

WHP News Release – ISTS
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For Immediate Release

Drinking Water and On-site Septic Systems -Things You Should Know

(City, Date) The City of **(City Name)** has been working together with its Wellhead Protection Committee and local, state, and federal agencies to protect area drinking water sources through the implementation of its Wellhead Protection Plan. Septic systems (also known as Individual Sewage Treatment Systems) are used to treat and dispose of household sanitary waste. When properly sited, designed, constructed, and operated, they pose a relatively minor threat to drinking water sources. On the other hand, improperly used or operated septic systems can be a significant source of ground water contamination that may lead to waterborne disease outbreaks and other adverse health effects. You, as a land owner, can take preventative steps to protect drinking water supplies by properly maintaining your septic system and having it regularly inspected and pumped.

A comprehensive **SEPTIC SYSTEM OWNER'S GUIDE**, prepared by the University of Minnesota Extension Service, may be accessed at the following Web site:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD6583.html>.

For more information contact **(WHP Manager Name)**, Wellhead Protection Manager, or log on to the Minnesota Rural Water Association Web site at mrwa@mrwa.com.