



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Department  
of Health

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of State

Agriculture  
and Markets

# DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM

## DWSP2 VS. SWAP

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### What was the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)?

In 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) required states to evaluate each source of water used by a public water system. This led to the creation of SWAP reports, by the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and a contractor. A source water assessment provides information on the potential contaminant threats to public drinking water sources. Each source water assessment:

- Determined where water used for public drinking water comes from (delineate the source areas);
- Inventoried potential sources of contamination that may impact public drinking water sources (contaminant source inventory); and
- Assessed the likelihood of a source water area becoming contaminated (susceptibility analysis).

While the program offered a bold, top down, statewide assessment of public water supplies, it did not lead to a high degree of source water protection planning and implementation efforts at the local level.

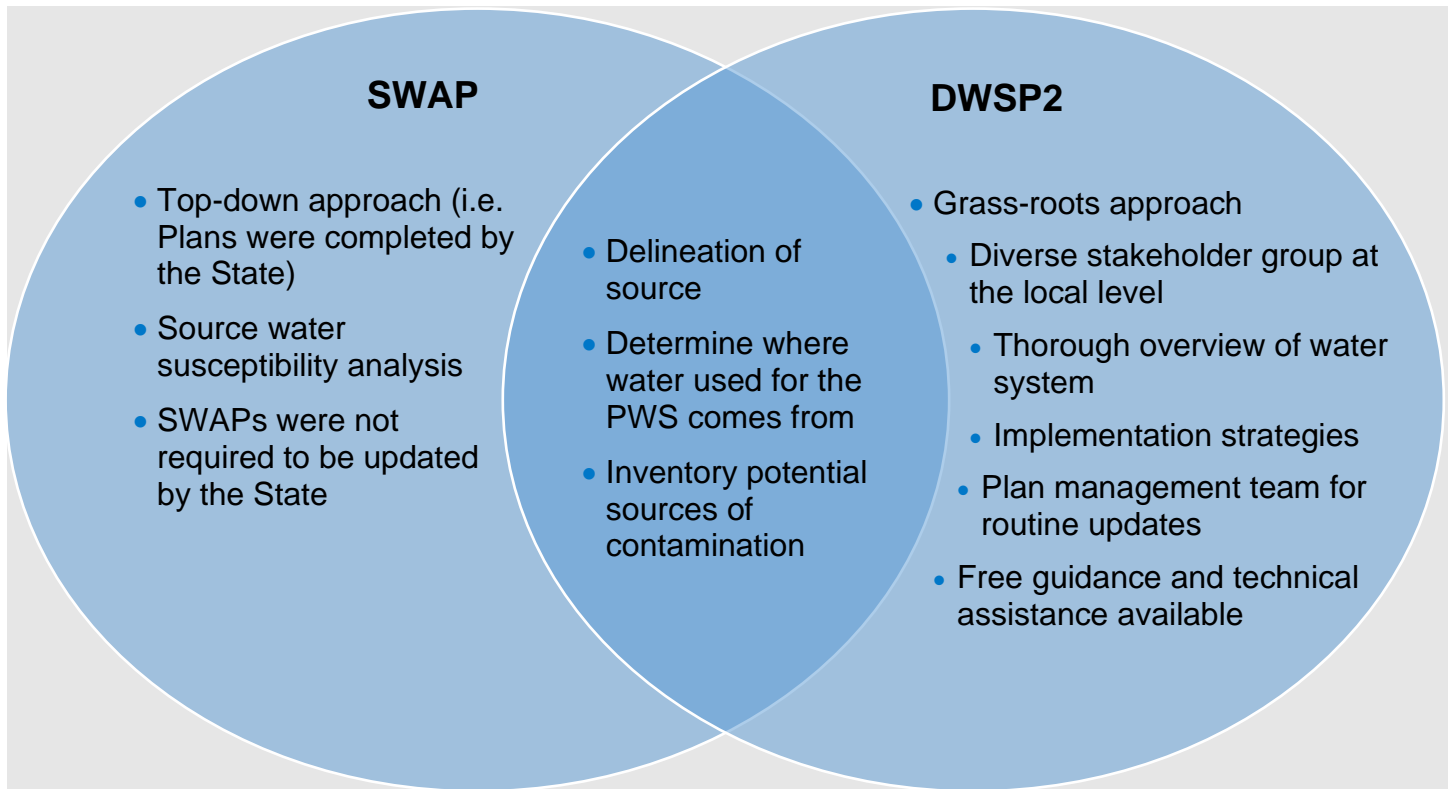
See the [Source Water Assessment Program](#) webpage for full details.

### What is the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)?

In 2017, DEC and DOH partnered to develop the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). The program is designed to help municipalities create community-specific drinking water protection plans in a way that strengthens relationships, fosters collaboration and engages stakeholders so municipalities across NYS are invested in protecting their drinking water. A key difference between SWAP and DWSP2 is implementation but it isn't the only one (see diagram below).

To truly have this be a community led program, municipalities are put in the driver's seat to create a protection program that is unique to their source(s) of drinking water. This doesn't mean they need to do this on their own. While this is a grassroots approach, DWSP2 has a number of resources and technical assistance providers available to aid municipalities as they develop their own protection program specific to their needs. Take a look at our [DWSP2 webpage](#) to learn more.

## Similarities and Differences



## Using the Old SWAP to Develop a DWSP2

If you have an old SWAP report, it may be helpful in getting you started on certain components of a DWSP2 Plan such as the water system overview, drinking water source protection map, and potential contaminant source inventory.

However, it is important to keep in mind the information in the SWAP report is likely out of date. Items that may have changed are:

- Land use surrounding the drinking water source (e.g., increase in development);
- Sources used for public drinking water;
- Amount of water pumped from public water supply wells;
- Water quality; and
- Potential contaminant sources.

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