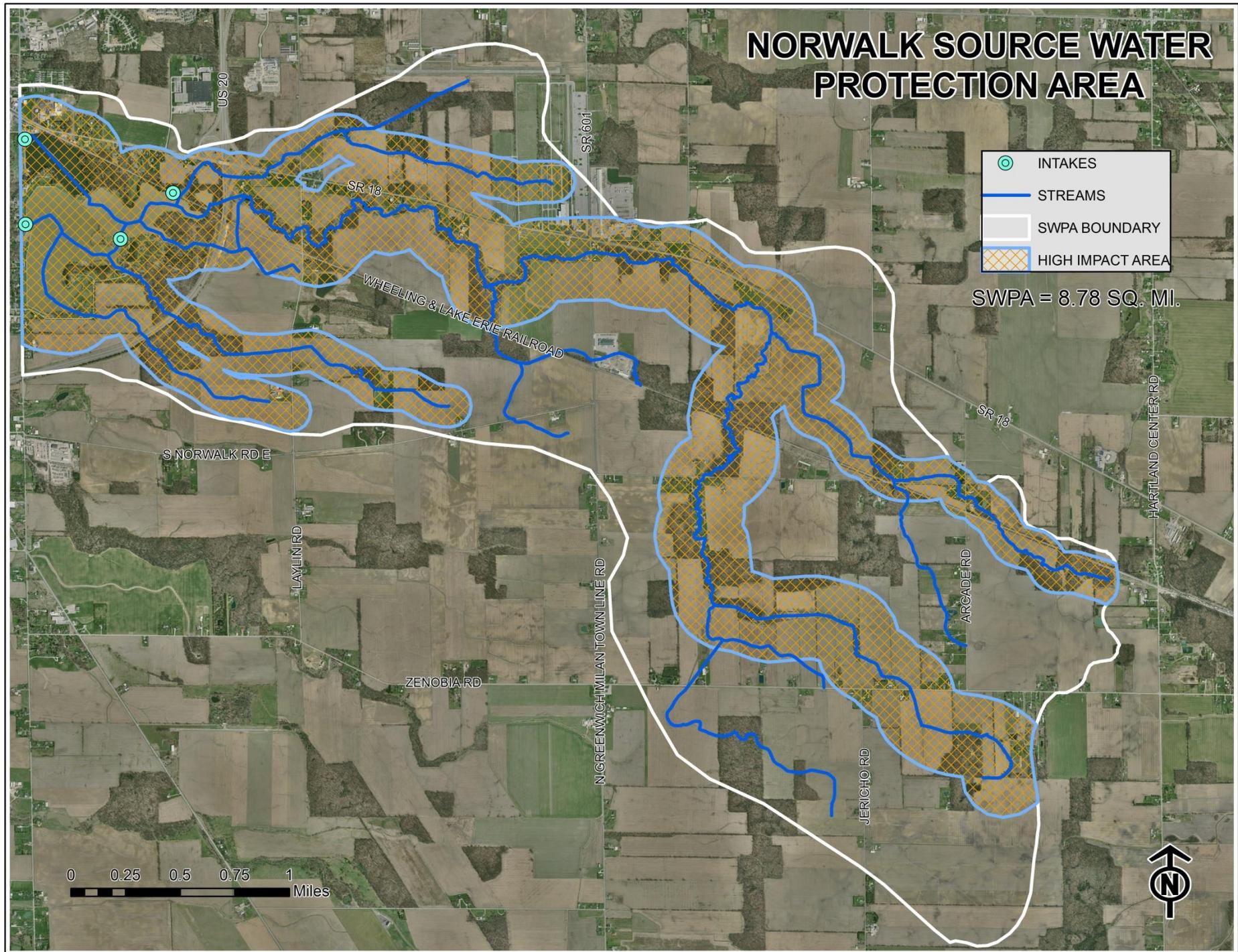


NORWALK SOURCE WATER PROTECTION AREA

- INTAKES
- STREAMS
- SWPA BOUNDARY
- HIGH IMPACT AREA

SWPA = 8.78 SQ. MI.



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



Where does the City of Norwalk's drinking water come from? More than 90 percent of the city's water supply comes from the Norwalk Creek watershed, which is depicted in the map inside. Rainwater and snowmelt in the watershed forms Norwalk Creek, which flows directly into Upper Reservoir, the first in the three reservoir system.

From Upper Reservoir, water continues into Memorial Reservoir, the largest of the three, and then flows into Lower Reservoir. Water is drawn from Lower Reservoir to be treated in the water plant. The reservoirs have a total capacity of nearly 700 million gallons, more than a year's supply.

During dry years when Norwalk Creek watershed does not provide a sufficient supply, water can be pumped to Memorial Reservoir from the East Branch of the Huron River. On average, this resource is used about once every three years.

The city also buys nearly 55 million gallons a year of treated water from Northern Ohio Rural Water. This connection provides the flexibility to ensure a reliable supply during maintenance and emergencies.

Because nearly all of the water supply comes from the Norwalk Creek watershed, this area is the focus of the city's source water protection efforts. **What are the main threats to source water quality?** The vast majority of the land in the Norwalk Creek watershed is agricultural, but there are also many residences and a few commercial enterprises. In addition, a railroad and major roadways cross the watershed. All of these have the potential to be serious threats to source water. Because the reservoir system directly intercepts the creek, anything that enters the creek will end up in the reservoirs.

A harmful algae bloom occurred in Upper Reservoir in 2014. It had great potential to harm drinking water quality, and illustrates how vulnerable the water supply is to activities in the watershed. The phosphorus required for a harmful algae bloom to occur was a result of activities in the watershed.

Norwalk's source water protection plan was developed in cooperation with many agencies, including Huron/Erie Farm Service Agency, Huron Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension, Huron County Public Health, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, the Huron County Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Rural Water Association and Ohio EPA. The protection plan lays a framework for determining means to improve water quality. The plan can be found on the city's website at www.norwalkoh.com/dept_services/water_treatment.html.

For more information, contact Superintendent Bill Albrecht at 419/663-6755, or Chief Operator Rick Schaffer at 419/663-6725.

Source water protection information may also be obtained from Ohio EPA at 419/373-4101 or at <http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/swap.aspx>.

Protecting the City of Norwalk's Source of Drinking Water



Steps our community can take to help ensure a safe and plentiful source of water for the future