

Chanhassen Wellhead and Source Water Protection Program



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

Does Chanhassen need a WHPP?

Chanhassen is required to protect its wellhead areas and source water by state and federal laws. Even if it wasn't, City engineers can use the WHPP to understand and protect the public water supply—now and in the future.

How will the WHPP affect me?

Groundwater can be contaminated by something as simple as spilling chemicals on the ground, where they can be carried by rain or snowmelt into wetlands or other aquifer recharge areas.

If you're a **resident or business owner** in the DWSMA, you can help protect the water supply by:

- disposing of used motor oil and household chemicals properly—not dumping them on the ground
- cleaning up oil or household chemicals spilled on the ground using absorbent materials and disposing of them properly
- minimizing chemical wastes in your home or business to reduce the risk of spills.

Private wells may provide a pathway for contaminants to reach the aquifers. If you are 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.

Where can I find out more about Chanhassen's drinking water?

The Sewer and Water Utilities department posts information about water quality and water usage on its section of the City of Chanhassen's website (www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us). There's also information there about the city's WaterWise program, designed to assist residents and businesses with water conservation strategies through incentives and education.

Other resources

The Minnesota Department of Health publishes *The Well Owner's Handbook*, a guide to well maintenance and operation. It's available on the MDH website, along with a wealth of other information (www.health.state.mn.us)—search using the terms “wellhead protection” or “drinking water protection.”

For more information, please contact Kevin Crooks, Wellhead Protection Manager at 952-227-1311 or kcrooks@ci.chanhassen.mn.us.

What Chanhassen is doing to protect public drinking water

Working with the Minnesota Department of Health, Chanhassen has developed a wellhead protection plan for the 10 municipal wells that supply public drinking water. Nine of these wells pump groundwater from the Prairie du Chien aquifer and one from a non-bedrock aquifer.

What is a wellhead protection plan?

A wellhead protection plan (WHPP) is one way to prevent pollution or contamination of public water-supply wells and source water. It helps keep drinking water clean and helps Chanhassen avoid costly treatment and cleanup of contaminated groundwater and the need to drill new water-supply wells.

To develop the WHPP, the City determined the parts of the aquifers from which public drinking water is drawn. The City and its engineers then defined drinking-water supply management areas (DWSMAs) to be protected by the plan.

With 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 Chanhassen's drinking water sources are ever contaminated.

glossary

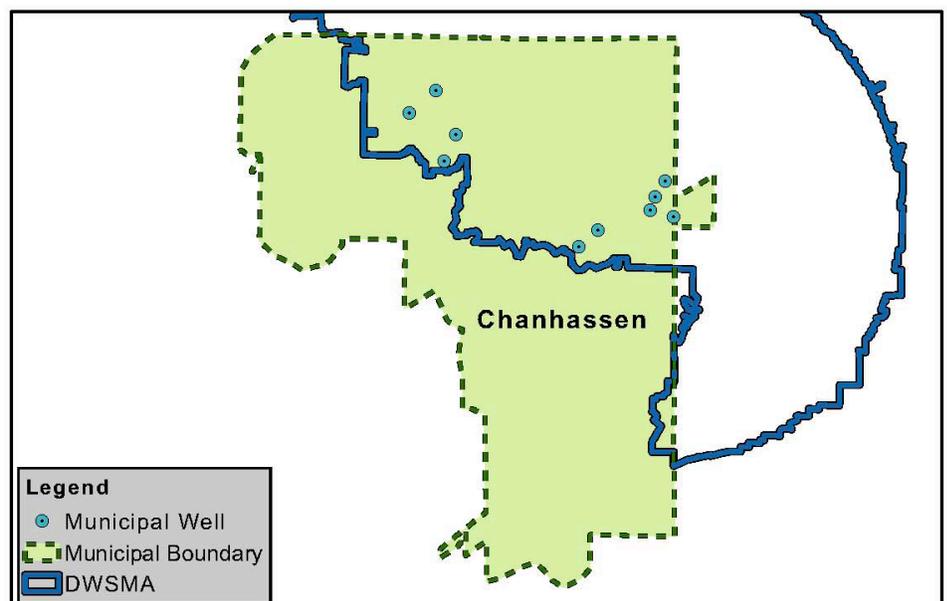
aquifer: a water-bearing layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel

WHPP: wellhead protection plan

source water: groundwater pumped by city wells

DWSMA: drinking-water supply management area

recharge areas: areas such as ponds and wetlands that contribute groundwater to the aquifers



This map shows the Chanhassen city boundary and the locations of the city's municipal drinking-water wells. The drinking-water supply management area (DWSMA) protected by the city's wellhead protection plan is also shown.