

# WHAT IS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION?

Source Water Protection is a planning process conducted by local water utilities, landowners and government agencies to protect drinking water sources from overuse and contamination. The process includes identification of water sources, assessment of known and potential threats of contamination, notification of the public and steps to eliminate the contamination within a Source Water Protection Area (SWPA).

## PREVENTING THE POLLUTION OF THE LAKES, RIVERS, STREAMS AND GROUNDWATER THAT SERVE AS DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



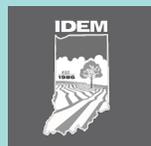
A SWPA is the land area that contributes water to the drinking water supply (e.g. Well or surface water intake) and where pollution from human activities or natural sources poses the greatest threat to source water quality.



The size of the SWPA may vary based on a variety of hydrogeological, environmental, regulatory and management factors.

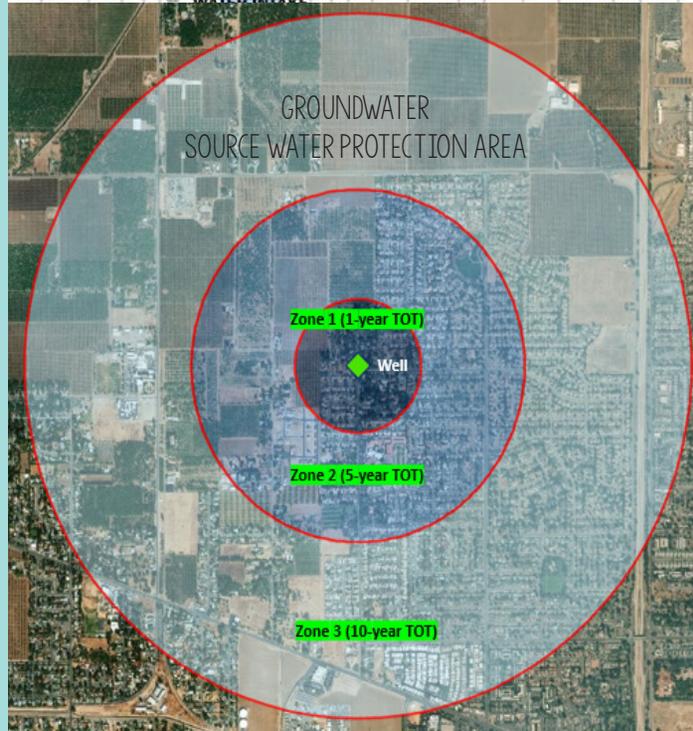


Methods for delineating or mapping groundwater SWPAs around wells can differ widely from those for delineating surface water SWPAs.



The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) maintains records of all delineated SWPAs for public water systems within Indiana.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (IDEM)

IDEM provides an online Source Water Proximity Determination Tool [www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/pages/wellhead/](http://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/pages/wellhead/) that can be used for site specific inquiries regarding whether a site is located within or outside of an IDEM approved Source Water Protection Area.

For more information about IDEM's Source Water Protection efforts visit: <https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/information-about/source-water-protection/>

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

For more information about USDA's Source Water Protection Program visit: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/source-water-protection/index>

To find your local USDA Service Center for your FSA and NRCS representative visit: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

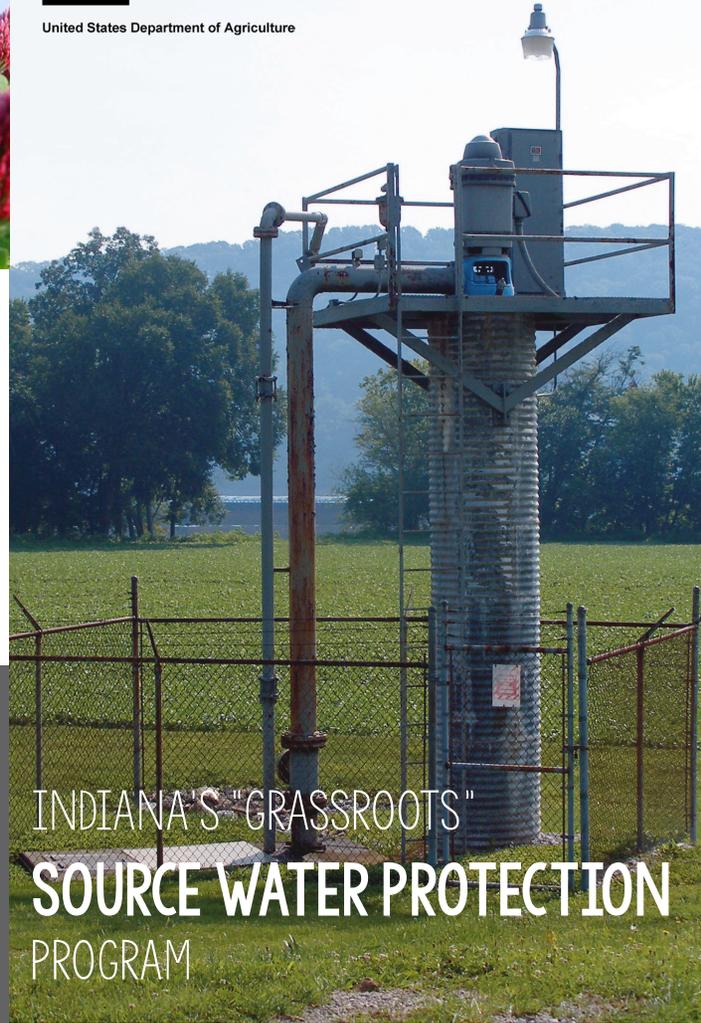
## ALLIANCE OF INDIANA RURAL WATER

Alliance of Indiana Rural Water provides training and technical assistance to entities wanting to protect Indiana's water resources.

For more information contact: Toby Days, Source Water Specialist at: 317-789-4200 or by email at: [tdays@inh2o.org](mailto:tdays@inh2o.org)



United States Department of Agriculture



## USDA'S 2018 FARM BILL AND SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The 2018 Farm Bill mandates that 10% of funds authorized for conservation programs be used to protect sources of drinking water. That's an incredible \$4 billion nationally over the next 10 years! It also increases rental rate payment incentives for agricultural producers to implement these conservation practices within state approved SWPAs. This is an exciting opportunity for USDA to form new partnerships with farmers and local water systems to improve drinking water quality across Indiana.

Contact your local USDA NRCS or FSA office to determine if your farm is within a state approved Source Water Protection Area, and to determine the best conservation program to meet your land use goals.

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has traditional enrollment and targeted options within wellhead protection areas with added incentives.

CRP provides cost-share and annual payments to convert marginally-productive cropland and marginal pastureland to perennial vegetation. Whole-field and buffer options exist to reduce soil erosion, filter nutrients and sediment, promote wildlife habitat and improve water quality.

Common CRP practices in Indiana include:

- Native Grasses and Wildflowers;
- Non-Native Grasses and Legumes;
- Tree Plantings;
- Pollinator Plantings;
- Filter Strips;
- Grassed Waterways;
- Wetland Restorations;
- and other practices.

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NRCS's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) offer traditional enrollment, and EQIP offers targeted options in wellhead and surface water protection areas with added incentives.

NRCS program options provide payments for practices or easements to reduce soil erosion, filter nutrients and sediment, promote wildlife habitat and improve water quality.

Common EQIP, CSP and ACEP practices include:

- Cover Crops;
- Reduced Tillage;
- Nutrient Management;
- Crop Rotation;
- Livestock and Manure Management;
- Erosion Control;
- Wetland Restorations;
- Wellhead Decommissioning;
- and other practices.

## INDIANA'S "GRASSROOTS" SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

### USDA'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

This brochure was developed in partnership with:

