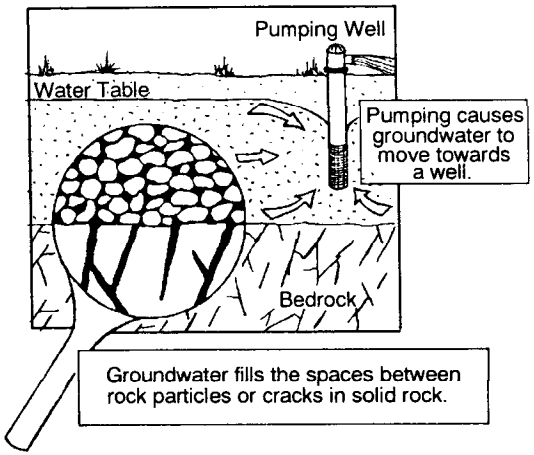
What is Groundwater?

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.*

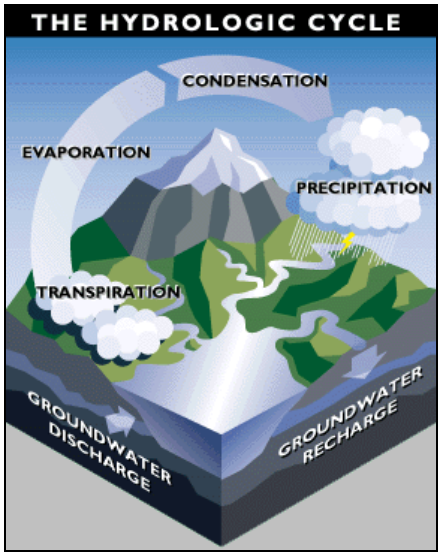
The groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles) of the well. How fast groundwater moves depends on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.



Where Does Your

DRINKING WATER

Come From?



The City of

CLOQUET, MINNESOTA

is developing a

WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

in cooperation with

Minnesota Rural Water Association
Groundwater-Source Water Protection Program

For Plan Development Assistance Contact:

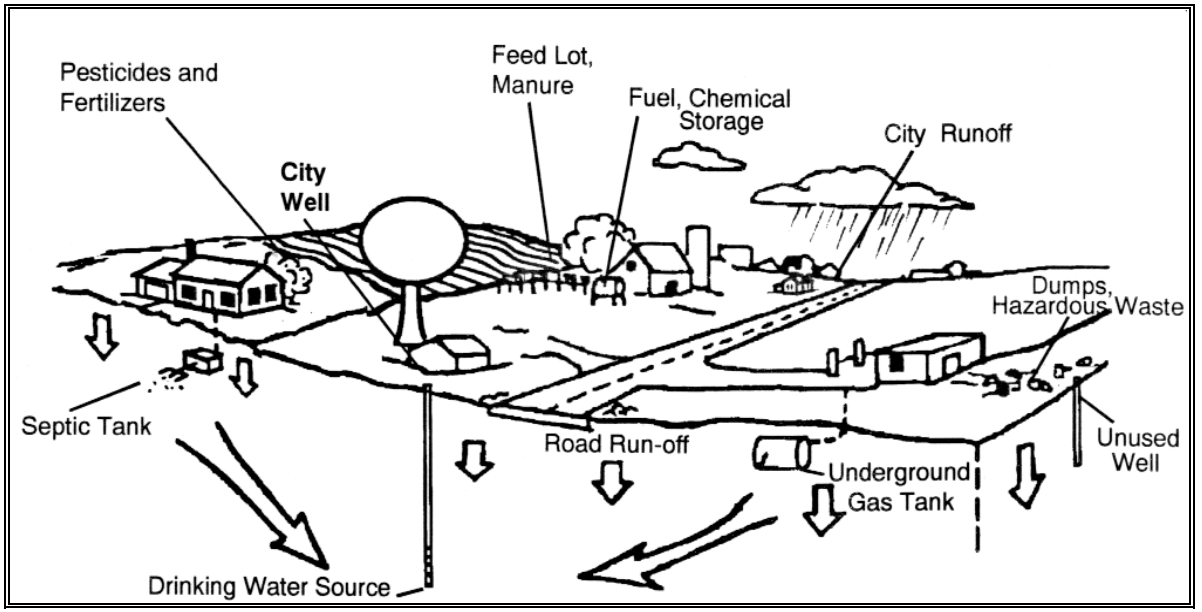
MRWA
Source Water Protection Specialists
(800) 367-6792
www.mrwa.com

A community effort to protect public wells

The residents of Cloquet, Minnesota rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply. *The City owns and operates several well, along with Spring Lake Reservoir, located within the City. The wells draw water from groundwater aquifers located several feet underground. Groundwater aquifers are vulnerable to contamination from human land surface activities.*

The City of Cloquet is working with its residents to protect the drinking water supply by developing and carrying out a WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN. The plan will be 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 will assist communities with defining wellhead protection areas and developing plans to protect wells. Minnesota Rural Water Association, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides technical assistance to small public water suppliers to help meet the system's Wellhead Protection goals.

Contact (218) 879-6758 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 water 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.