Drinking Water in
KING'S PARK, RICHMOND

Drinking Water Source Protection

Ontario's Clean Water Act helps protect drinking water from source to tap by preventing contaminants from entering sources of drinking water like lakes, rivers and groundwater aquifers. Scientific studies were completed to determine the local drinking water source. These studies also identify the activities that could adversely impact the quality of the drinking water source. The technical studies can be found in the comprehensive *Assessment Report*.

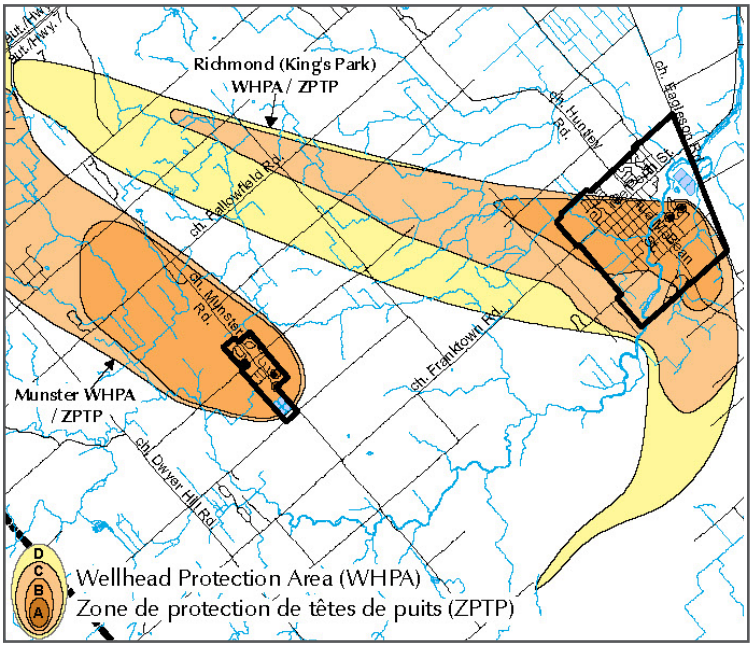
King's Park, Richmond

The City of Ottawa supplies drinking water to 520 people in the King's Park subdivision in Richmond. There are two municipal wells constructed in 1970 and 1971 which are 61 metres and 66 metres deep. The municipal wells draw water from the Nepean Sandstone Aquifer which is well-known for supplying a good volume of quality drinking water.

What is a Wellhead Protection Area?

A wellhead protection area (WHPA) is the area around a well where land use activities have the potential to affect the quality of water that flows into the well. The size and shape of a WHPA is determined by the amount of water being pumped and the direction and speed at which the groundwater travels through the aquifer to get to the well.

King's Park Pumping Station

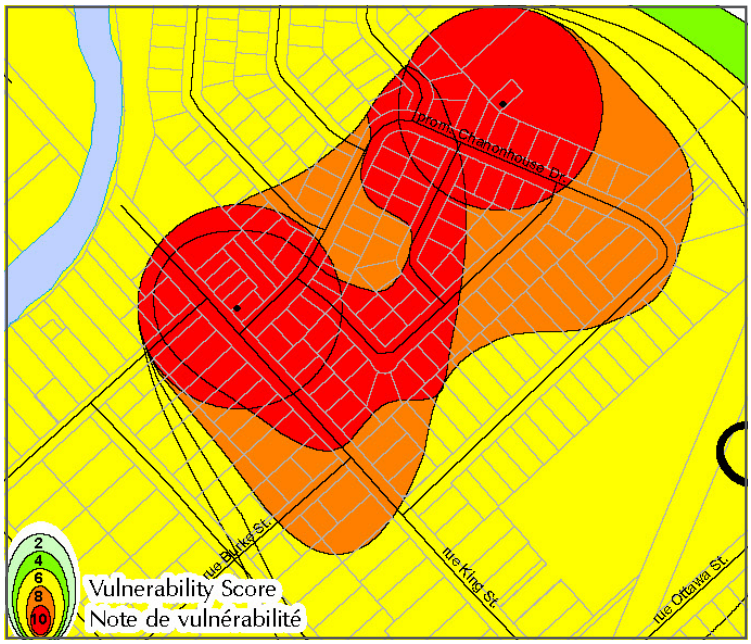


Wellhead Protection Areas - King's Park, Richmond

Understanding the Areas…	
WHPA-A	100 metre radius around the well where contaminants can easily reach the well
WHPA-B	Contaminated groundwater would take less than two years to reach the well
WHPA-C	Contaminated groundwater would take two to five years to reach the well
WHPA-D	Contaminated groundwater would take five to 25 years to reach the well

Vulnerability Scores

Vulnerability scores are used to indicate how 'at risk' the drinking water source is to contamination. High scores mean that a contaminant could quickly get into the drinking water supply. Each WHPA has been assigned one or more vulnerability score(s) based on the characteristics of the ground overlying the aquifer. The higher the vulnerability score, the higher the concern for possible source water contamination.



Vulnerability Scores – King's Park, Richmond

The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan

Policies to protect vulnerable drinking water areas, such as the King's Park (Richmond) Wellhead Protection Area, are specified in the *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan*. The Plan was prepared by a local committee made up of representatives from municipalities, small business, industry, agriculture, environmental groups and the general public.

Source Protection Policies for the King's Park (Richmond) Protection Area

The Source Protection Plan:

- Prohibits the future establishment of incompatible land uses such as landfills near drinking water sources
- Requires governments to ensure that services such as sewers and winter road maintenance do not contaminate drinking water sources
- Ensures that safeguards are in place to reduce the risk of activities such as fuel storage and chemical use
- Encourages all residents and businesses in Wellhead Protection Areas to take voluntary action to protect the drinking water source

This is a summary only, for information about specific policies and where they apply, please visit Ottawa.ca/sourceprotection.

Do the same policies apply throughout the Wellhead Protection Area?

Different policies apply in different parts of the Wellhead Protection Area. This is because certain areas are more vulnerable to contamination so stronger protection policies are needed there. With a couple of exceptions, mandatory policies apply only in the area with a vulnerability score of 10 (shown in red on the map).

How can I help protect the drinking water source?

Most people will not be affected by mandatory policies that apply in the Wellhead Protection Area. However, it is important that we are all aware of where our drinking water comes from and how to protect it.

Here are some ways we can protect the groundwater that supplies King's Park, Richmond:

1. **Conserve water.** Using less water reduces the burden on the aquifer.
2. **Properly handle and dispose of hazardous substances.** Everything from paints to pharmaceuticals and impact groundwater if not handled and disposed of safely.
3. **Use environmentally friendly products for cleaning and personal care.** Remember that what you use in your house goes down the drain and back into the environment.
4. **Prevent contaminated runoff that may soak into the ground.** You can do this by reducing or eliminating your use of fertilizers and sidewalk salt, not over-watering your lawn, cleaning up pet waste and by taking your car to a commercial car wash.
5. **Maintain your vehicles and take care when handling fuel.** Proper vehicle maintenance prevents oil and other fluid leaks. One litre of gas or oil can contaminate a million litres of water.