

2022 Exemplary Efforts in Environmental Protection Award

The Village of Vermontville received approval of the Wellhead Protection Program Plan (WHPP) Plan from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) on July 3, 2000. The Contaminant Source Inventory was updated on June 6, 2007. Realizing the importance of updating the WHPP Plan, the Village worked with the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA) to update the WHPP Plan and it was approved on October 11, 2017.

Since updating the WHPP, the Village has taken a very active approach. In addition to implementing unique educational activities, the Village has maintained a strong Team during times when staffing changes occurred. The Village continued working through the elements of the WHPP and when someone new came on board, they jumped right in and began participating.

The Village, assisted by the WHPP Team, has implemented a fantastic education program. They realize that environmental education is an ongoing effort and they have made it a priority within the community. The Village received brochures, placemats and an article series that can be used to educate the public. Previously, the Village purchased and installed WHPP road signage.

Village staff, with assistance from the MRWA, have also demonstrated a groundwater model to 5th grade students. After students learned about the importance of water and ways to protect this valuable resource, students were able to enjoy edible aquifer-flurries. The Village then hosted a placemat design contest with students. Two placemats were chosen and were printed and distributed to the restaurants in the Village. Next, they held a drinking water bottle design contest with students. In addition, they plan to put information on their website. This year, they will partner with the local Conservation District to bring additional groundwater education to the general public at the local Maple Syrup Festival.

The Village has also implemented drinking water protection management strategies. They developed a resolution for wellhead protection. Drinking water protection language was included in the Master Plan and within other planning documents. The Village is also working with the local Conservation District on agricultural education and management efforts. The Village understands the importance of drinking water protection efforts and should be commended for their efforts.