



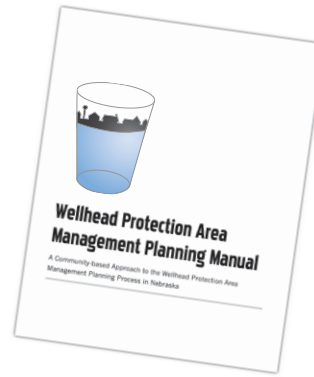
Management Makes Sense

Groundwater is and will continue to be the source of drinking water for many Nebraskans.

Protection of this vital resource is becoming increasingly important.

For example, expanding development may bring with it more potential sources of contamination; growing populations may stress the quantity of water available; and intensive agricultural practices may increase the need for more proactive management strategies.

Whether faced with an existing impairment to the water source or seeking ways to prevent contamination, wellhead protection makes good economic and environmental sense!



The *Wellhead Protection Area Management Planning Manual* is a step-by-step guide to completing the Wellhead Protection Area Management Planning Process. It has been written specifically for groundwater-dependent community Public Water Supply Systems that have a state-approved Wellhead Protection Plan and are ready to begin implementation of on-the-ground protection activities.

For a copy of the manual or for more information about developing a state-approved wellhead protection plan or a wellhead protection area management plan, contact the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Planning Unit at (402) 471-2186.

The *Wellhead Protection Area Management Planning Manual* is also available for free download at <http://www.ndeq.state.ne.us>.

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Wellhead Protection Area Management

A community-based approach to the wellhead protection area management planning process in Nebraska



<http://www.ndeq.state.ne.us>

The future of Nebraska is its people and its groundwater.

Wellhead Protection Area Management is the next step communities should take after developing a wellhead protection plan that has been formally approved by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. In order for a management program to be successful, it must be locally-driven and thoughtfully planned out. The process also leads the community through identifying management strategies that will have the greatest effect on reducing the threat of contamination to the water source.

The Community-based Wellhead Protection Area Management Planning Process is a series of steps that a community may follow to take their drinking water resource protection efforts to the next level. This is a results-oriented process of identifying and implementing specific, customized management strategies. Technical experts will be included throughout the process to provide the information needed by the community to make good management decisions for the wellhead protection area and, as a result, their groundwater supply.



Planning for Local, Long-Term Benefit

The Wellhead Protection Area Management Planning Process is divided into two phases – Pre-planning Activities and Planning Activities.

Pre-planning Activities

The pre-planning activities will pave the way for a smooth planning process. This phase will begin by recognizing the need for further management of the resource and end with the first public meeting. During this phase, key local participants and technical advisors will be introduced and assembled, existing information will be gathered, public education efforts will begin, and local issues/concerns will be identified.

Planning Activities

The planning activities phase will encompass the bulk of the planning process and will end with a complete Wellhead Protection Area Management Plan. This plan will be developed by a committee of local stakeholders with input from the community through public meetings and community education activities. This plan will detail the local issues and concerns and identify specific strategies and actions for protection of the water resource; it will also function as a workplan for grant applications to fund implementation of the identified protection activities.

Plan implementation will occur as opportunities to implement specific strategies included in the plan are identified and taken advantage of. Information describing available assistance programs and potential funding sources has also been included in the *Wellhead Protection Area Management Planning Manual*.

