

Veneta Drinking Water Protection Plan City of Veneta

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Chapter Six: Management of the Drinking Water Protection Area

Introduction

This chapter contains Management Strategies developed by the Drinking Water Protection Committee. Management Strategies form the heart of efforts to provide a safe and long-term source of clean water.

There are nine goals followed by strategies intended to achieve the respective goals. Goals are broad and provide directional areas of focus. Strategies are more specific and describe a course of action. Education and public awareness form a large focus of management efforts.

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: Implementation

The Drinking Water Protection Team recognized that implementation would be a key component in the effort to minimize the risk of groundwater contamination. This goal identifies implementation as a priority. In a sense this is the first step in protecting drinking water.

Strategy 1.1: Identify and research funding sources for plan implementation

- Facilitate private-public partnerships
- Research and identify grant opportunities.

Strategy 1.2: Seek out interested community members to participate on citizen task force on drinking water protection as a standing committee

- Encourage participation in drinking water protection. Citizen ownership of this plan's implementation will make protecting Veneta ' s groundwater a success.

Goal 2: Public Education and Notification

This goal seeks to inform citizens about groundwater and the need for preventing contamination. Public education is vital to the success of protection efforts. Additionally, education efforts should be varied and target a wide range of community members. The team developed the following strategies as ways to achieve this goal.

Strategy 2.1: Install notification signs

- Position signs at key intersections and entries to the Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA). Additionally, signs should be tastefully constructed and be changed periodically. Signs increase awareness for people entering the DWP A and serve as reminders that care should be taken in this area.

Strategy 2.2: Create school education program

- Adopt-a-well program. In this program, students would learn by focusing their educational experience around a particular well, perhaps within a specific Time of Travel (TOT) Zone. Additionally, the students could educate the residents and landowners within the area by handing out educational pamphlets the students developed.
- Create a groundwater science project. By involving teachers and students in a school science education project, Veneta can create increased awareness of its drinking water source.

Strategy 2.3: Produce Education pamphlet

- Create pamphlets for different land uses: residential, commercial/industrial, and rural. Pamphlets provide basic educational information about Veneta's drinking water and the importance of protecting this resource.

Factual pamphlets may include the following content by land use type:

Residential: Groundwater basics information including a basic diagram, map of DWP A, proper use and storage of household chemicals including alternative chemicals, reducing household hazardous products, reducing household hazardous waste, hazardous materials collection sites, proper lawn care for drinking water protection.

Commercial/industrial: Groundwater basics information including a basic diagram, map of the DWP A, encourage "best management practices", encourage safe storage and use of chemicals, encourage spill response plans, encourage proper hazardous materials disposal.

Rural Residential: Groundwater basics information including a basic diagram, map of DWPA, encourage proper septic maintenance including use of less harmful cleaners, encourage manure management plans for livestock, encourage safe use and storage of chemicals, encourage proper well maintenance and construction.

Specific Developments: If Veneta's future land use designation includes specific developments, informative pamphlets should be developed for these areas taking into consideration the location and land uses included in the development.

Strategy 2.4: Handouts with development permits

- Development permits provide an opportunity to inform developers about the need for groundwater protection. Pamphlets should be included with permits by land use as in the above strategy and should contain similar information.

Strategy 2.5: Notify citizens in Drinking Water Protection Area (DWP A)

- Provide variety of notifications to residences and business in the DWP A. Notification provides basic awareness that people are living and working above the water source for the city. Notification can take a variety of forms but should include a letter of notification and could include a map of the DWP A. Notification should stress the importance of contamination prevention. Notification to those in the one and two year TOT zones should be drafted to highlight the increased risk of activities in these zones.
- Provide special notification to those in the aquifer recharge zone, south and west of Veneta where Bolton Hill meets the flat area. Notification should include information about the importance of this groundwater recharge area and the need to prevent contaminants entering the aquifer at this point.

Strategy 2.6: Identify target groups for education opportunities

- Involve active members of the community. Community organizations have vital roles in the community. Identifying and informing these groups provides a key for protecting groundwater.

Strategy 2.7: Distribute *Home-a-Syst: Homestead Assessment System*

- Produced by Oregon State University Extension Service, the *Home-a-Syst* packet contains fact sheets and worksheets designed for rural homesteads to assess their homesteads from a groundwater protection standpoint. Topics include wells, chemical storage and use, septic systems, site design, and livestock management.

Improperly constructed, sealed, and abandoned wells pose considerably high risk of groundwater contamination. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there are a potentially large amount of private wells in the Veneta area that need attention. Thus the team included well health as a management goal. The following strategies address well health.

Strategy 3.1: Produce information pamphlet for landowners about proper well maintenance including sealing and abandonment of unused wells. A well health pamphlet should contain the following information:

- Diagram of properly sealed and constructed well
- Well inspection basics
- Proper well abandonment .Proper well construction .List of further resources

Strategy 3.2: Work with Lane County Extension Service to make voluntary site visits to help property owners assess risk.

Strategy 3.3: Investigate potential funding sources for well maintenance, upgrade and abandonment.

- Develop a cost share program
- Research and identify grant sources

Goal 4: Septic System Health

A significant part of the Drinking Water Protection Area contains residences and some businesses that treat wastewater using septic systems. Furthermore, the area contains soils poorly suited to septic systems. This coupled with a high winter season water table may pose concern for groundwater. The following strategy informs residents about septic system issues of concern.

Strategy 4.1: Produce and distribute a septic system pamphlet to owners not served by city wastewater sewer that includes:

- Importance of periodic testing of septic system
- Need for regular maintenance, cleaning and pumping of septic systems
- Alternative cleaners not harmful to groundwater .Signs of failing septic systems
- List of "dos and don'ts" for septic system owners

Goal 5: Remediation: *problem remedies*

The Drinking Water Protection Team felt that existing problems should be dealt with and remedied. This goal identifies the most pressing needs from a drinking water protection standpoint and provides strategies to remedy the situations.

Strategy 5.1: Properly abandon unused city wells as identified in the inventory results

Strategy 5.2: Request DEQ update and priority status for LUST and ECSI sites

- Request priority remediation status from DEQ for sites in Veneta registered on DEQ database lists: Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) and one Environmental Cleanup Site Information System (ECSI). Such sites present known risks to Veneta's groundwater. This strategy also requests status clarification and updates from DEQ. Additionally, an estimated date of cleanup completion for Veneta sites should be requested. Refer to DEQ Underground Storage Tank program (see references).

Strategy 5.3: Encourage participation in Oregon's Voluntary Cleanup Program

"The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP), developed in 1991, provides an avenue for owners and operators of contaminated property to investigate and clean up their sites with DEQ oversight. The VCP is designed so responsible parties and DEQ can work in partnership to efficiently investigate and clean up releases of hazardous substances. Through environmental cleanup, the VCP facilitates the use, sale, refinancing, and/or redevelopment of contaminated property. ..."

(www.deq.state.or.us)

The Voluntary Cleanup Program is designed for contaminated sites where the owner would like to clean up the site, for example as facilitating the sale or redevelopment of property.

Goal 6: Intervention: *head off occurrence*

Strategy 6.1: Implement Pollution Prevention Measures

- Produce and distribute pollution prevention fact sheet, samples available from DEQ
- Encourage participation in DEQ Green Permits program
- Encourage participation in DEQ Pollution Control Facilities Tax Credit Program

Strategy 6.2: Apply for periodic DEQ hazardous waste collection

Strategy 6.3: Monitor groundwater periodically for contaminants of concern

- Place monitoring wells strategically to detect contaminants moving toward the municipal wells. Veneta will be in a better position to prepare for likely scenarios by detecting contaminants in the groundwater *before* they appear at the municipal wells and enter the water system.

Goal 7: Form Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane County

A portion of Veneta's DWPA to the north and east exists within Lane County's jurisdiction. Early on the team decided that this could be an opportunity for collaboration. Activities and actions within Lane County purview may adversely affect Veneta's groundwater quality. An agreement with the county and the City of Veneta can resolve the shortcomings of political boundaries.

Strategy 7.1 : Create an agreement containing the following:

- Recognition of Veneta's Drinking Water Protection Area by Lane County
- Notification of actions within Lane County jurisdiction and within Veneta's Drinking Water Protection Area

Goal 8: Zoning and Regulation

Most of the goals and management strategies focus on public education and awareness. While this information is crucial to the protection of Veneta's drinking water, the committee also decided that some regulatory changes are necessary to adequately address certain issues.

Strategy 8.1: Septic system minimum density

- Within the two and one year Time of Travel for well nine, limit septic system density to no greater than one unit per two acres to reduce the risk of contamination.

Strategy 8.2: Develop criteria from which to create future regulations pertaining to the use of chemicals of concern.

- Criteria to be developed include types of chemicals, quantity, storage, and chemical use.

Strategy 8.3: Create development permit conditions for facilities that use chemicals of concern.

- Require incorporation of "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) as a condition of permit approval for commercial/industrial facilities that utilize Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLS), "sinker" chemicals, and any other contaminants of concern. BMPs included would be those pertaining to design and operation of facilities that meet the objective of preventing contamination from escaping into the groundwater. (See *Oregon State Wellhead Protection Guidance Manual*, 3-58 to 3-62, for description of BMPs)

Strategy 8.4: Business licenses chemical use disclosure

- Include chemical use and storage disclosure form to be filled out by applicant when granting or renewing business licensees.

Goal 9: Water Conservation Program

Conservation measures protect drinking water resources by using less of the resource and thereby reducing the risk that contaminants will be drawn to the well. Use of less water also allows more time for cleanup and remediation if a contaminant is released. Additionally, contaminants in the groundwater will have more time to be broken down by natural processes if less water is drawn from the wells.

Strategy 9.1 : Include a conservation program as part of utility plans

- A water conservation program will be included as part of Veneta's water master plan.

Strategy 9.2: Provide incentives for water use reduction

- Structure water utility rates to encourage water use reduction. Financial incentives reward those who actively reduce water usage.