

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 toward 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.

How is a Wellhead Protection Plan Implemented?

Action strategies were developed locally to protect the drinking water supply of your community and are identified in Part II of the Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan. Steps to implementing a WHP Plan include:

1. **EDUCATE** the citizenry about what the Wellhead Protection Plan is through brochures, media and local events.
2. Create **AWARENESS** about local groundwater conditions and how the drinking water supply can be protected.
3. Citizens will take **OWNERSHIP** in how their actions can impact the public water supply.
4. Citizens will then support and adopt voluntary changes in **LAND USE** that will help protect drinking water supplies.

What can you do?

To help implement a plan:

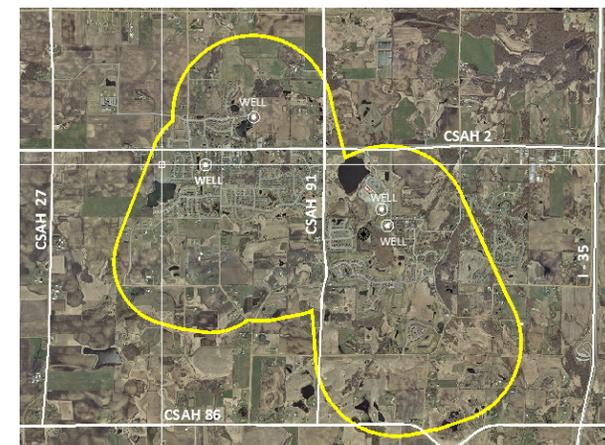
- Help identify land uses and possible sources of contamination on your property
- Recognize and manage possible sources of contamination on your property
- Use hazardous products as directed and dispose of them properly
- Conserve water
- Volunteer to serve on work groups and at educational events.

Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?



The City of Elko New Market
Has developed a
WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

In cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Health



The City's wellhead protection area, representing the ten-year time of travel of ground water to the wells.

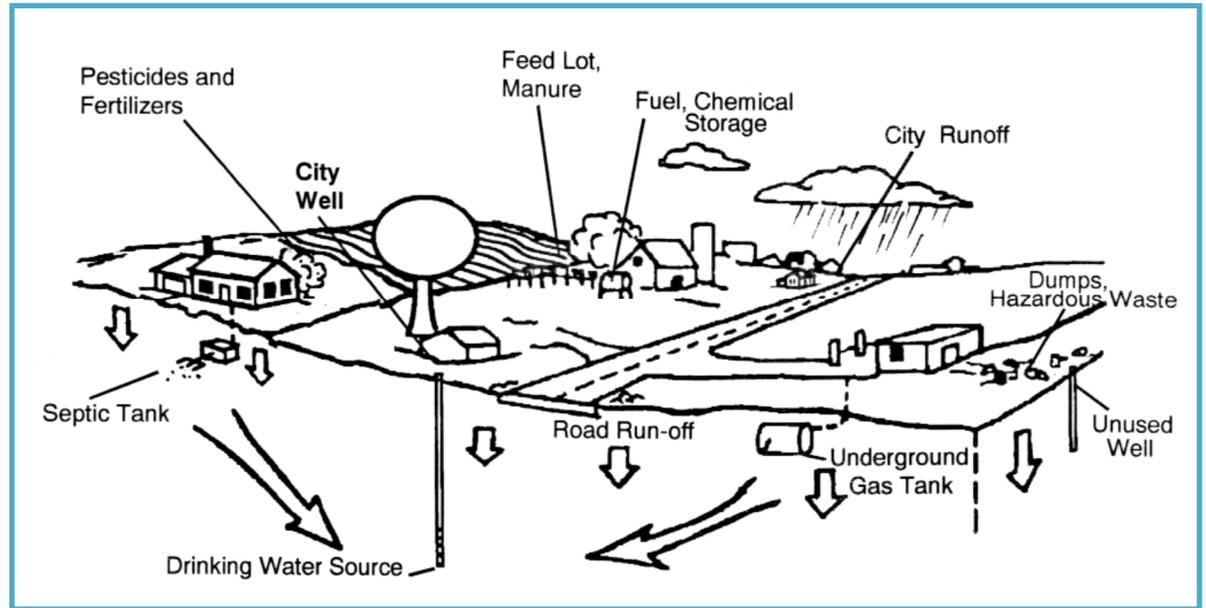
For further information contact:
Elko New Market Public Works
(952) 461-2777



A community effort to Protect public wells

The City residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply. The City owns and operates four wells located within the incorporated area of the community. The City wells draw water from a groundwater aquifer located below the land surface. Groundwater aquifers are vulnerable to contamination from human land use activities. The aquifer serving the City is very deep and protected by a thick layer of clay.

The City is working with residents to protect the drinking water supply by implementing a Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan. The plan has been developed by a local citizen planning team and has been reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in accordance with State Rule Requirements. The MDH and Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) will continue to offer technical assistance in the implementation of the WHP Plan.



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 areas which supply 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. Contact the City for information on how you can become involved.

For additional information about wellhead protection, contact the Mn Dept. of Health Source Water Protection Unit at 651-201-4700. www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/whp

Why do wells Sometimes become polluted?

Wells become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health get in 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 contaminated water by being an environmentally aware citizen.