

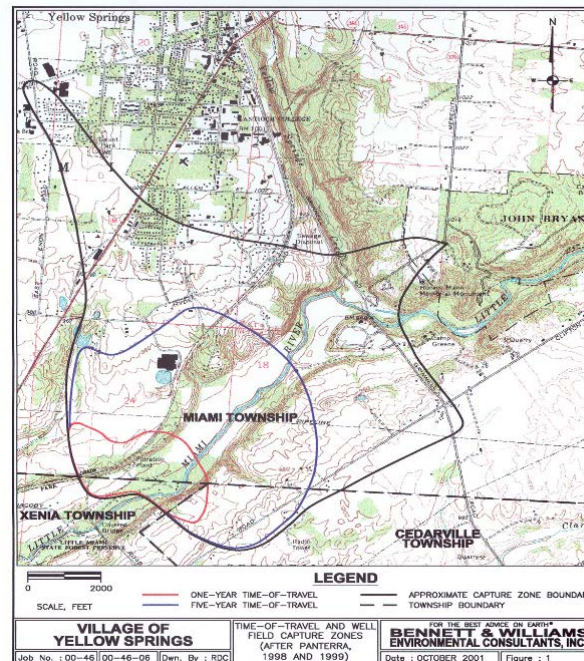
What You Can Do

The protection of our community's drinking water depends on your efforts to prevent pollution. Here are some actions you can take to help protect the Yellow Springs drinking water supply:

- **Learn about groundwater protection efforts in Yellow Springs.** Read the Yellow Springs Wellhead Protection Management Plan and recent update, and get involved with the Yellow Springs Environmental Commission's source water protection efforts.
- **Recycle leftover hazardous products, such as pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze, paint or aerosol sprays.** Never pour these chemical on the ground or into storm drains. There are periodic collection events put on by Greene County Environmental Services (<https://www.co.greene.oh.us/697/Collecton-Events>). Most automobile service centers will accept used motor oil for recycling.
- **If you have a septic system, make sure it is inspected and serviced every three years.** And avoid pouring hazardous chemicals, coffee grounds or diapers down the drain or toilet.
- **Plug abandoned wells on your property.** They provide a direct channel for surface contaminants to reach ground water.

For More Information

- The 2001 Wellhead Protection Management Plan and 2017 Update can be accessed at www.yso.com
- Contact the Village Manager or Water Superintendent with any questions or for a tour of the new Water Treatment Plant: (937) 767-1702
- Contact the Ohio EPA with questions about pollutant discharge permits and water quality monitoring in the Yellow Springs area: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/>



Protecting Yellow Springs' Drinking Water



What Every Citizen Should Know

What is Source Water Protection?

Protecting Yellow Springs drinking water – or “source water” – requires managing the area around the Village’s wells to prevent contamination. The Village’s wells pull water from a buried aquifer, which is replenished mostly through underground flow but can also receive water from above-ground sources, such as the Little Miami River. Following Ohio EPA guidance, Yellow Springs developed an exhaustive Wellhead Protection Management Plan in 2001.

The plan was created with the following steps:

- Determine the size and shape of the source water area. The Yellow Springs plan identifies the areas that replenish our aquifer every year and every five years.
- Identify potential sources of contamination, both past and present, that could be hazardous to the drinking water supply.
- Develop and implement a plan for managing the source water area, with recommendations for controlling potential pollution.

The Yellow Springs Environmental Commission has recently updated certain elements of the 2001 plan, examining the time-of-travel zones, assessing any new sources of contamination in the source water area, and determining whether recommendations from the 2001 plan were implemented.

The New Yellow Springs Water Plant



The new Yellow Springs water treatment plant is located south of the Village, near the Little Miami River. The plant was completed in November 2017, and since then has been pumping water from four wells, removing hardness-causing minerals such as iron and manganese, and filtering impurities using state-of-the-art methods.

What to expect from the new plant:

- Harness reduction from 513 mg/L to approximately 250 mg/L. Water softeners can now be set to 15 grains/gallon, though individuals may want to adjust slightly from there, depending on their preferences.
- The reduction in manganese in the treated water combined with a new unidirectional flushing system means that, over time, manganese that has built up in the distribution pipes will be flushed out, greatly reducing annoying “brown water” events.

Get Involved: Yellow Springs Pollinator Regeneration Project

The Yellow Springs Pollinator Regeneration Project is a grassroots, volunteer-based network that encourages homeowners to take simple steps to increase biodiversity, protect native pollinating insects, and eliminate toxic chemicals in their backyards. For example:

- Become a part of the project and take the Pollinator Protection Pledge
- Plant a diversity of flowering plants that bloom from spring to fall
- Protect habitat for nests and overwintering sites of insect and wildlife species
- Avoid pesticides and herbicides, including those mixed in with lawn applications
- Spread the word by telling friends that you are providing habitat for pollinators and a safe lawn for kids to play on

For more information YSPollinators@gmail.com or www.beyondpesticides.org



Photo: Nadia Malarkey