

Village's Updated Wellhead Protection Plan Gets Approval by the MDEQ

In 2017, the Village of Schoolcraft updated its Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP). The updated plan was approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) at the end of 2017. The Village also received a grant from the MDEQ to help the Village implement the plan. The goal of the WHPP is to protect the Village's drinking water supply. The Village of Schoolcraft's public drinking water supply comes from groundwater that is pumped out of wells. When the Wellhead Protection Plan was originally prepared in 2004, a study was conducted that defined the Wellhead Protection Area. The wellhead protection area includes the entire surface area which overlies the groundwater (also called an aquifer) that is directly contributing water to the wells for 10 years.

In order to protect the groundwater, the Village created a Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP) and assembled a Wellhead Protection Committee. The Wellhead Protection Committee is comprised of members that have a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including representatives from Schoolcraft Public Schools, Kalamazoo County Fire Authority, the farming community, the business community, Village staff, the Kalamazoo County Health Department, and the Village engineering firm Prein & Newhof. Members meet quarterly to discuss updates to the WHPP, and come up with ways to help educate local citizens and businesses and to develop strategies on protecting the groundwater. Management practices may include land-use regulations, facility inspections, and public education. By creating and consistently updating the WHPP, the Village of Schoolcraft is showing dedication to protecting our drinking water source.

Funding for the Village's WHPP updates and activities comes in part from the Michigan Wellhead Protection Grant Program. The Village submits an updated version of its WHPP to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) every few years for approval. Make sure to keep an eye out for a Wellhead Protection Committee booth at the Fourth of July Festival! There will be more information on what can be done to protect our groundwater, as well as giveaway prizes. If you have any questions about the Village of Schoolcraft's Wellhead Protection Plan, or on groundwater protection, please contact Cheri Lutz, Village Manager, at (269)-679-4304.