Water Awareness Week

This placemat has been developed as part of the City of Lowell's Wellhead Protection (WHP) Program. One of the most valuable resources in the Lowell Area is our groundwater.

Determining the Protection Area – The program has determined the land area that requires the greatest protection, the land mass contributing water to the City wells. Studies have determined how fast and in what direction groundwater flows. Program planners have mapped out the area that contributes recharge water, (and therefore, any contaminants) to the City wells.

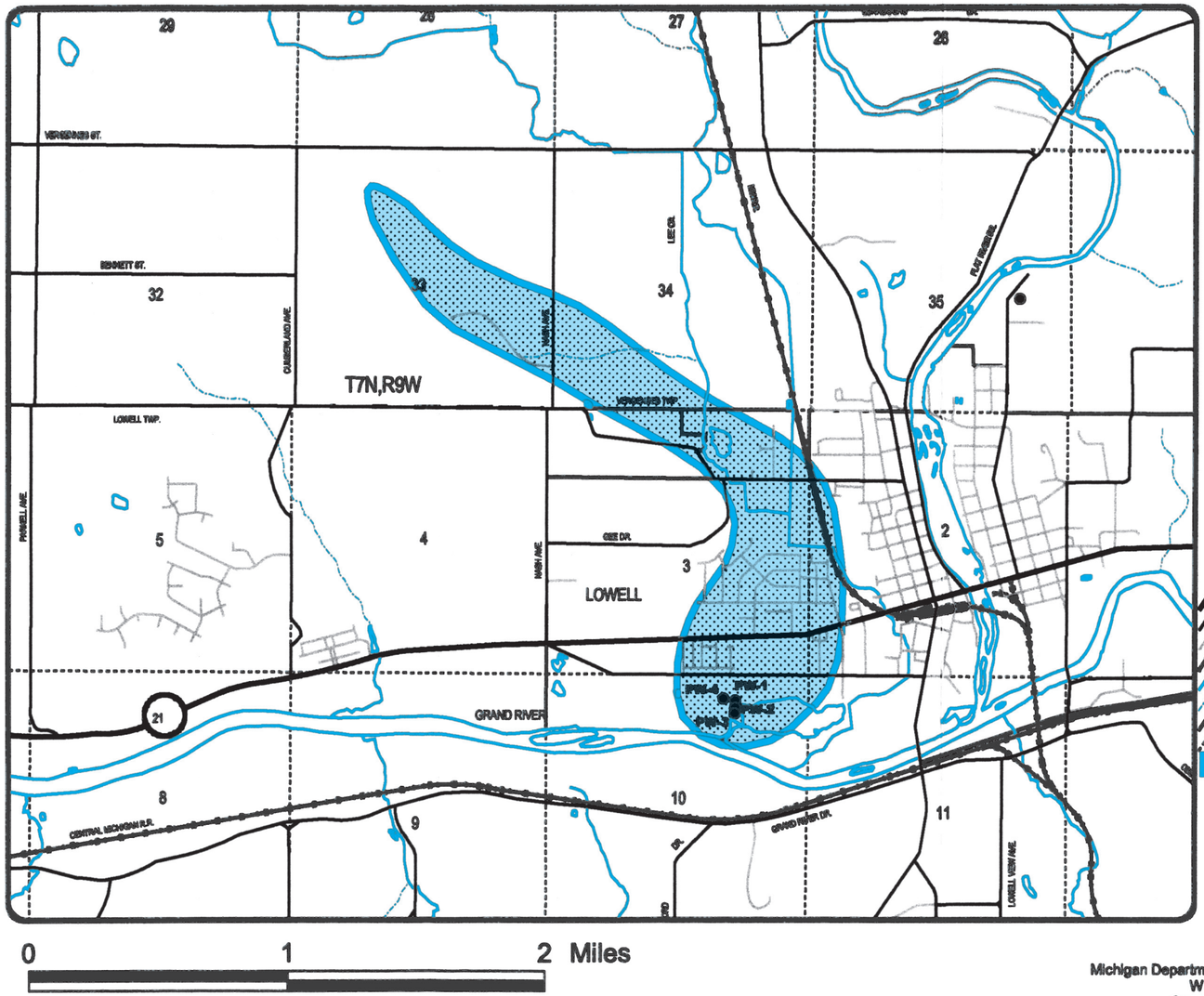
Land Use Inventory – An inventory of land uses in and around the City will determine potential sources of contamination. Underground field storage tanks, landfills, sites of historical contamination such as chemical spills and industrial facilities are just a few examples of land uses the program is looking at.

Pollution Prevention Strategies – An advisory committee made up of local citizens, planning officials, and City and Township staff is responsible for developing the best management strategies to protect the City's water supplies. These strategies include groundwater protection considerations in site plan and building codes; public education through brochures and other materials; and encouraging pollution prevention through sound handling of hazardous chemicals in households and businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City of Lowell
Water Treatment and Filtration Plant
Wellhead Protection Program
301 E. Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8457
www.ci.lowell.mi.us

Lowell Wellhead Protection Area



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Water Division
Groundwater Section
Wellhead Protection Unit
July 2004

WATER WORDS

PUT THE LETTERS IN THE RIGHT ORDER TO SPELL WATER WORDS

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PNSRIG ANIR

WATER WORKS ANSWERS
WATER AQUIFER WELL
SPRING RAIN

WATER WISDOM

1. Fifty percent of Michigan's 9 million residents depend on groundwater for their drinking water source.

2. Groundwater is stored in underground formations known as aquifers. A groundwater aquifer is most like an underground sponge.

3. Groundwater is especially susceptible to contamination because
   - it moves slowly; once contaminants enter they may be there a long time
   - it is very cold, acting as a contaminant preserver
   - it is low in oxygen, causing slow biological and chemical activity and breakdown

4. Sources of groundwater contamination can include:
   - improperly installed or malfunctioning septic tanks
   - unlined industrial and municipal waste pits, ponds and lagoons
   - agricultural land treated with fertilizers and pesticides
   - salt from road deicing operations

5. Lowell's water is softened to approximately 135 milligrams per liter or 7.8 grains.

6. The average person uses approximately 100 gallons of water per day.

7. Lowell's water softening plant went on line in 1977.

8. Lowell's water plant produces between 0.5 million to 1.5 million gallons per day.