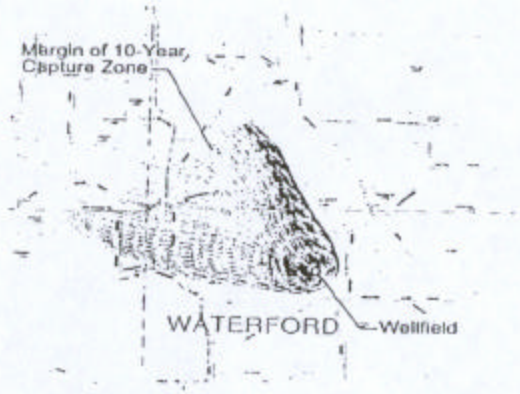
Waterford township, in association with the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's office, has initiated a preventive program to safeguard the township's public water supply. The Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) aim's to ensure an adequate and safe supply of drinking water for the present and future. The WHPP is imporant because:

- Ground water is the **only** source of drinking water for the township
- Ground water is connected with the region's streams, lakes, and wetlands, which are significant public health, recreational, economic, and wildlife resources
- Spills and leaks of hazardous substances (such as petroleum and sewage) could (and have in the past) contaminate(d) ground water supplies

The WHPP encompasses a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA), shown on the figure alongside. The "10-Year Capture Zone" is the area of the surface and subsurface that contributes ground water (recharges) the water supply well(s).

Theoretically, water (or a contaminant) on the margin of the 10-year capture zone would require ten years to reach (be "captured") by the wellfield. This amount of time is sufficient warning to take protectionary measures.

Waterford currently operates public water



supply systems at twelve (12) locations throughout the township. Currently, WHPA delineations have been completed or are in progress at six* (6) water supply systems. We anticipate completing Wellhead Protection Plans for these wellfields by the end of 1999.

Some benefits of the WHPP:

- Protects the community's health through prevention of drinking water contamination
- Protects community investment in water supply systems
- Promotes the township's image as being proactive in protecting public health, in the process promoting economic development
- Among the most significant benefits of wellhead protection is that it is a preventive initiative. Prevention of ground water contamination is far less expensive than ground water cleanup.

What part can you play in Wellhead Protection ?

- Be aware of household hazardous chemicals (like paints, solvents, gasoline *etc.*) you use
- Be careful when you use these chemicals
- If you are on township water and have an unused water well, inform the Wellhead Protection Team- it will make arrangements to plug the well. Open holes are easy conduits for chemicals to travel and contaminate ground water

For more information about the township's Wellhead Protection initiative, contact any of the members on the Wellhead Protection Team or the township at (248) 674-2278. We are also developing a Wellhead Protection information site on the Internet. Stay tuned for more information.

* The six wellfields are: Lotus Lake, Pleasant Lake, Crescent Lake, Silver Lake, Marion Street and Vista Villa.

The Wellhead Protection Team

- Tom Coburn- *Water and Sewer Superintendent*
- Katherine G. Innes- *Township Supervisor*
- Thomas R. Goff- *General Public*
- David Yarber- *Chief, Waterford Fire Department*
- Larry Lockwood- *Asst. Director, Planning*
- Terry Biederman- *Director of Public Works*
- Douglas W. Bradley- *Director, Building & Engineering*
- George Anderson- *Director of Public Works, Independence Township*
- Andy Klakulak- *Snell Environmental Group, Inc.*

Waterford Township is Protecting its Water ...

Introducing the

Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP)

The Wellhead Protection Team
5240 Civic Center Drive
Waterford, MI 48329