

Neighborhood Ground Water Network



This 2008 - 2009 pilot program will provide up-to-date ground water education and outreach to community members in the Eola Hills while involving them in a ground water level monitoring program. Program participants will have the option to submit ground water level measurements to an online database that will be available to the public. This central database will assist with long-term evaluations of ground water supplies in Oregon. Ground water education and outreach efforts through this program will provide participants with the tools for stewardship of ground water resources, improve their understanding of ground water conservation measures and ground water supply issues, and develop their skills in collection and interpretation of ground water level data. Collection of additional ground water level data will provide a better representation of ground water conditions in neighborhoods across Oregon.

- Any community member in the Eola Hills interested in measuring the water levels in wells.
- Generally, this target group will consist of individuals and neighborhood associations that rely on domestic wells as their water source. Other wells may be considered for inclusion in this program upon request.
- This pilot program will be located in the vicinity of the Eola Hills, northwest of Salem.

★ Ground Water Stewardship Efforts by Community Members

Educating the community about ground water resources will improve understanding of many issues such as ground water quantity, ground water quality, ground water hydrology, well interference, well construction, well production, and well maintenance. This program will provide community members with the tools and knowledge necessary to protect ground water supplies into the future.

★ Improved Ground Water Conservation

As individuals begin to better understand how ground water supplies function, they will be able to improve their ground water conservation techniques.

★ Informed Land-Use Decisions

Additional ground water level data will allow local jurisdictions, community members, businesses, and others to make informed land-use decisions.

★ Central Repository for Data Sharing

Hydrogeologists within Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), landowners, planners, policy makers, and other community members will have additional ground water level data for better evaluation of aquifer conditions across Oregon.

1. Time Commitment

Volunteers will be expected to collect water level measurements once-a-month for one year. After the first year, volunteers may choose to continue in the program and collect water level measurements once-a-quarter for two additional years.

2. Participate in Ground Water Education and Volunteer Training

OWRD and OSU Sea Grant Extension will provide workshops, facts sheets, brochures, videos, and other information to interested individuals. Volunteers will be expected to participate in a half-day, two-part volunteer training: **Part A**) regarding ground water science and **Part B**) on obtaining accurate ground water level measurements. The volunteer will complete a training evaluation after participating in the half-day workshop.

3. Purchase or Check-out Equipment

OWRD and OSU Sea Grant Extension will connect groups of interested participants within geographic areas. Participants may each contribute within their volunteer monitoring group to purchase a water level meter from a vendor. Volunteers should calibrate their water level meters at a minimum annually as outlined in the *Water Level Meter Calibration* document that will be available on the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* webpage on the OWRD website.

OR

Volunteers may check-out a water level meter from a local Extension office. The volunteer will need to follow all protocol defined by the Extension office while they are in possession of the water level meter. Volunteers will be expected to care for and maintain the water level meter as outlined in the *Water Level Meter Maintenance and Care* document that will be available on the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* webpage on the OWRD website.

4. Collect and Interpret Water Level Measurements

- Water level measurements should be collected on the same day and time each month or each quarter.
- Well pumps should be turned off and pumping stopped for at least two hours prior to the ground water level measurement.
- Water level measurements should be taken in accordance with the methodology outlined in the *How to Measure the Water Level in a Well* document that will be available on the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* webpage on the OWRD website.
- A *Ground Water Level Interpretation* document that will be available on the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* webpage on the OWRD website will teach landowners how to interpret water level measurements from their well.

5. Report Data to the OWRD (optional)

Ground water level data should be recorded on approved data sheets at the well location. These data may be transferred to OWRD through an online submittal form available through the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* webpage on the OWRD website.

Two half-day workshops are scheduled for either October 18th or October 25th depending on volunteer interest and availability. The training locations, times, and details will be announced in mid-September.

For more information about the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* or if you are interested in participating in this program, please contact a representative from OSU Sea Grant Extension, Abigail Brown at 503-986-0836 or at brownal@wrdd.us.