



Water System Mapping in Orange County, NY

Groundwater Guardian Featured Result Oriented Activity

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Reprinted from "The Aquifer" volume 14, number 1, June 1999

Identifying a community's drinking water source is the first step to successfully protecting that source. As an advocate of drinking water protection, the Groundwater Guardian team of Orange County, New York currently conducts Community Water System Mapping as one of its Result Oriented Activities (ROAs). This ROA is funded by the Orange County Water Authority (OCWA), which covers project expenses such as office materials, computer mapping hardware and software, and project manpower from the community and OCWA.

In Orange County the need to advance and update community water system maps and information was great, especially because of the poor condition of existing area maps. Most of the county's water system maps were hand drawn, and the majority of them were out of date. There were also a few communities within the county that didn't have water system maps. To allow each community the opportunity to better manage water systems and conserve

water supplies, updated and advanced maps needed to be produced for each area community.

The Community Water System Mapping ROA was initiated in 1996 and is a continuing project for the Orange County Groundwater Guardian team. Almost all of the communities within Orange County rely on groundwater for all or part of their drinking water supply. E911 planimetric maps are used by the team to map community water supplies and provide information

regarding roads, buildings, and driveways. Knowledge of the exact location of such structures allows communities to determine the impact of certain factors on their groundwater supply.

The maps are prepared by the OCWA's mapping staff, with each community providing the information for the maps. Once the maps are complete, they are sent to the mayors or supervisors of all of the Orange County communities that have public water systems. The community is

then responsible for drawing its water system on the working maps and returning it to the OCWA, whereupon it is reviewed by the Authority and the specific community's water department staff. The project has been so successful since its initiation in 1996 that a total of eighteen water system maps have been completed for communities within Orange County.

For more information about the Orange County Groundwater Guardian Community Water System Mapping ROA, contact James Beaumont of the Orange County Water Authority at (914) 294-5202.S



▲ Almost all of the communities within Orange County rely on groundwater for drinking water.

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