

LIVING IN THE ZONE

How to be a Great Water Resident



A guide for people living in
Drinking Water Protection Zones

Our Precious Drinking Water Sources

Protecting drinking water starts at the source. Municipal water treatment and testing ensure a town's tap water is safe to drink but the groundwater aquifers and rivers that supply the water can become stressed or depleted over time. Sometimes contamination problems can develop that are expensive and difficult or even impossible to correct through water treatment.

Water is the Earth's most vital resource. How we think about and use water will define the future of our planet.

The good news is that we now have a plan to protect drinking water at the source! The **Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan** and the **Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan** were created by local people and set out how we can ensure long-term protection of the rivers and aquifers we depend on right here in our City. Source Protection Plans map out the Drinking Water Protection Zones near municipal drinking water sources and describe how best to protect them. The Plans set out some mandatory measures, mainly for governments, industry and some higher risk activities (such as storing a large amount of fuel or chemicals) but success also depends on voluntary action taken by all of us who are "Living in the Zone."

Report spills of potential drinking water contaminants to the Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060

How to be a Great Water Resident!

Did you know that many things we do in our homes and on our properties directly affect local water quality and quantity? The combined impacts from multiple homes and properties can be huge. The flip side is that if we all make some simple changes, it can make a big difference to our precious drinking water sources. Imagine a community where everyone is a great water resident!

Simple steps to protect the drinking water source

In the house:

- Go natural! Use environmentally friendly products or try good old vinegar or baking soda which can do the work of most commercial household cleaners.
- Conserve water. Using less water reduces the burden on rivers and groundwater aquifers as well as on wastewater treatment facilities. Also, too little water in a source can mean contaminants are more concentrated and may rise above safe levels.
- Not down the drain! Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as paint and pharmaceuticals. For more information visit: ottawa.ca/en/residents/garbage-and-recycling.
- Ensure furnace oil tanks are in good repair and inspected annually by a qualified person.

In the yard:

- Gardeners: turn your green thumb blue by using compost instead of chemical fertilizers, planting native, drought tolerant species and installing a rain barrel for watering.
- When landscaping, choose porous surfaces instead of concrete and asphalt. Fewer hard surfaces mean less storm-water runoff that carries pollutants to our rivers. Planting trees and leaving your grass longer (eight centimetres or three inches) also helps!

For rural residents:

- Maintain your septic system to prevent bacteria and nutrient laden runoff.
- Look after your private well and test your well water regularly.
- Protect vegetation along the banks of streams and rivers.
- Take advantage of the great tree planting and shoreline naturalization programs available locally (contact your conservation authority).
- Preserve wetlands which help purify and replenish drinking water sources.
- If you farm, consider participation in workshops such as the Environmental Farm Plan (contact the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association).



Am I living in the zone?

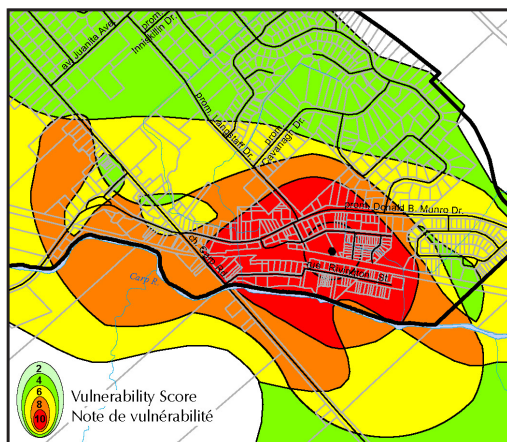
Drinking Water Protection Zones are located near municipal wells (called Wellhead Protection Areas) or near rivers upstream of a municipal water intake (called Intake Protection Zones).

In these zones, contaminants can more easily reach the municipal well or water treatment plant intake. The boundaries were determined through scientific studies

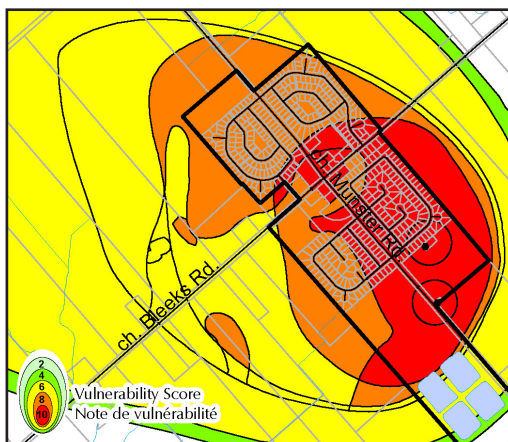
conducted under Ontario's Clean Water Act — legislation that was created after the Walkerton Inquiry.

In the City of Ottawa, these communities have Wellhead Protection Areas: Carp, Munster Hamlet, Richmond (King's Park Subdivision), Greely (Shadow Ridge Subdivision) and Vars.

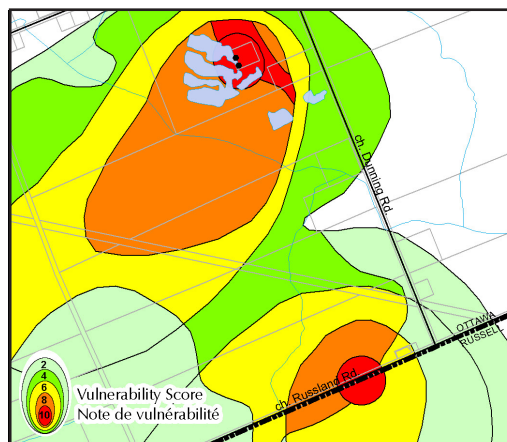
The City of Ottawa has two Intake Protection Zones: Britannia and Lemieux Island.



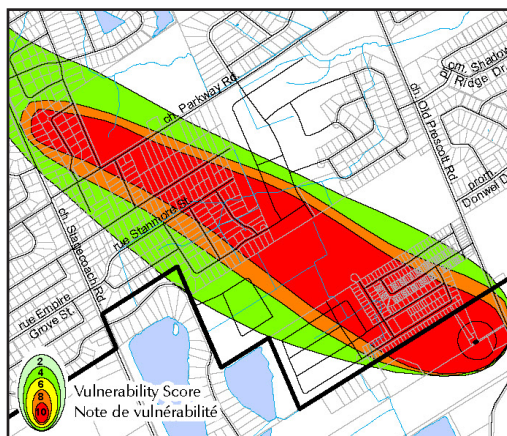
Wellhead Protection Areas - Carp



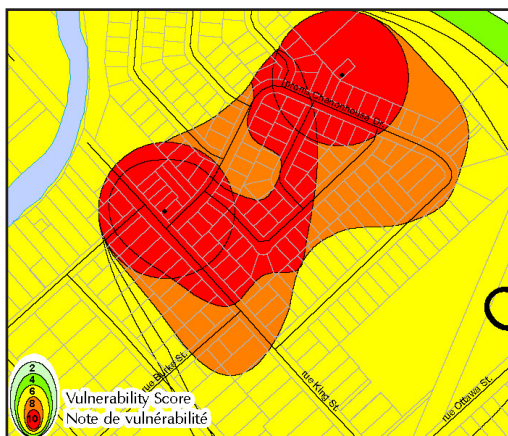
Wellhead Protection Areas – Munster Hamlet



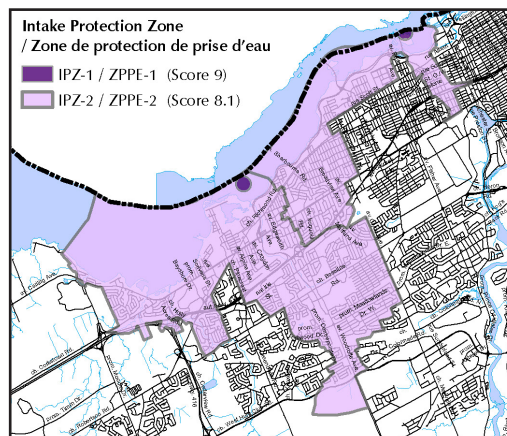
Wellhead Protection Areas - Vars



Wellhead Protection Areas - Shadow Ridge, Greely



Wellhead Protection Areas - King's Park, Richmond



Ottawa Intake Protection Zones

Drinking Water Source Protection is a collaborative effort by your local municipality, conservation authority and the provincial government under the Ontario Clean Water Act.

For more information visit: Ottawa.ca/sourceprotection



We all have a responsibility to protect and preserve our drinking water resources. Small actions make a difference.

Your actions matter!

Resources for Residents and Businesses

Source Water Protection:

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
www.ontario.ca/ministry-environment

Conservation Ontario
www.conservationontario.ca

Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region
www.mrsourcewater.ca

Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region
www.yourdrinkingwater.ca

Fuel Tank Safety:

Technical Standards and Safety Authority
www.tssa.org

Water Conservation:

Water Use it Wisely (100+ Ways to Conserve Water)
www.wateruseitwisely.com

Protecting Private Wells:

Well Aware
www.wellaware.ca

Ottawa Public Health – free private water well testing
www.ottawa.ca/health

Road Salt Handling Practices:

Smart about Salt
www.smartaboutsalt.com

Septic System Awareness:

Ottawa Septic System Office
www.rvca.ca/osso

Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre
www.orwc.uoguelph.ca

Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association
www.oowa.org

Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services
www.oasisontario.on.ca

Agricultural Websites:

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
www.omafra.gov.on.ca

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (Environmental Farm Plan)
www.ontariosoilandcrop.ca

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
www.agr.gc.ca

Farm and Food Care Ontario
www.farmfoodcare.org