



2026 Assiniboine Watershed Well Decommissioning Program

Scope, Restrictions, and Limitations

OVERVIEW

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association has determined a rate of \$3,125.00 for the 2026 Well Decommissioning Program Campaign. This inclusive well price applies to the decommissioning of water wells classified as 'Regular' abandoned water wells by the AWSA. This coverage includes AWSA's well inspection and administrative services, materials, and the coordination of contractors and related logistics.

This Scope, Restrictions, and Limitations document is intended to provide clear guidance on what is included in the 2026 Well Decommissioning Program, what circumstances may fall outside standard program coverage, and when additional costs or responsibilities may apply. By defining these parameters in advance, the document helps landowners, the RM, contractors, and AWSA make informed decisions, supports fair and consistent program administration, and reduces the potential for misunderstanding during the inspection, approval, and decommissioning process.

ELIGIBILITIES, LIMITATIONS, AND COST RESPONSIBILITIES

Typical Materials Included

- Bentonite Top Seal
- Bentonite Plug
- Bentonite Grout
- Granular Fill
- Clean Clay
- Chlorine

Example Well Decommissioning Process

1. Chlorinate and pump out standing water
2. Place bentonite plug at bottom of well and intervals of 20' thereafter
3. Fill well with granular material between bentonite plug layers
4. Remove top 10 feet of well casing
5. Place bentonite top seal where casing has been cut and removed
6. Fill remaining depth to surface with clean clay

'Regular' Well Specifications and Limits

The AWSA has determined specifications to fit a definition of 'Regular' wells for the purpose of the Well Decommissioning Program. The depth and diameter limitations detailed below align with costs that can be covered under the program. Where additional materials are required for depths and diameters beyond the limitations, the AWSA can obtain estimates or quotes from their qualified contractors. The additional cost is a responsibility of the landowner and must be agreed to by the landowner and the RM prior to any decommissioning work on wells with specifications beyond the limitations.



- Large Diameter Wells
 - 12 to 48 inch diameter
 - depth no greater than 50 feet
 - acceptable materials: CSP, fiberglass, concrete, wood, stone
- Small Diameter Wells
 - 4 to 12 inch diameter
 - depth no greater than 100 feet
 - acceptable materials: plastic, steel
- 4x4 Square Wood Wells
 - depth no greater than 30 feet
- Well Pits
 - Well pits are eligible for coverage only when the well and pit are decommissioned together, and only where their dimensions do not exceed 48 inches in diameter and a total 50 feet in depth, measured from ground level of the pit to the bottom of the well.
 - Where dimensions and depth exceed these limits, the well and pit will be considered oversize/overdepth and result in additional costs to the landowner.

ADDITIONAL COSTS AND EXCLUSIONS

Oversize and overdepth wells are covered under the program up to the inclusive price of \$3,125.00 per well. Any costs beyond \$3,125.00 are the responsibility of the landowner; however, these additional costs remain eligible for a 90% rebate, to a maximum rebate of \$10,000 per well. AWSA can help obtain contractor quotes and coordinate the decommissioning. All additional costs must be agreed to by the landowner and the RM, and reviewed and approved by the RM, before any work begins.

Contractors may consult with the landowners regarding additional costs for well decommissionings outside the approved parameters, where special equipment and materials are required. The RM and landowner remain eligible to participate under the rebate program in these circumstances, but at an increased cost to the landowner.

- **Large Diameter Wells** – greater than 50 ft depth and/or 48-inch diameter
 - Large Diameter wells more than 50 ft depth and 48-inch diameter are subject to case-by-case inspections and quotes.
- **Small Diameter Wells** – greater than 100 ft depths
 - Small wells that exceed 100 feet in depth require specialized equipment and contractor certifications, creating a significantly higher cost than ‘Regular’ wells. Therefore, they are subject to case-by-case inspections and quotes.



- **Artesian Wells**

- Artesian Wells are **NOT** covered under the AWSA's Well Decommissioning Program. This exclusion is due to the complex characteristics of artesian wells, which typically require advanced investigative procedures, specialized equipment, and the involvement of professionals with specific expertise and experience in handling such wells. The AWSA is also not able to assist in the coordination of decommissioning artesian wells.

SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Wells must be safely accessible. Landowners may be required to assist in locating the well before an AWSA representative can perform a well inspection. AWSA staff cannot enter and descend wells as they are considered Confined Spaces. Landowners may be required to clear obstacles such as excessive brush, buildings, refuse, and trees for a contractor to perform the well decommissioning work. This is an additional cost and is the responsibility of the landowner; it is not covered under the Well Decommissioning Program. Some well decommissioning contractors can consult on and assist with this additional work.

ADDRESSING UNIQUE OR EMERGING SCENARIOS

While this document outlines the primary scope, restrictions, and limitations of the Well Decommissioning Program, it is important to recognize that not all scenarios can be anticipated in advance. Occasionally, unique or unforeseen circumstances may arise during the inspection and decommissioning process. In such cases, the AWSA will review the situation individually and may establish additional requirements or limitations as needed to ensure safety, regulatory compliance, and the integrity of the program.

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association may, at its discretion, revise program guidelines, eligibility criteria, or procedures as needed to reflect evolving best practices, regulatory requirements, or operational needs. AWSA also retains the authority to review applications and make determinations regarding participation or coverage on a case-by-case basis. Updates or modifications may occur without prior notice to ensure the continued integrity and effectiveness of the program.

For more information, please contact the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association office at 1-306-783-1696, info@awsask.com, or visit our website at www.assiniboinewatershed.com.