

Press Release - Minnesota Rural Water Association

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Minnesota Rural Water Association and Minnesota Department of Health present the Large Public Water Supply System Source Water Protection Award to City of Annandale.

The MRWA/MDH Source Water Protection Award is given annually at the MRWA Technical Conference to recognize the importance and value of source water protection efforts in Minnesota, and to recognize individuals, public water systems and organizations that have shown long term commitment, initiative, leadership, sharing of successes, and initiation or participation in activities which resulted in the protection or improvement of their source water.



The City of Annandale has had an approved Wellhead Protection Plan since 2012. Annandale’s protection area is a mix of highly and moderately vulnerable areas and includes a mix of commercial, residential, and industrial land uses. The city has also been successful in applying for and receiving Source Water Protection grant funding to help with the completion of activities in their wellhead protection plan.

One of the first projects completed by the city was the development of a Spill Response Plan to provide direction in the event of a contaminant spill on the major highway that travels through a vulnerable part of their protection area.

Also, the city council committed staff time and resources to develop two new ordinances to provide needed land use controls to protect the drinking water aquifer. One ordinance addressed concerns related to the large number of private sanitary sewer treatment systems within the protection area and required the evaluation and system repair or connection to the city sanitary sewer utility. The other ordinance secured additional control over the aquifer use by limiting the use of wells within the city’s jurisdiction and reach of the municipal utility infrastructure.

Annandale has shown long-term success with their water protection efforts stemming from implementing their Wellhead Protection Plan.

Congratulations to the City of Annandale for your fine efforts toward protecting your city’s drinking water supply!

Photo above from left to right: MRWA Source Water Protection Specialist Robyn Hoerr, City of Annandale Public Works Director Joe Haller, and Minnesota Rural Water Association Chairman Les Anderson.