



**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report**  
**For**  
**Westport Town Hall Annex/Administration Building**

**What is SWAP?**

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program, 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>	Westport Town Hall Annex/Administration Building
<b>PWS Address</b>	856 Main Road
<b>City/Town</b>	Westport, MA 02790
<b>PWS ID Number</b>	4334009
<b>Local Contact</b>	Linda Correia
<b>Phone Number</b>	508-324-2723

<b>Well Name</b>	<b>Source ID#</b>	<b>Zone I (in feet)</b>	<b>IWPA (in feet)</b>	<b>Source Susceptibility</b>
Well #1	01G	112	427	High

**Introduction**

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential sources of contamination, 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 sources of contamination the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff is available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to you.

**This report includes:**

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

### 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).

## 1. Description of the Water System

The well provides drinking water to Westport's Administration Building and Town Hall Annex. The well has a Zone I of 112 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 427 feet. The IWPA provides an interim protection area for a water supply well when the actual recharge area has not been delineated. The actual recharge area to the well may be significantly larger or smaller than the IWPA. The well is 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 the attached map for land uses that are located within the Zone I and IWPA.

The well serving the facility has pH adjustment treatment approved by the Department. DEP requires public water suppliers to monitor the quality of the water. For current information on monitoring results and treatment, please contact the public water system person listed above in Table 1. Drinking water monitoring reporting data is also available on the web via EPA's Envirofacts website at [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis\\_query.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_query.html).

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

**Key issues include the following.**

1. Zone I issues, including a residence with a septic system.
2. Public Building Complex, including Town Hall Annex, Parking Lot & Preschool
3. Residential Development, including fuel storage tanks
4. Transportation Corridor
5. Commercial Office - Veterinarian

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the well is HIGH based on the presence of multiple threats within the Zone I and IWPA and the lack of ownership of the entire Zone I.

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

Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Potential Concern
Residential Development (including septic systems, fuel tanks)	Yes - residence & septic system	Yes	H	spills or leaks from fuel delivery & storage; microbial contaminants from septic systems; pesticides or fertilizers from lawn care
Public Building Complex, including Town Hall annex, preschool, parking lot (30 spaces)	Yes	Yes	M	spills or leaks of materials and wastes from buildings and parking lot
Transportation Corridor	edge	Yes	M	leaks or spills of fuel and other substances
Commercial Office (veterinary)	No	Yes	M	spills or leaks of medical & pet wastes

\* 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 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.

1. **Zone I** – The public water system posts water supply awareness signs but does not own or control the entire Zone I.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ As much as possible, keep non-water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- ✓ Conduct regular inspections of the Zone I.
- ✓ Enter into an agreement with the homeowner in the Zone I to maintain their septic system and not use pesticides or fertilizers on the lawn.

2. **Residential Development** – The Zone I and IWPA consist of 49% residential development. Common potential sources of contamination include:

- **Septic Systems** – Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the groundwater because septic systems lead to the ground. If septic systems fail or are not properly maintained they can be a potential source of microbial contamination.
- **Household Hazardous Materials** - Hazardous materials may include automotive wastes, paints, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, and other substances. Improper use, storage, and disposal of chemical products used in homes are potential sources of contamination.
- **Heating Oil Storage** - If managed improperly, Underground and Aboveground Storage Tanks (UST and AST) can be potential sources of contamination due to leaks or spills of the fuel oil they store.

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Educate residents on source protection measures for protecting water supplies. Distribute the enclosed fact sheet *Residents Protect Drinking Water*.

2. **Town Hall Building, Parking Lot, Preschool** - within the Zone I & IWPA.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ Use BMPs for handling, storing, using and disposing of wastes.
- ✓ Do not use fertilizers, pesticides or de-icing chemicals.
- ✓ Train employees in water supply protection.

3. **Transportation Corridor - Stormwater** – A local road runs through the IWPA on the edge of the Zone I. Catch basins transport stormwater from roadways and adjacent properties to the ground. As flowing stormwater travels, it picks up debris and contaminants from streets and lawns. Common potential contaminants include lawn chemicals, pet waste, and contaminants from automotive leaks, maintenance and washing. Spills from vehicular accidents can also contaminate public drinking water sources.

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Wherever possible, ensure that drains discharge to outside the Zone I and IWPA.

4. **Commercial Office – Veterinarian** – within the IWPA.

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Encourage the use of BMPs for handling, storing, and disposing of medical and pet wastes.

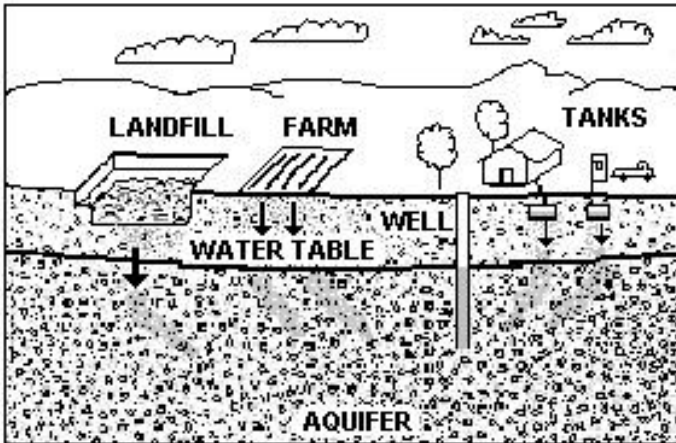


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

### For More Information

Contact Isabel Collins in DEP's Lakeville Office at (508) 946-2726 for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

### 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; and
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix.

Copies of this assessment have been made available to the public water supplier and town boards.

## 3. Recommendations for Protection

Implementing protection measures will reduce the well's susceptibility to contamination. Facility operators should review and adopt the key recommendations above and in the following sections.

### Priority Recommendations:

#### Zone I

- ✓ Keep non-water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- ✓ Inspect the Zone I.

### Training and Education

- ✓ Train employees on the proper use, handling, storage and disposal of chemicals or wastes.

### Facilities Management

- ✓ Do not use or store pesticides, fertilizers or road salt within the Zone I.
- ✓ Padlock the wellhead.

### Planning

- ✓ Include the well's IWPA in a local Aquifer Protection District Bylaw.

### Funding

The Department's Wellhead Protection Grant 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 that program. For additional information, please refer to DEP's web site. Other funding opportunities are described in *Grant and Loan Programs: Opportunities for Watershed Protection, Planning and Implementation* at <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/mf/files/glprgm.pdf>.

Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to encourage discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

## 4. Attachments

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area
- Recommended Source Protection Measures fact sheet
- Residents Protection Drinking Water fact sheet
- Source Protection Sign Order Form