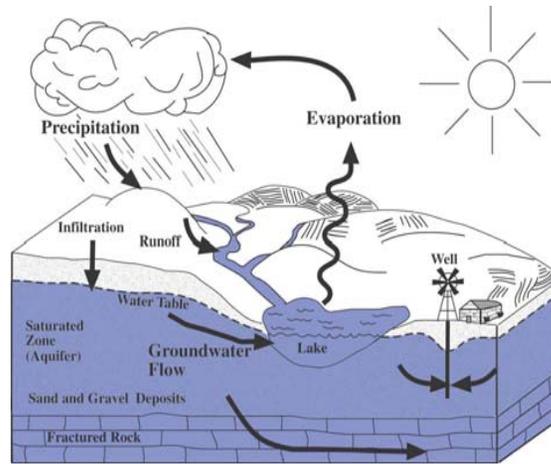


Do you have an unused well?

Find out how you can receive funding to have it sealed



SOURCE: MN Dept. Of Health, modified from *Using Ground-Water Data for Water Planning*, Educational Series-8, 1987, Minnesota Geological Survey.

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.



Grant funding made possible through the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment

How Do Unused Wells Threaten Groundwater?

Groundwater is found in underground geologic formations called *aquifers*. The layers of rock and soil that lie between an aquifer and the surface, typically act as a natural barriers against the spread of contamination. However, an unused, unsealed well can provide an open channel between the surface and an aquifer, acting as a drain—allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated aquifer.

What Does the Law Require?

By law, a well must be in use, be under a *maintenance permit*, or be sealed by a licensed well contractor. A well must be sealed if: 1) the well is not in use, 2) the well is contaminated, 3) the well has been improperly sealed in the past, 4) the well threatens the quality of the groundwater, or 5) the well otherwise poses a threat to health or safety.

If you have an unused well—and wish to keep the well for future use—you must apply for a special *maintenance permit* from the MN Department of Health, which requires an annual fee.

Tel: 320-251-5836

PROTECTING GROUNDWATER IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

The residents of Rockville and surrounding area rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply. There are several public and private drinking water wells located within the area. These wells draw water from groundwater aquifers located from 50 feet to several hundred feet underground. Groundwater aquifers are vulnerable to contamination from land use activities on the surface.



The City of Rockville is working to protect their drinking water supplies by implementing a **WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN**.

Wellhead Protection (WHP) is a way to prevent drinking water from becoming polluted by managing possible sources of contamination in the area that supplies water to the public. Protecting drinking water is an ongoing need for the community and everyone has an important role to play in this process. For more information on the City's WHP efforts, please contact City Hall.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION GOALS

To determine how to best protect the drinking water supply, an in-depth evaluation was completed by the MN Department of Health identifying potential sources of contamination. A number of potential threats were cited including private wells, individual septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and stormwater runoff. In total, the City is trying to manage 46 contaminate sources.



To assist with their ongoing efforts, the City of Rockville received a grant from the MN Department of Health to identify the number of unused wells

within their groundwater recharge area. Once the City is aware of the number of unused wells, they can **present financial options to have the wells sealed**.

What Is An Unused Well—And Why Is It A Problem?

A well that is not in use—sometimes referred to as an “abandoned” well—can be a potential threat to health, safety, and the environment..

Unused wells that have not been properly sealed can be a source of groundwater contamination, potentially affecting nearby drinking water wells. They may threaten the quality of water in the City's wells, your neighbor's well, or even your own well.

Please complete this form to obtain more information on how to receive **financial assistance** to seal your abandoned or unused well. A representative from the City of Rockville will contact you after receiving the completed form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail completed form to:

**City of Rockville
229 Broadway Street East
Rockville, MN 56369**

Questions? Call (320) 250-2601