

## Where can I find out more about wellhead and source water protection?

Rosemount city engineers and the MN Department of Health (MDH) offer public workshops for those interested in learning more about the wellhead protection plan and other source water protection measures. Contact Rosemount's Water Resources Engineer Chad Donnelly at 651-322-2005 for information and scheduling.

### Other resources include:

- *The Well Owner's Handbook*, an MDH guide to proper well maintenance and operation available from MDH or at Rosemount city offices. You can also find a wealth of information on the MDH website ([www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)) using the search term "wellhead protection."
- Dakota County's *Green Guide*, a guide to protecting water resources through environmentally responsible living. It's available online at [www.co.dakota.mn.us/environ/greenguide](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/environ/greenguide).
- The MN Rural Water Association's website ([www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com)) has articles on drinking-water topics in its "Outreach" section.
- Rosemount water resources staff can provide information on the WHPP and other drinking-water topics. Annual drinking water reports can be found on the city's website by searching for "drinking water" ([www.ci.rosemount.mn.us](http://www.ci.rosemount.mn.us)).

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## Rosemount's Wellhead and Source Water Protection Program



**Safeguarding our municipal drinking water wells and water sources**

Rosemount Public Works  
and Engineering Departments  
Water Resources Division



## What Rosemount is doing to protect public drinking water

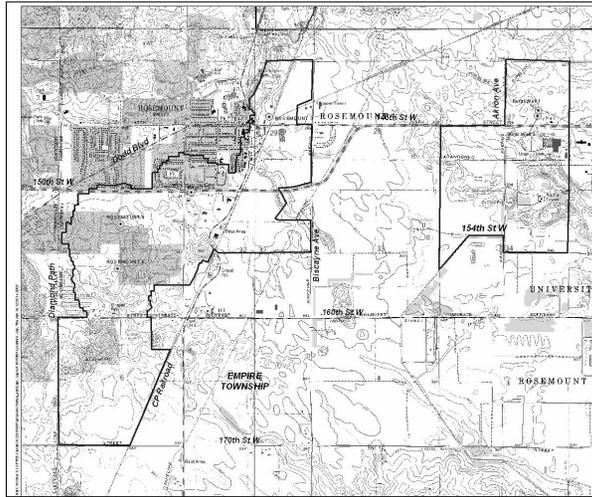
Working with the Minnesota Department of Health, Rosemount has developed a **wellhead protection plan** for the six municipal wells that supply public drinking water. These wells pump ground water from the Jordan Sandstone aquifer beneath the Rosemount area.

## What is a wellhead protection plan (WHPP)?

A wellhead protection plan is one way to prevent the pollution or contamination of public water supply wells and source water. It keeps drinking water clean and helps Rosemount avoid the costly treatment and cleanup of contaminated ground water and the need to drill new water supply wells.

To develop Rosemount's WHPP, the city first delineated the part of the Jordan Sandstone aquifer from which public drinking water is drawn. The city and its engineers could then define **drinking water supply management areas** (DWSMAs) to be protected by the WHPP. Using this information, they were able to:

- identify potential sources of contamination that might affect the DWSMAs
- determine how to manage these potential contaminant sources, and
- develop an alternative-water-supply contingency plan in case the city's drinking water source is ever contaminated.



*This map shows the boundaries (in blue) of the drinking water supply management areas (DWSMAs) in Rosemount and Empire Township.*

Now, city engineers can use the WHPP to manage and monitor potential sources of contamination within the DWSMAs and keep public drinking water safe.

## Does Rosemount need a WHPP?

Rosemount is required to protect its wellhead areas and source water by federal and state laws. Even if it were not, the WHPP provides a tool for understanding and protecting Rosemount's water supply now—and in the future. Having identified potential sources of pollution and developed a plan for managing them, the city is better equipped to prevent, or minimize the chances of, source water contamination.

## How will the WHPP affect me?

Ground water can accidentally be contaminated by something as simple as spilling chemicals on the ground at your house or business, where they can be carried by rain or snow melt into wetlands and other aquifer recharge areas.

If you're a **resident or business owner** in a DWSMA, here are some ways to help safeguard Rosemount's water supply:

- Dispose of used motor oil and household chemicals properly—don't dump these on the ground.
- If used oil or household chemicals spill on the ground, use absorbent materials to clean them up and then dispose of cleanup waste properly.
- Minimize chemical wastes in your home or business to reduce the risk of accidental spills.

Private wells can potentially provide a pathway for contaminants to reach the aquifer. If you're a **well owner**, be sure your well is properly constructed and maintained. If there are unused, damaged, or abandoned wells on your property, be sure these are sealed properly.

## Glossary of Terms

**Aquifer:** A water-bearing layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel

**WHPP:** Wellhead protection plan

**Source water:** Ground water pumped by city wells

**DWSMA:** Drinking water supply management area

**Recharge areas:** Areas such as ponds and wetlands that contribute ground water to aquifers

1986

Congress amends Safe Drinking Water Act to require wellhead protection programs



1997

Minnesota adopts its own wellhead protection rules to further safeguard groundwater sources



2002

Rosemount submits Part 1 of its WHPP to MDH and plan is approved

2003

Rosemount develops Part 2 of WHPP and receives MDH approval

Future

Plan reviewed as needed and for new well construction