



**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 Watershed Land  
*Hiking, walking, and motorized activities prohibited***

With the arrival of warmer weather, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is reminding residents of and visitors to Blandford and Granville that recreation on Commission-owned watershed land surrounding Cobble Mountain or Borden Brook Reservoirs 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, including residential and commercial properties, hospitals, businesses, restaurants, colleges and universities, entertainment venues, and more. The Commission owns and manages approximately 14,500 acres of protected forestland surrounding the reservoirs. Access to the reservoirs is prohibited. Recreation on watershed property – including walking, hiking, biking, fishing, and motorized activities, such as the use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Off-Highway vehicles (OHVs) is also prohibited, unless otherwise posted.

**Areas Open to Public Access**

While access to Commission-owned watershed property is restricted, there are other areas within the Little River Watershed that are accessible to the public for limited, passive recreation. More information on these publicly accessible areas, as well as permitted and prohibited activities, is available on the Commission's interactive watershed map found at <https://waterandsewer.org/education/recreation/>.



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**Protecting Public Health**

The source water protection regulations and watershed restrictions are in place to protect the public drinking water supply from contamination. Recreational activities have the potential to introduce harmful contaminants and bacteria into the water supply and could cause soil compaction or erosion, leading to run-off issues. Even small amounts of such contaminants can adversely impact water treatment processes. The use of motorized vehicles like ATVs can also transfer invasive plants, fungus and diseases, threatening the native forest that acts as a natural filter to the public drinking water reservoirs.

Drinking water is essential to daily life and public health, and providing an uninterrupted supply of drinking water to our direct customers in Springfield and Ludlow, and wholesale communities of Agawam, East Longmeadow, and Longmeadow, is the Commission's top priority. The Commission appreciates the public's cooperation in maintaining a safe and clean water supply.

Watershed lands are monitored by Commission personnel, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Massachusetts Environmental Police. Individuals found to be in violation of watershed use policy, trespassing, or engaging in other prohibited activities on watershed land will be held accountable and charges and fines will be brought forth as applicable. Commission personnel and cooperating law enforcement agencies will be coordinating again this year to closely monitor watershed property and enforce public access restrictions.

More information about the Commission's Watershed Management Plan is available at <https://waterandsewer.org/education/watershed-management/>. Anyone with further questions can contact the Commission at 413-452-1300 or [info@waterandsewer.org](mailto:info@waterandsewer.org).

**END**