

What Can You Do To Protect Your Drinking Water?

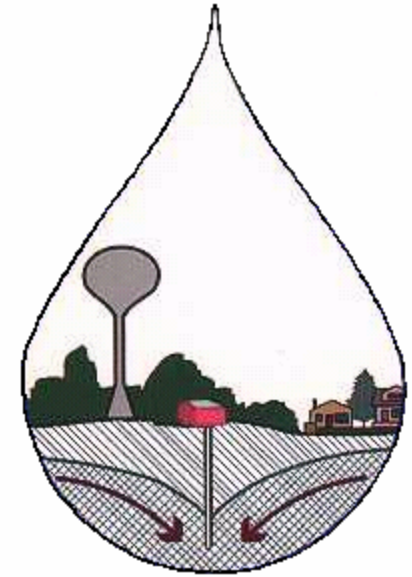
1. *Inform the City of Wayland of any potential sources of contamination.*
2. *Properly plug abandoned wells on your property.*
3. *Be aware of dangerous household hazardous chemicals and never dump them directly onto the ground.*
4. *Consider alternatives to household products that contain hazardous chemicals.*
5. *Participate in a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.*
6. *Recycle used motor oil and brake and transmission fluid. Many service stations will accept used oil.*
7. *Pick up and dispose of animal waste.*
8. *Follow instructions and soil test recommendations for use of pesticides and fertilizers. Over-application is harmful.*
9. *If you have a private well, test your water annually*
10. *If you have a septic system, have it checked every three years to ensure that it is functioning properly.*
11. *Get involved in the Wayland Wellhead Protection Program.*

For Further Information

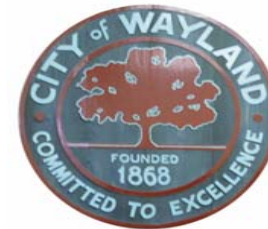
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City of Wayland



Wellhead Protection Program



Committed to
Protecting
Your Drinking
Water Supply

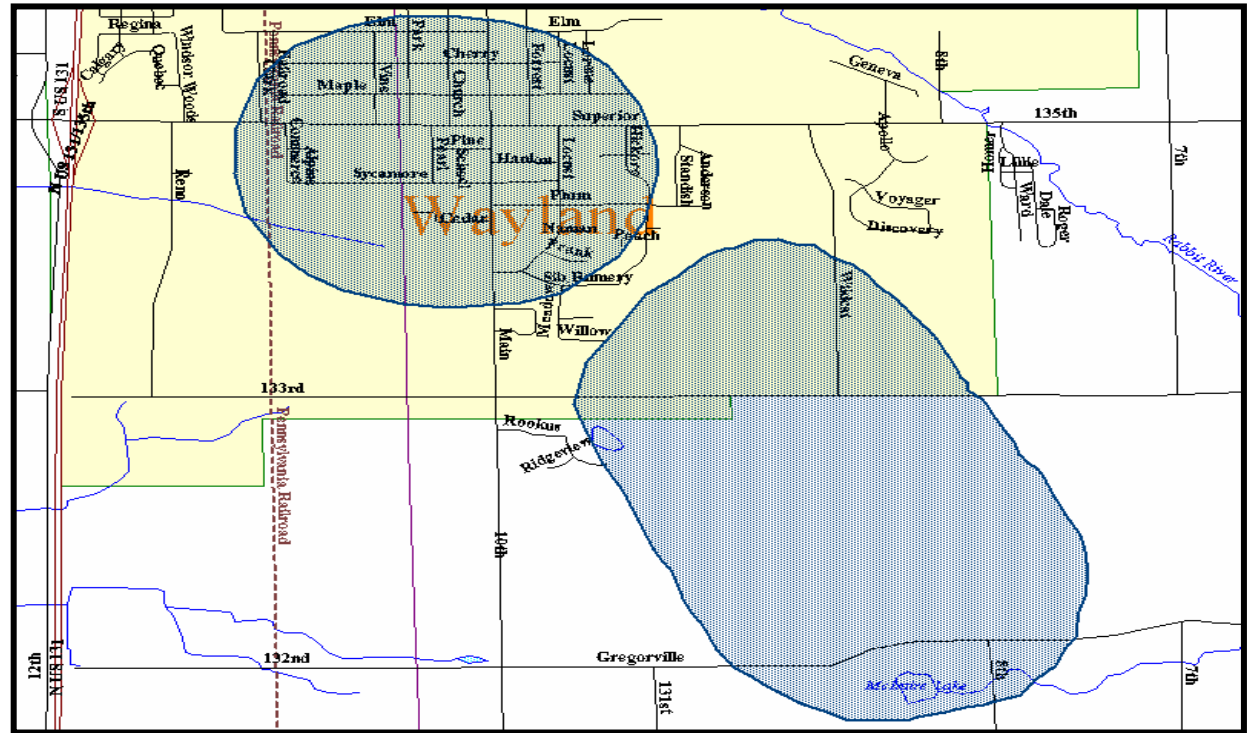
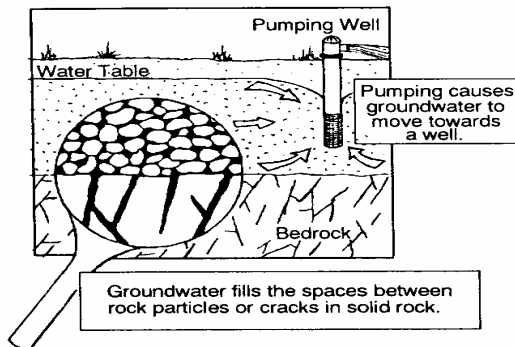
Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for the City of Wayland residents.

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**.

Water movement is cyclical and moves from the ground to the surface (springs, rivers, lakes, wells), to the air (evaporation) and back to the surface (precipitation) where it seeps into the ground and into an aquifer. An **aquifer** is any type of geologic material, such as sand or sandstone, which can supply water to wells or springs.

Groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles) of the well. How fast the groundwater moves depends both on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.



How Do Wells Become Contaminated?

Wells become contaminated when substances that are harmful to human health get into 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.

What Is Wellhead Protection?

Because residents in the City of Wayland depend on clean, safe groundwater to supply homes, industries and recreational activities, a voluntary Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) was developed. The WHPP is a planning and

management program aimed at protecting the City's groundwater supplies from contamination. The City established a WHPP team to oversee the program. First, Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) were established for the City's municipal wells. A copy of the Wayland WHPA is shown. At the edge of these areas, it would take ten years for contamination to reach the City's municipal wells. Essentially, these areas will supply the City's wells with groundwater for the next ten years. To protect these areas, potential and existing sources of contamination were mapped. Finally, activities were implemented to educate the public about groundwater protection.