

## What You Can Do...

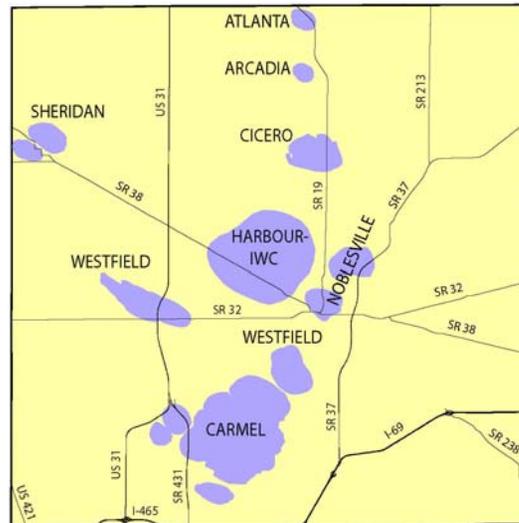
- Learn about ground water and your water source. Education is the best protection against contamination.
- Clean up your property, properly storing or disposing of potential contaminants.
- If you have a septic system, have it inspected and serviced regularly.
- Read labels and follow directions on all chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other hazardous products you use.
- Discuss the importance of wellhead protection with fellow citizens.
- Join the team! Be an active part of the decision-making process, and play a role in protecting your future drinking water supplies.

## Where You Can Get More Information

- “Safe Water for the Future” is a Purdue Extension program that provides resources on drinking water protection for individuals and communities. Call 765-496-6331, or visit their website at <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/safewater>
- Your local water supply company can provide information on what contaminants, if any, have been found in your water, what the community is doing to protect the water, and how you can join the team.
- Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management, Ground Water Section, can provide information on Indiana’s Wellhead Protection Program. Call the Groundwater Section at 317-308-3321 or 1-800-451-6027, ext. 308-3321. Information is also available on the Web at [www.in.gov/idem/water/dwb/whpp](http://www.in.gov/idem/water/dwb/whpp)

- The Hamilton County Surveyor’s Office can provide you with information and resources on water quality protection and on a range of other issues. Contact the Surveyor’s Office at 317-776-8495 or on the Web at <http://www.co.hamilton.in.us>

## HAMILTON COUNTY WELLFIELD PROTECTION AREAS



Hamilton County Surveyor's Office  
Office Hours: M-F: 8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

One Hamilton Co. Sq., Suite 188  
Noblesville, In 46060  
Phone (317) 776-8495  
Fax (317) 776-9628  
[www.co.hamilton.in.us](http://www.co.hamilton.in.us)

# Protecting Your Drinking Water



What Every  
Citizen  
Should Know  
About Wellhead Protection



Hamilton County  
Surveyor's Office

**Purdue Extension**  
**Knowledge to Go**  
1-888-EXT-INFO

## What Is Wellhead Protection?

Wellhead Protection is a way to protect your drinking water by managing an area around your community's water supply wells to prevent contamination. By safely managing this important area you can help ensure a safe water supply now and in the future.



## Indiana's Wellhead Protection Rule

Indiana's wellhead protection rule (327 IAC8-4.1) was signed in 1997 and requires all community public water suppliers to develop a wellhead protection plan with the local community by March 2002. (Something this important can't happen over night!)

## Why You Should Care

Ground water is generally a safe and inexpensive source of drinking water. Having a wellhead protection plan in place in your community...

- Gives peace of mind.
- Helps ensure a safe water supply for you and your family, now and in the future.
- Helps protect against unknown contaminants.
- May save you lots of money: the cost of cleaning-up contamination in a drinking water source is, on average, 27 times more expensive than developing and implementing a wellhead protection plan.



## Wellhead Protection Planning Process

### 1. Forming the Wellhead Protection Planning Team

A wellhead protection planning team is necessary to guide the process of putting together a wellhead protection plan. The team is a group of citizen volunteers representing a cross-section of the community. Farmers, public officials, teachers, community leaders, water supply company personnel, business owners, fire-fighters and other emergency personnel, residents, and other concerned citizens should all participate on the planning team.

### 2. Defining the Wellhead Protection Area

With the help of qualified people, the team must determine the size and shape of the area near the wellhead that should be protected and managed. If the system pumps more than 100,000 gallons of water per day, the area defined must protect a five-year supply of ground water. The team should hire a qualified ground water scientist to collect the information necessary to define the five-year travel time boundary. For systems pumping less than 100,000 gallons per day the team has the option of simply designating an area with the 3,000-foot radius around the wells as the wellhead protection area. This may be less expensive, but may also require management of a larger area.

### 3. Inventorying Potential Contaminant Sources

The team determines past and present potential sources of contamination. By knowing what the potential contaminants are, the team can choose appropriate management

techniques. Both regulated and non-regulated contaminant sources should be identified. The inventory is done by checking existing databases listing regulated facilities and by walking or driving through the wellhead protection area and noting the existence and location of any unregulated activity that may cause contamination. The types of activities to inventory include any facilities that use, transfer, or store materials that could be hazardous to a drinking water supply.

### 4. Managing the Wellhead Protection Area

Protecting the area around the wellhead requires the cooperation of businesses and residents in the wellhead protection area. While regulatory or zoning methods are management options, education and voluntary best management practices are often the preferred way to protect a wellhead area.

### 5. Contingency Planning

Most communities have a plan for disruption due to natural disasters, and the team should extend this plan to include disruption from contamination within the wellhead protection area. It's a good idea to have someone from the fire department or emergency management team involved with this part of the planning, too.

### 6. Educating the Public

One of the most effective ways to prevent contamination of ground water is through education. For a successful and effective wellhead protection plan, broad-based education of the public should begin with the formation of the team and continue throughout the planning process. An informed public that understands how ground water can become contaminated is the most effective contamination prevention partner.