

What are the steps in preparing a Source water Protection Plan?

1. Form a Community Planning team.
2. Identify the area to be protected.
3. Identify land uses and possible sources of pollution in the source water protection area and determine how vulnerable the source water protection area is to pollution.
4. Implement ways to prevent drinking water pollution.
5. Develop an alternate way to supply water if the public supply becomes polluted.

What can you do?

To help prepare a plan:

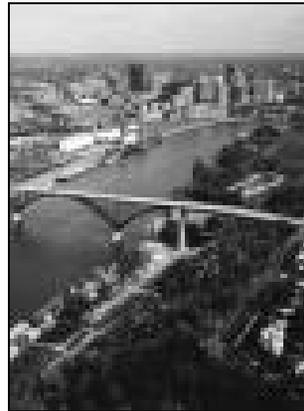
- Serve on work groups
- Attend source water protection meetings
- Help identify land uses and possible sources of contamination on your property

To protect local groundwater:

- Recognize and manage possible sources of contamination on your property
- Use hazardous products as directed and dispose of them properly
- Conserve water

THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI

Communities up and down the river use the Mississippi to obtain fresh water and to discharge their industrial and municipal waste. We don't have good figures on water use for the whole Mississippi River Basin, but we have some clues. A January, 2000 study published by the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee states that close to 15 million people rely on the Mississippi River or its tributaries in just the upper half of the basin (from Cairo, Il. to St. Cloud, MN). A frequently cited figure of 18 million people using the Mississippi River Watershed for water supply comes from a 1982 study by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Committee. The Environmental Protection Agency simply says that more than 50 cities rely on the Mississippi for their daily water supply.



Where Does Your

DRINKING WATER

Come From?



The City of
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Is developing a

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN

In cooperation with

**The Upper Mississippi River Source Water Protection
Project**

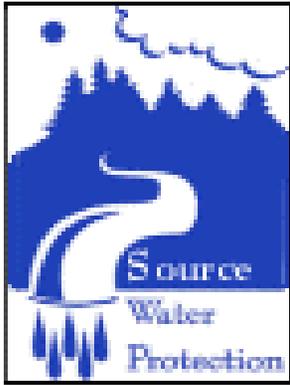
Minnesota Department of Health

**Minnesota Rural Water Association
Source Water Protection Program**

Plan Development Assistance Provided by:

**Dave Neiman
Source Water Protection Specialist
(800) 367-6792**

www.mrwa.com



A community effort to protect drinking water

Residents of Minneapolis rely on the Mississippi River for their drinking water supply. The City's first municipal water system in 1867 drew water from the readily accessible Mississippi and continues today to depend on the River for a clean, abundant supply of drinking water. Currently the river water is treated at the City's water treatment facility, before being distributed to residents & businesses.

The City of Minneapolis is working with a committee of local decision-makers to protect the drinking water supply by developing and carrying out a SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN. The plan will be prepared in conjunction with several local, county and state agencies. The Minnesota Department of Health is the lead agency for the State's program and will assist communities with defining source water protection areas and developing plans to protect drinking water supplies. Minnesota Rural Water Association, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides technical assistance to public water suppliers to help meet the system's Source water Protection goals.



Examples of Potential Source Water Contamination

Many People in Minnesota get drinking water from rivers

*Source water Protection is a way to prevent drinking water from becoming polluted by managing possible sources of contamination in the watershed that supplies water to a public source. Source water Protection will be an ongoing need for communities. Everyone has an important part to play in protecting drinking water sources - today and for the future. **Become involved in developing a SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN for your community. Contact one of the listed agencies for additional information, or call the Minneapolis water department.***

Why do rivers sometimes become polluted?

Rivers can become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health get into the river. Water from these rivers can be dangerous to drink when the level of pollution rises above health standards. Many of our everyday activities can cause pollution. Much can be done to prevent pollution, such as wise use of land and chemicals. The expense of treating polluted water or finding a new source can also be avoided. Help prevent drinking water contamination by being an environmentally aware citizen.