

# Your guide to: Dallas Creek Water Company's Source Water Protection Plan

## What is Source Water Protection?

Source water protection is a *proactive, non-regulatory* approach to preventing the pollution of lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater that serve as sources of drinking water.

For generations, water quality was taken for granted, and still today, many people assume that our water is naturally protected. But anything we do on top of the ground has the potential to affect someone's drinking water. As water moves through and over the ground, contaminants can be picked up and carried to a community drinking water supply.



View of DCWC's infiltration gallery and pump station off Dallas Creek.

## Who is Dallas Creek Water Company?

The DCWC is a privately owned public water system that provides drinking water to users on Loghill Mesa near Ridgway, Colorado. Their source water supply comes from Dallas Creek and its tributaries; East & West Forks of Dallas Creek, Beaver Creek and Pleasant Creek.

## What's in a Source Water Protection Plan?

A SWPP identifies: the area in need of protection, called a Source Water Protection Area; potential sources of contamination; and management approaches that could help to reduce the risk of contaminants entering the source waters.

In 2016, the Dallas Creek WC worked collaboratively with area stakeholders to develop a Source Water Protection Plan for their drinking water source, which includes the Dallas Creek and its tributaries.



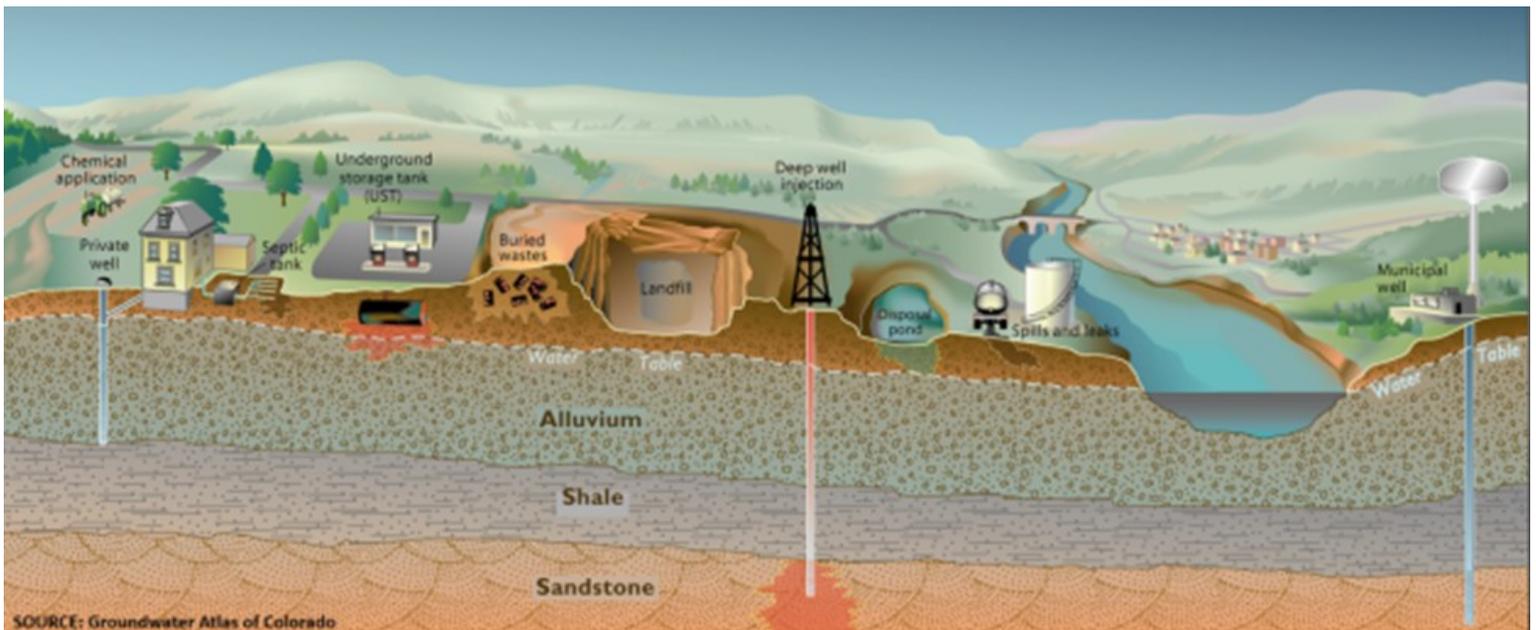
For more information about Dallas Creek WC's Source Water Protection Plan, visit [dallascreekwater.com](http://dallascreekwater.com), or call (970) 240-8123.

To report drinking water quality concerns, contact DCWC's Water Treatment Operator, Anthony Ramsey, at (970) 626-3889.

## How Can You Help Protect Your Drinking Water Source?

As a member of the Dallas Creek community, you have the most to gain or lose from the quality of your drinking water. Things you can do to help protect your drinking water include:

- **Report Spills & Dumping on Roadways**—Report any possible spills and dumping from vehicles on roads by calling “911”. This helps local emergency response teams effectively contain and remediate the spill to prevent it from entering the waterways.
- **Tread Lightly on Public Lands**—Obey all rules to protect the natural resources. Use motorized vehicles only on designated routes identified with signage or appropriate maps. While in the backcountry, pack it in and pack it out. Keep informed on forest and land management issues, participate in the planning activities related to public lands, and work together with your public land managers.
- **Maintain Your Septic System**—Inspect and pump your septic tank every 3-5 years, use water efficiently, and properly maintain your drainfield. Never flush down the toilet or drain: household chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cooking grease/oil, personal care products, and other nondegradable waste. For additional maintenance instructions, visit [www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system](http://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system)
- **Apply Fertilizers & Pesticides Properly**—When possible, use non-chemical control methods to reduce or eliminate pest problems. If using pesticides and/or fertilizers, always read the label first and follow the directions to the letter. Don't use more product than directed by the label (don't think that twice the amount will do twice the job), don't spray outdoors on windy or rainy days, and take precautions to avoid runoff. If using a commercial applicator or lawn care service, ask for information about potential risks and safety precautions to take.
- **Properly Manage Livestock & Manure**—Keep animals and their waste out of water bodies by fencing off water sources. Provide alternative water sources and hardened stream crossings to lessen livestock's impact on water quality. Store manure at least 250 feet away from water sources. Composting can help eliminate pathogens and reduce the volume of manure.
- **Report Potential Security or Vandalism Concerns**—Contact Dallas Creek WC if you see signs of vandalism such as damage to water tanks or other water system infrastructure.
- **Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste**—Never pour on the ground, down the drain, or toilet: cleaning supplies, paints, solvents, fertilizers & pesticides, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, or other waste chemicals. Read product labels for disposal directions and check with your local environmental, health or solid waste agency for more information on household hazardous waste disposal options in your area.



Schematic drawing of the potential source of contamination to surface and groundwater