



**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 Posted Cobble Mountain and Borden Brook Water Supply  
Property**

***Walking, hiking, and motorized activities prohibited on Commission property posted for No  
Trespassing***

With the arrival of spring, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is reminding residents of and visitors to Blandford and Granville that recreation on posted Commission-owned water supply property 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. The Commission owns and manages approximately 14,500 acres of forestland surrounding the reservoirs. Most of this forestland is posted for no trespassing and therefore, access to these watershed lands and the reservoirs is prohibited. Recreation on this property – including walking, hiking, biking, and motorized activities, such as the use of ATVs and dirt bikes, is also banned.

The Commission recognizes there is an increased interest during the coronavirus pandemic to enjoy outdoor recreational activities like hiking and walking. Since protecting the public water supply during this public health crisis is so critical, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Massachusetts State Police and Commission employees are continuing to monitor Commission water supply property and enforce public access restrictions. The Commission is asking for the public's help in protecting the water supply by heeding no trespassing orders and enjoying recreational activities elsewhere.



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Motorized vehicle use on water supply property have the potential to introduce harmful contaminants and bacteria into the water supply and could cause soil compaction or erosion problems. These issues can adversely impact water treatment processes. Motorized vehicles 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 customers is the Commission's top priority. The Commission 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 water supply property can be directed to Jaimye Bartak, Communications Manager, at 413-452-1302 or at [info@waterandsewer.org](mailto:info@waterandsewer.org).

**Photos Attached**

- **Cobble Mountain Reservoir:** *As seen in the fall of 2019.*
- **Borden Brook Reservoir:** *Borden Brook Reservoir and surrounding water supply property.*

**END**