



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental News

DEQ'S DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM Moves on to Natchitoches Parish

BATON ROUGE -- Natchitoches Parish was recently selected for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Protection campaign. "Protect Drinking Water One Drop At A Time" is the name of the program that is aimed at increasing public awareness and public participation in protecting the area's waters.

The campaign will officially kickoff with a community meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Art Center, 716 Second St., Natchitoches. The campaign seeks to involve private citizens, community groups, water systems, businesses and industry in Natchitoches Parish. The meeting will address the goals and issues of the program. Because clean water is essential for good health, the team will share protection and conservation tips that residents can use in their homes.

DEQ is encouraging all residents in Natchitoches parish to join this effort to protect our environment. This is the kind of public education campaign that gives citizens control over the fate of their natural resources. Everyone should take an active role in ensuring clean drinking water for the future.

The Drinking Water Protection Program is a voluntary program designed to assist communities in protecting their drinking water sources. It is linked to the Louisiana Wellhead Protection Program, which DEQ has run for well over a decade. The Wellhead Protection Program has received numerous awards and certificates of recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for excellence and efficiency. "Drinking Water Protection Area" signs will replace signs that read "Wellhead Protection Area," along major roadways in Natchitoches Parish to remind people when a public drinking water supply well is nearby.

The team is seeking volunteers to serve on committees to work with the community in creating a sustainable drinking water protection program. For more information you may contact the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team members Micaela Marchand or Jesse Means at (225) 219-3510 and visit the DEQ web page at <http://www.deq.state.la.us/evaluation/aeps/>.