



# Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report For Saint Benedict Abbey (Draft)

## What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- ? Inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- ? Assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- ? Publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

## SWAP and Water Quality

Susceptibility of a drinking water source does *not* imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests.

Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring for more than 100 chemicals, treating water supplies, and using source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

Prepared by the  
Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection,  
Bureau of Resource  
Protection,  
Drinking Water Program

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**Table 1: Public Water System (PWS) Information**

<b>PWS NAME</b>	Saint Benedict Abbey
<b>PWS Address</b>	252 Still River Road
<b>City/Town</b>	Harvard
<b>PWS ID Number</b>	2125002
<b>Local Contact</b>	Fr. Xavier Connelly
<b>Phone Number</b>	(978) 456-3221

<b>Well Name</b>	<b>Source ID#</b>	<b>Zone 1 (in feet)</b>	<b>IWPA (in feet)</b>	<b>Source Susceptibility</b>
Well #1	2125002-01G	100	409	Moderate
Well #2	2125002-02G	127	433	Moderate
Well #3	2125002-03G	101	422	Moderate
Well #4	2125002-04G	100	412	Moderate

## Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including septic systems, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Citizens and local officials can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

### Purpose of this report:

This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. By identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential contaminant sources, the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

### This report includes:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Discussion of Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Recommendations for Protection
4. Attachments, including a Map of the Protection Areas

## 1. Description of the Water System

Saint Benedict Abbey gets its water from four bedrock wells. Well #1 is located in the basement of the main residence, wells #2 and #3 are located in the hayfield behind the other on-site building, and well #4 is located behind the auditorium. Well #1 has a Zone 1 of 100 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 409 feet. Well #2 has a Zone 1 of 127 feet and an IWPA of 433 feet, well #3 has a Zone 1 of 101 feet and an IWPA of 422 feet and well #4 has a Zone 1 of 100 feet and an IWPA of 412 feet. The wells are located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. Please refer to

### What is a Protection Area?

A well's water supply protection area is the land around the well where protection activities should be focused. Each well has a Zone I protective radius and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

- **The Zone I** is the area that should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.
- **The IWPA** is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well.

In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified in this report.

### What is Susceptibility?

Susceptibility is a measure of a well's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

the attached map of the Zone I and IWPA. The wells serving the facility have no treatment at this time. For current information on monitoring results and treatment, please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1 for a copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report.

## 2. Discussion of Land Uses in the Protection Areas

There are a number of land uses and activities within the drinking water supply protection areas that are potential sources of contamination.

Key issues include:

1. **Inappropriate Activities in Zone Is;**
2. **An Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) With Heating Oil; and**
3. **Stormwater Catchbasin.**

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the well is Moderate, based on the presence of at least one moderate threat land use or activity in the IWPA's, as seen in Table 2.

1. **Zone I** – Currently, the wells do not meet DEP's restrictions, which only allow water supply related activities in Zone I. The facility's Zone I contain buildings, roads, and parking areas. The public water supplier does not own and/or control all land encompassed by the Zone I. Please note that systems not meeting DEP Zone I requirements must get DEP approval and address Zone I issues prior to increasing water use or modifying systems.

#### Recommendations:

- ✓ Ensure that stormwater runoff from the roads and parking areas is directed away from the Zone I.
  - ✓ Remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone I to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
2. **Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) with fuel oil** – An AST is located in the basement of the main residence. The area around the AST is bermed so that its containment volume is at least 10 % greater than the tank. If managed improperly, Aboveground Storage Tanks can be a potential contaminant source due to leaks or spills of the chemicals they store.

**Table 2: Table of Activities within the Water Supply Protection Areas**

Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Comments
Parking spaces, driveways & roads	Well # 1	Well #1	Moderate	Limit road salt usage and provide drainage away from wells
Septic System	No	Well #4	Moderate	See Septic system brochure
Fuel Storage Above Ground	Well #1	Well #1	Moderate	Tank is in bermed area.
Propane tank	Well #4	Well #4	Moderate	Source of heat for Auditorium

\* -For more information on Contaminants of Concern associated with individual facility types and land uses please see the SWAP Draft Land Use / Associated Contaminants Matrix on DEP's website - [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/).

## Glossary

**Zone I:** The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. To determine your Zone I radius, refer to the attached map.

**IWPA:** A 400 foot to ½ mile radius around a public water supply well proportional to its pumping rate; the area DEP recommends for protection in the absence of a defined Zone I. To determine IWPA radius, refer to the attached map.

**Zone II:** The primary recharge area defined by a hydrogeologic study.

**Aquifer:** An underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well.

**Hydrogeologic Barrier:** An underground layer of impermeable material that resists penetration by water.

**Recharge Area:** The surface area that contributes water to a well.

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Any modifications to the AST must be accomplished in a manner consistent with Massachusetts's plumbing, building, and fire code requirements. Consult with the local fire department for any additional local code requirements regarding ASTs.

- 3. Septic system** – The septic system is located within the IWPA of well #4. If a septic system fails or is not properly maintained it could be a potential source of microbial contamination. Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the water supply.

#### Recommendations:

- ✓ Staff should be instructed on the proper disposal of spent household chemicals. Include custodial staff, groundskeepers, and certified operator.
- ✓ Septic system components should be located, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis. Refer to the appendices for more information regarding septic systems.

Implementing the following recommendations will reduce the system's susceptibility to contamination.

## 3. Protection Recommendations

Implementing protection measures and best management practices (BMPs) will reduce the wells' susceptibility to contamination. Saint Benedict Abbey should review and adopt the key recommendations above and the following:

### Zone I:

- ✓ Keep non-water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- ✓ Consider well relocation if Zone I threats cannot be mitigated.
- ✓ If it's not feasible to purchase privately owned land within the Zone I at this time, consider a conservation restriction that would prohibit potentially

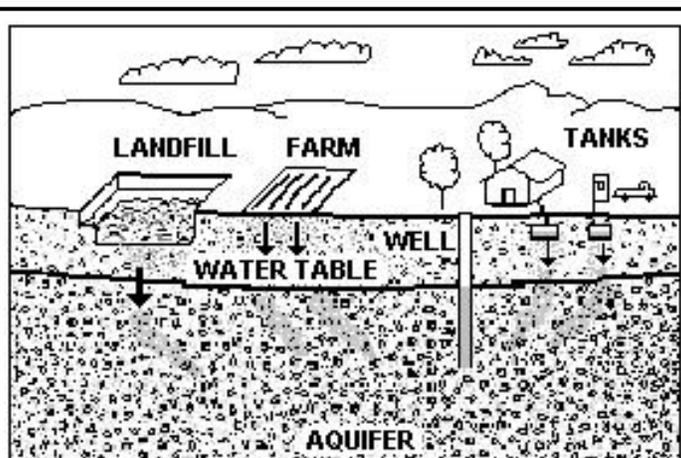


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

threatening activities or a right of first refusal to purchase the property.

- ✓ Do not use road salt within the Zone I.

### Training and Education:

- ✓ Post drinking water protection area signs at key visibility locations.

### Facilities Management:

- ✓ Implement standard operating procedures regarding proper storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials.
- ✓ Septic system components should be located, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis. Refer to the appendices for more information regarding septic systems.

### Planning:

- ✓ Work with local officials in Harvard to include the Abbey IWPA's in Aquifer Protection District Bylaws

### For More Information:

Contact **Josephine Yemoh-Ndi** in DEP's **Worcester Office** at (508) 792-7650 x 5030 for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

More information relating to drinking water and source protection is available on the Drinking Water Program web site at:

[www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/)

### Additional Documents:

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/), including:

1. Water Supply Protection Guidance Materials such as model regulations, Best Management Practice information, and general water supply protection information.
2. MA DEP SWAP Strategy
3. Land Use Pollution Potential Matrix
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix

Copies of this assessment have been provided to the public water supplier, town boards, the town library and the local media.

and to assist you in improving protection.

- ✓ Have a plan to address short-term water shortages and long-term water demands. Keep the phone number of a bottled water company readily available.
- ✓ Supplement the SWAP assessment with additional local information and incorporate it into water supply educational efforts. Use a potential contaminant threat inventory to assist in setting priorities, focusing inspections, and creating educational activities.

### Funding:

The Department's Wellhead Grant Protection Program provides funds to assist public water suppliers in addressing Wellhead protection through local projects. Protection recommendations discussed in this document may be eligible for funding under the 2001 "Wellhead Protection Grant Program". For additional information, please refer to the attached program fact sheet (Please note: each program year the Department posts a new Request for Response for the Grant program (RFR)).

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

## 4. Attachments

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area.
- Recommended Source Protection Measures Factsheet
- Your Septic System Brochure
- Pesticide Use Factsheet
- Wellhead Protection Grant Program Fact Sheet
- Source Protection Sign Order Form

