

# NEBRASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

# SOURCE WATER PROTECTION GRANTS PROGRAM

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Approximately \$150,000 per year is available to finance projects that protect public drinking water sources. Grant-supported projects can include those that address drinking water quality, quantity, and public outreach and education.

## APPLICATION PERIOD

The invitation for proposals is typically released in late winter or early spring each year, and applications are due in the summer.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Public **education** and outreach
- Support for **pollution prevention**
- Restoration and/or **conservation** of the source water protection area
- Development of a **Wellhead Protection** or **Drinking Water Protection Management Plan**
- Water quality **monitoring** at critical points in protection areas

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Political subdivisions in Nebraska that operate a public water system serving a population of 10,000 or fewer that can show financial hardship.

# PROJECT EXAMPLES



**Project GROW (Growing Rotational Crops On Wellfield)** focuses on 160 acres of the total 400-acre wellfield purchased by the city of York, NE. The 160 acres includes demonstration fields, community garden plots, a berry orchard, and an extensive pollinator habitat. Using no-till, diverse cover crops, and proven crop rotations, the project seeks to improve soil health, decrease soil erosion, and improve water holding capacity, all while maintaining profitability.



**One of the main goals of the project is to improve the quality of the drinking water** produced from the wellfield, as a healthy soil acts as a filtering system to the aquifer and decreases nitrogen leaching and contamination.



Photo credit: Chrystal Houston, Upper Big Blue NRD

## **Springfield Drinking Water Protection Management Plan**

Springfield's plan will mitigate the threat of nitrate contamination in existing and new wells, in the city's unsaturated zone, and in the aquifer in the surrounding area. Once the plan is approved by the EPA, Springfield is eligible for federal 319 funding, which opens the door for three-year grants worth up to \$300,000 for continued projects.

These funds can support ongoing outreach and education through workshops, cost-sharing for best management practices like cover crop seed and soil moisture sensors, and urban practices like rain gardens and bioswales. Communities can decide what is most needed and tailor projects to address their unique concerns.

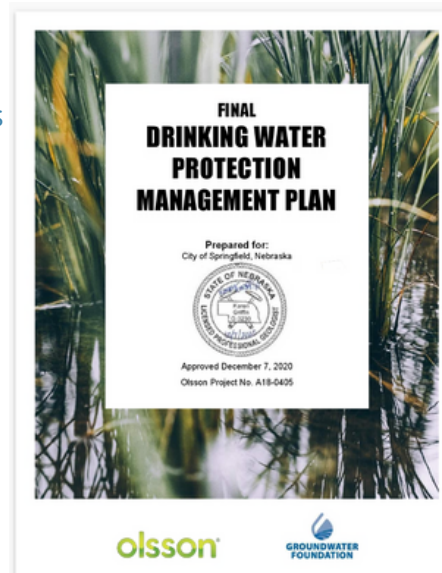


Photo credit: Olsson