



NEW COST-SHARE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH CLEAN WATER LEGACY FUND

If you have an old well that is no longer in use there is a new opportunity for cost share dollars to defray the cost of sealing that well.

The City of Blaine is currently in the process of implementing its Wellhead Protection Plan. This Plan is a means by which Blaine protects local drinking water wells (and the aquifers that serve those wells) from becoming contaminated. All municipal public water suppliers in the State of Minnesota are required to develop wellhead protection plans for their communities.

One of the implementation actions is offering cost share dollars to Landowners for the purpose of sealing private wells no longer in use. Any unused or abandoned wells may act as a conduit for contamination into the aquifer(s). If the contamination reaches the aquifer(s), other wells in the area may be at risk for becoming contaminated.

The City of Blaine, in conjunction with Anoka County Environmental Services and the Anoka County Wellhead Protection Group, has obtained a cost-share grant from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to assist Landowners in sealing their unused wells. The grant draws on Clean Water Legacy funds and will pay the Landowner fifty percent of the amount to seal the well, up to \$500.00 of the direct costs.

Wells eligible for cost share funding must be located within a drinking water supply management area or a wellhead protection area managed by the City of Blaine. Check the following web site to see if your property is within a wellhead protection area, making you eligible for this program.

<http://gis.anokacountymn.gov/dwsmas/> Zoom in on the map to find your address.

The MDH requires that owners of properties containing unused wells should either seal those wells or apply for a permit to keep the well open. If you are thinking of sealing your home now or in the not too distant future, an old well can be an issue and sealing it an unexpected cost to the seller. Now is a good time to take advantage of this cost share and seal the unused well. A licensed well sealer must be used to satisfy state regulations.

Through a city survey and direct mailings in 2012 and 2013, the City has previously informed residents of the need to protect drinking water supply management areas and that sealing old wells is beneficial to that effort. To date, twenty-five property owners have taken advantage of previous cost share

programs. The average cost of sealing these wells has been \$651, with a range of \$370 to \$1200, and 10 of the 25 projects under \$600.

This round of funding is just starting and will end April 15, 2016. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis. For further information contact Jim Hafner by calling 763-785-6188 or e-mailing jhafner@ci.blaine.mn.us.