



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Issues Reminder
About Access to Cobble Mountain and Borden Brook Reservoirs
*Canoeing, Boating, or Entering Reservoir Water for Any Reason is Prohibited***

As the summer recreational season continues, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is reminding residents and visitors to Blandford and Granville that entering the Cobble Mountain or Borden Brook reservoirs, or the adjacent watershed land, is not allowed.

Cobble Mountain and Borden Brook Reservoirs are the primary drinking water supply for the greater Springfield region, serving approximately 250,000 customers on a daily basis. The Commission manages approximately 14,000 acres of protected forestland surrounding the reservoirs. Access to these watershed lands and the reservoirs is prohibited. Recreation – including hiking, biking, boating, fishing, and other recreational activities in the reservoirs or watershed land – is also prohibited due to the potential introduction of harmful contaminants into the water supply. These include bacteria, soil erosion (leading to turbidity), or inorganic contaminants that may inadvertently or intentionally be introduced into the water supply. Even small amounts of such contaminants can adversely impact water treatment processes.

The Commission's highest priority is safeguarding the public health of and the quality of water provided to its customers. For that reason, any boats or recreational equipment found within the reservoir or the Commission's watershed properties will be immediately removed. Contact information will be left at the site of the removal notifying owners how to retrieve their belongings. In addition, the reservoirs and



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watershed area are regularly monitored by Commission staff and Massachusetts State Police to deter trespassing.

The Commission requests and appreciates the public's cooperation in maintaining a safe and clean water supply for its 250,000 customers in the lower Pioneer Valley. Questions about access to watershed lands can be directed to Jaimye Bartak, Communications Manager, at 413-452-1302 or at info@waterandsewer.org.

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