

# Anoka County 2015-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan (revised)

September 27, 2016



## **Goal V**

**Maintain sources of safe drinking water and sustainable local supply for Anoka County residents.**

(excerpt from the revised plan)

# Executive Summary

## Revised 2015-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan

The Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services (CHES) Community Health Improvement Plan focuses on interventions that CHES will emphasize in 2015 through 2019 with its partners in the community. The plan's purpose is to provide guidance to CHES, its partners and stakeholders in improving the health of the population within Anoka County.

After completing an intensive assessment of the community's health status, incorporating the perceptions and opinions of the community at large (through a survey) and CHES partners and stakeholders (through key informant interviews) the Anoka County Community Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) identified Anoka County residents' ten most important health issues and opportunities. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was completed in October 2014. CHES responsibilities include monitoring and revising the CHIP in collaboration with partners and stakeholders. The revision process was completed in September 2016.

The following are revised health improvement goals selected for 2015-2019 addressing issues through community-wide strategies:

**CHIP Goal I:** Promote healthy communities by promoting mental health prevention, education, and access to services in Anoka County.

**CHIP Goal II:** Assure coordination and education of violence prevention programs and activities for Anoka County residents and community partners.

**CHIP Goal III:** Participate in sustainable changes that contribute to the reduction of the number of individuals in Anoka County who are considered overweight and/or obese.

**CHIP Goal IV:** Participate in county-based efforts to address homelessness and shortage of affordable housing.

**CHIP Goal V:** Maintain sources of safe drinking water and sustainable local supply for Anoka County residents.

## Environmental Health – Water Quality and Sustainable Drinking Water

### Why is this a priority issue?

Water supply remains a priority of Anoka County and its communities. The sustainability of local water resources is a growing priority of communities on a local, regional and state scale. Determining the water-sustainability balance between withdrawing water to supply residents and businesses while maintaining natural resources and ecosystems is the newest challenge and priority.

Groundwater is readily available supplying public and private water systems throughout Anoka County. Columbia Heights and Hilltop municipal systems obtain their water from the Mississippi River through their connection to the Minneapolis Water Works. Increasing water demand may potentially exceed the sustainability of locally available groundwater supplies in some areas of the County.

The Minnesota Geological Survey has determined that Anoka County's central and northern communities lack a major groundwater aquifer (Prairie du Chien-Jordan) that supplies much of the developed metropolitan region's municipal water systems. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has expressed concern that local groundwater resources in transitional communities may not be sufficient to support water demand typically associated with full development.

Efforts throughout Anoka County to address water quality and sustainable drinking water align with the Environmental Health objectives 4 and 6 of Healthy People 2020: 4) Increase the proportion of persons served by community water systems that receive a supply of drinking water that meets the regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act; 6) Reduce per capita domestic water withdrawals with respect to use and conservation; Essential Service: Protect Against Environmental Hazards;

### What do we know?

Over the past five years, Minnesota statutes and rules have been modified to address water resources. The focus for State water program modifications has been to ensure that the use of groundwater is sustainable and does not adversely impact aquifers and surface water features or water quality. Sustainable water resources have become a focus of Minnesota's approach to water management.

Oversight is key in maintaining local water resources that are adequate to support a healthy community and strong economy. The County's oversight is achieved by monitoring water resources and maintaining a collaborative approach to management with state and local agencies. State programs establish water management priorities and goals. Local agencies play a significant role in achieving local water management goals by managing development, land use, environmental protection and natural resources. In all respects, local agencies support the County's goal of maintaining an environment that benefits the public's health, safety and welfare. The Anoka County Water Resources and Supply Management Task Force (Task Force) provides community participation and was critical in the development of the

Water Resources Report 2014 as well as developing the recommendations included in the strategies below.

## **CHIP Goal V: Maintain sources of safe drinking water and sustainable local supply for Anoka County residents.**

### **Objectives**

*I. Increase the number of private wells tested by Environmental Services Staff in Anoka County voluntarily by 5% per year through 2019.*

*II. Environmental Services Staff will conduct 100% of required inner wellhead management zone evaluations of transient non-community public water supplies serving Anoka County licensed food and lodging establishments annually through 2019.*

*III. Increase the number of abandoned (unused) wells located and sealed (or granted a maintenance permit) by 2% per year through 2019 in Anoka County.*

*IV. Environmental Services Staff will facilitate water sustainability information and data sharing among the communities by making a standing sustainability agenda item at all Water Task Force meetings by 2017.*

### **Strategy A: Coordinated local water management**

Maintain a Water Task Force of community representatives that meets a minimum of twice yearly to monitor current and emerging resource issues to identify collaborative opportunities.

### **Strategy B: Coordinated local water education**

Support related environmental health education programs by facilitating a coordinated approach by local partners having complementary objectives through the Know the Flow countywide website and sharing grant opportunities.

### **Strategy C: Promote local water sustainability**

Facilitate community cooperation for development of water resource conservation and sustainability initiatives that will cost-effectively satisfy state requirements and maintain local water resources supplies.

### **Strategy D: Drinking water protection**

Support and facilitate the cooperative wellhead protection efforts of the Anoka County Municipal Wellhead Protection Group. Inspect and test public water supplies serving county-licensed food and lodging establishments.

### **Strategy E: Identify opportunities in local water management**

Support initiatives to encourage residents and property owners to participate in water resources protection and management programs that are part of state and local plans and priorities, including opportunities to cooperate with the DNR to locate unpermitted water appropriators through local land use and environmental programs.