

Waterford Township Wellhead Protection Program



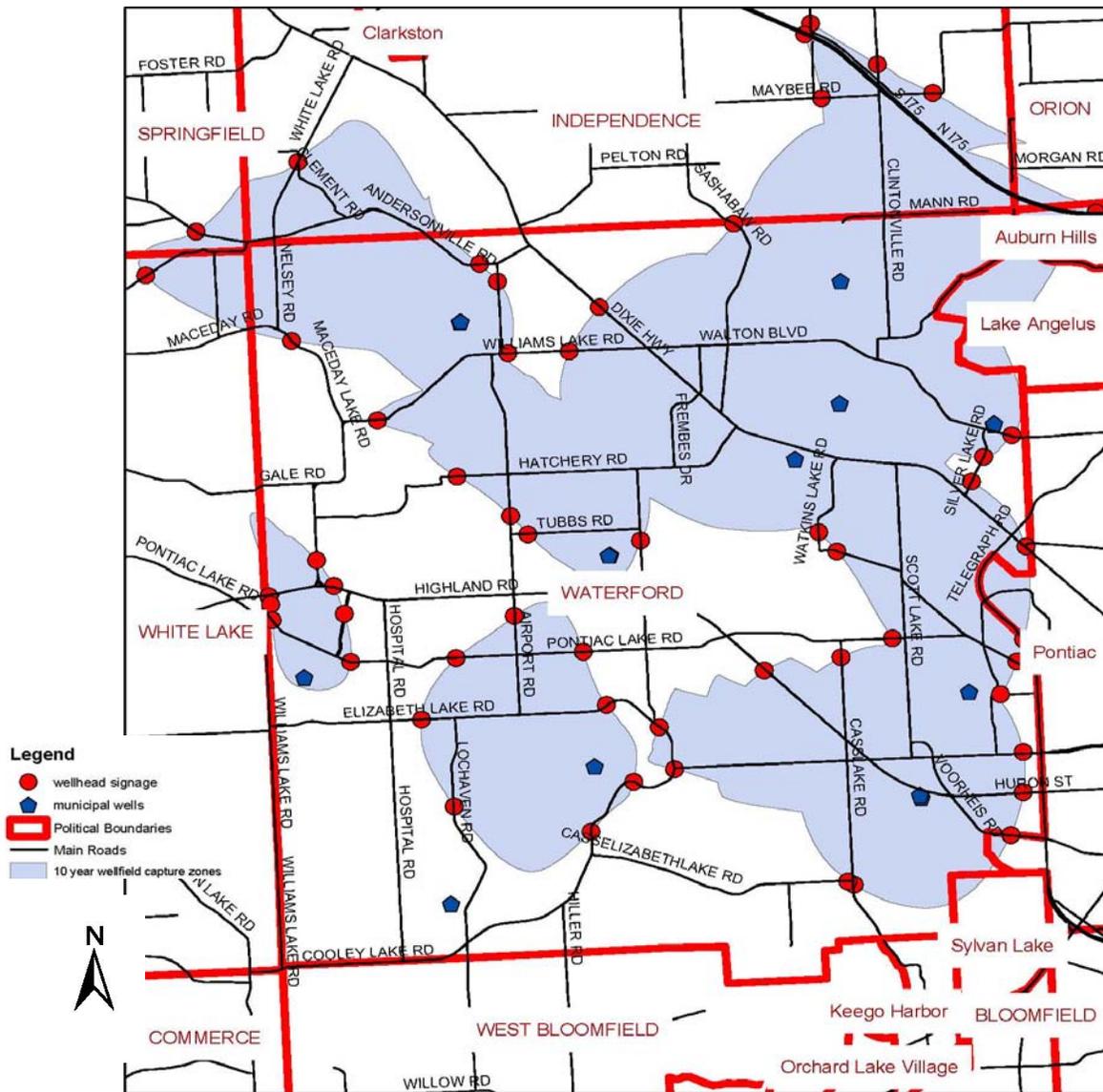
An Introduction to Waterford Township's WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Michigan's Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) was created to protect community public water supplies from contaminants, which may have adverse health effects if they were to reach water supply wells. The program works in combination with public awareness, planning, education, and management programs.

The WHPP is state funded, and provides funds to communities in the form of a 50% matching grant administered by the MDEQ's Water Division. The MDEQ initiated the Wellhead Protection Grant Program in 1999, with new grants awarded every year since. The grant program has been a success, with a gradually increasing number of communities applying each year. Approximately \$1.25M in grants was awarded in 2002-2003.

Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) delineations have been completed for all ten public water supply systems in the township. The WHPA represents the area at the earth's surface that contributes groundwater to the drinking water well. In Michigan, the WHPA is defined by the "10-year time-of-travel capture zone", which implies that a drop of water (and any contaminants in it) located at the margin of the 10-year capture zone would in theory take 10 years to migrate to a public water supply well and be "captured" by the well, thereby entering the public drinking water supply. The aim of the WHPP is to manage existing groundwater contaminant sources, and protect the 10-year capture zone from activities that would adversely impact the groundwater.

The township DPW has placed signs at several major streets, where these locations are on the edge of the 10-year capture zones of the 10 public water supply systems. If you live within a WHPA (you can obtain a map of the township's WHPAs from the DPW), or when you enter a WHPA, please be especially aware of routine activities that could potentially harm the soil and (eventually) groundwater, such as changing the oil in your vehicle, excessive use of lawn chemicals, de-icers/salt, paint, or other household chemicals.



Did You Know?...

Waterford Township's drinking water:

- Is not supplied by the City of Detroit.
- Is groundwater, not lake or river water.
- Is pumped from the ground by 15 large-diameter wells.
- Passes through one of 11 water treatment plants, where iron and hydrogen sulfide gas are removed.

If you live in Waterford Township, some facts you might want to know are:

- There are over 700 active private water wells in Waterford Township.
- Some ways that contaminants can enter the groundwater are through active wells, abandoned wells, leaking underground storage tanks, or by simply being spilled on the ground.
- The Waterford Township Wellhead Protection Program aims at protecting the groundwater that is as much as ten years from reaching our wells. This boundary is known as the ten-year zone of capture. We also have mapped the 1 and 5 year capture zones.
- Over 20 square miles of Waterford Township's 36 square miles lies within this ten-year groundwater capture zone (that's more than 56% of the entire township).
- 60% of the homes and businesses in Waterford Township lie within the ten-year capture zones of the Township's wells.

Some things you can do to help protect our groundwater:

- Never dispose of unwanted chemicals by pouring them down the drain, on the ground or into an abandoned well.
- Keep kitty litter on hand to absorb liquid spills from hazardous products or car products.
- If you own a well, have it regularly tested for contamination.
- Identify any abandoned wells on your property and have them plugged.
- If you have a septic system, pump it out periodically. Do not flush grease, caustics and non-biodegradable materials into the system.