

THE CHALLENGE:

Drinking Water Source Protection

Source water refers to drinking water from streams, rivers, lakes or underground aquifers that provides water for public water supplies and private wells. Source water protection is a community effort to prevent water pollution before it can reach our drinking water become a public health problem.

Metro Area Drinking Water Sources

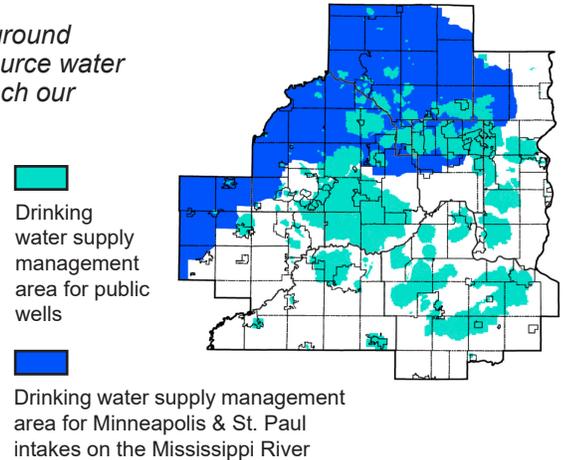
Drinking water source protection has been identified as a management goal for about 50% of the metro area. Of the region's 186 communities, 149 contain a source water protection area. Water flowing through these areas is the source for over 90% of the region's population (almost 3 million people).

Metro Area Land Use

Since land use is so tied to drinking water quality, the State has found it important 1) to assess the likelihood that aquifers are subject to impacts from overlying land and water uses, and 2) to help entities manage these areas through wellhead protection plans.

Met Council's Role

Met Council plans and makes strategic, efficient public investments to support our region's high quality of life and economic competitiveness. We work to achieve goals that are too big for one community but possible to accomplish as a region.



Our goals include having sustainable and plentiful high-quality water resources for future economic growth, high-quality of life, and recreational activities.

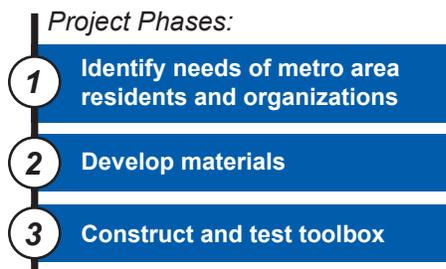
THE APPROACH:

Clear & Targeted Drinking Water Protection Guidance

This project centers on stakeholder engagement and water supply data management to create guidance that bridges the gap between agencies and local stakeholders.

What Does Success Look Like?

This work aims to support a toolbox of engagement tools, information, and resources to better protect drinking water in the metro area.

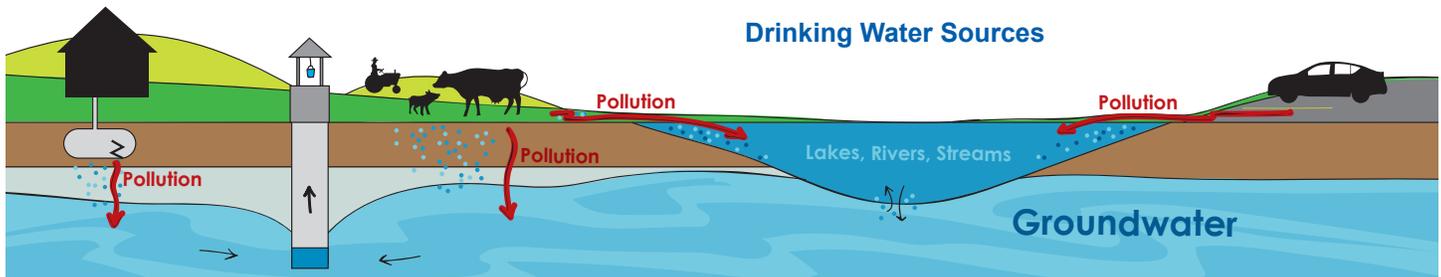


To Be Successful:

- Content will reflect the shared values and priorities of metro area stakeholders.
- Sound technical information will provide the foundation.
- Information will be customized for different stakeholder groups with different land uses and geographies.
- Drinking water protection tactics will be more directly connected to land use planning, water quality management programs, property management, and other activities.

The proposed toolbox will support better drinking water protection and integrated water management at a local level – connecting land use, surface water management, and drinking water management in a targeted way for the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The toolbox will reflect the needs of end users.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

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