



# WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?



# Public Water Supply History



*Water Pump in New York City, circa 1800s. Image from New York Public Library.*

**When you turn on the faucet in your home, have you ever wondered where the water flowing out of the faucet comes from?**



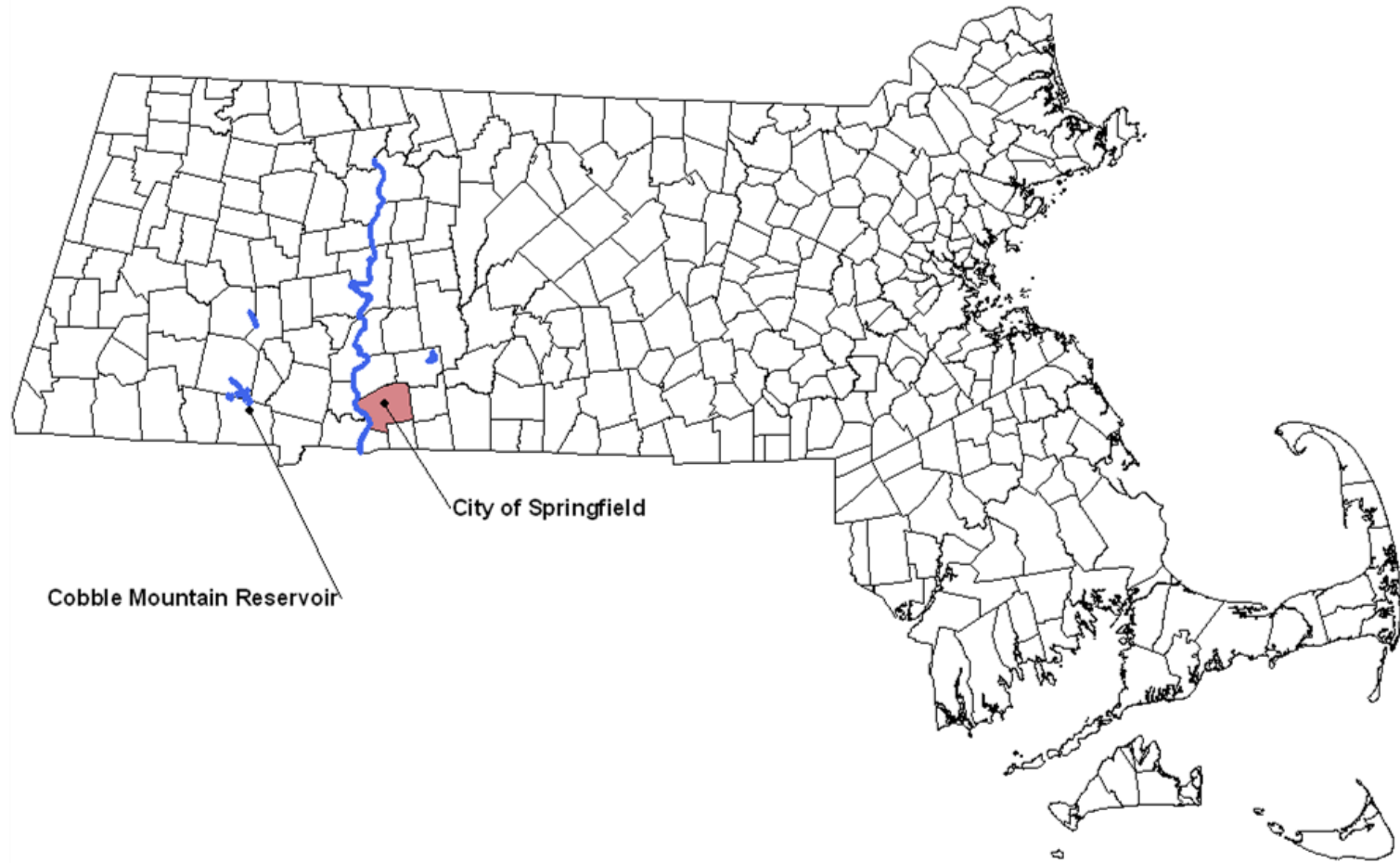
# **Cobble Mountain Reservoir is the primary drinking water source for Springfield and some surrounding communities.**



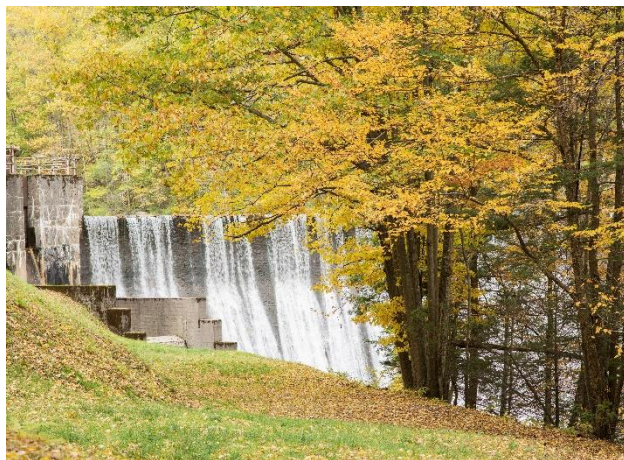
*Cobble Mountain Reservoir*



# Cobble Mountain Reservoir is located in Blandford and Granville Massachusetts.

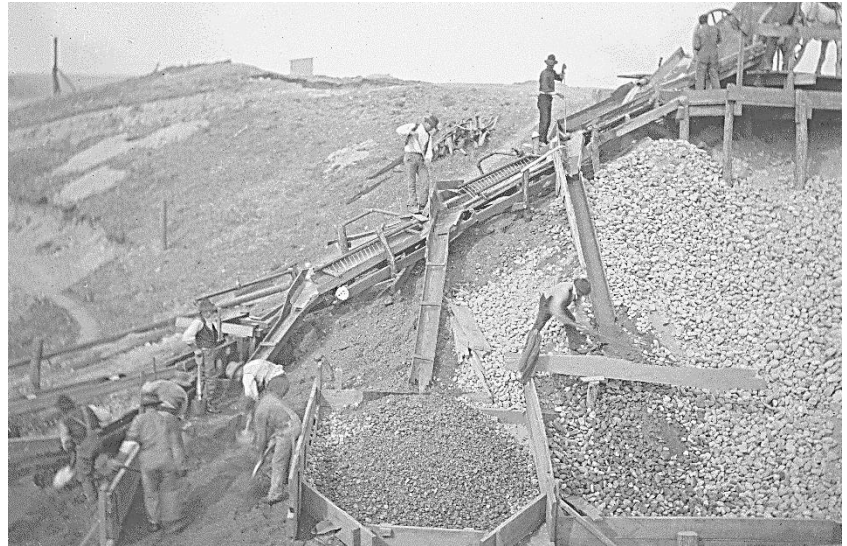


# The reservoir, and the entire drinking water and wastewater system in Springfield is operated and maintained by the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission.



# About Cobble Mountain Reservoir

- **The reservoir was constructed in 1930 to provide water for the rapidly growing City of Springfield.**
- **It contains approximately 22 billion gallons of water.**
- **Water flows from the reservoir to the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant in Westfield, where it is filtered and treated to protect public health.**
- **Cobble Mountain Reservoir is the primary drinking water source for approximately 250,000 people in the greater Springfield area.**



*Water System Construction*



*Cobble Mountain Reservoir*



# Little River Watershed

- **Cobble Mountain Reservoir is located in the Little River Watershed. Approximately 14,000 acres of within the Little River Watershed is protected, owned, and/or managed by the Commission for the purpose of water quality protection.**
- **The pristine location minimizes the risk of water supply contamination, as the forest provides a natural buffer to surrounding development and natural filtration of potential contaminants.**



*Watershed forest land*



*Feeder brook*





# West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant

- **Water from Cobble Mountain Reservoir travels to the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant for filtration and treatment.**
- **The treatment plant processes an average of 30 million gallons of water per day – enough to fill 600,000 bath tubs!**
- **At the treatment plant water is filtered and then chlorine is added for disinfection to protect against waterborne diseases.**
- **Water then travels from the plant through large diameter pipes until it's delivered to customers in the Springfield area.**



*Rapid Sands Filter at West Parish Filters.*



*Pipe gallery at West Parish Filters.*



# Why is Water Treatment Important?

- **Water is filtered and treated to protect public health. The filtration process removes particles and impurities from the water.**
- **Chlorine is a disinfectant used to treat drinking water to protect the public against disease. Disinfectants like chlorine kill bacteria and viruses that can enter a water system.**
- **The use of chlorine and other disinfectants has virtually eliminated instances of waterborne diseases like typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery in the United States and other developed countries.**



*Rapid Sands Filter at West Parish Filters*



*A Commission laboratory technician conducts water quality testing - the Commission analyzes over 50,000 water quality sample tests per year!*



# About the Water System



**There are over 597 miles of pipe that deliver water from the reservoir to the customers in the system.**



# Water Distribution

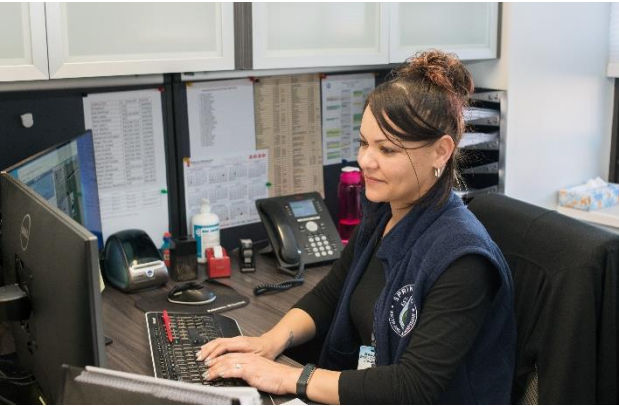
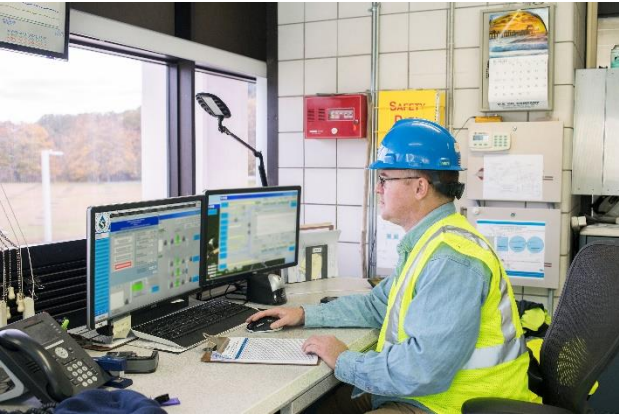
**When you turn on the faucet in your home, remember that**

- **The water originated at Cobble Mountain Reservoir**
- **Was filtered and treated at West Parish Filters**
- **Traveled through miles of distribution mains by gravity**
- **Is safe to be used for drinking, cooking bathing, cleaning and more!**



# Water Industry Careers

**The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission has approximately 250 employees.**



*Commission employees at work at various Commission facilities and in the field*



# Career Opportunities at the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

- **Treatment Plant Operators**
- **Engineers**
- **Environmental Scientists**
- **Laboratory Technicians**
- **Forestry and Watershed Managers**
- **Information Technology and GIS Personnel**
- **Skilled Laborers**
- **Equipment Operators**
- **Business/Accounting/Finance Personnel**
- **Customer Service Representatives**
- **Human Resources and Communications Personnel**



*Commission employees  
at work in the field*



# How do we use water every day?



# Why are the services provided by the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission important to me?

- **Public Health**
- **Economy**
- **Environment**







**413-452-1300**  
**[waterandsewer.org](http://waterandsewer.org)**



**@SpfldWaterSewer**