



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Awarded Grant**  
*National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding will reduce effluent nitrogen loads in the Connecticut River*

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce it was selected as a recipient of grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation- Long Island Sound Futures Fund. This funding will be used to purchase nitrogen monitoring instrumentation at the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (SRWTF), located on Bondi's Island in Agawam to further support efforts to reduce nitrogen loads discharged into the Connecticut River.

The Commission was awarded \$290,000 of \$2.8 million total allocated to projects across New England aimed at improving the health of Long Island Sound (LIS).

The SRWTF is the second largest wastewater treatment facility in New England, and discharges approximately 39 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated water into the Connecticut River, where it eventually makes its way to the Long Island Sound and Atlantic Ocean. Since 2004 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has regulated nitrogen loading from wastewater treatment plants in the Connecticut River watershed based upon a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) established for Long Island Sound. Although this threshold is being met, the EPA continues to seek further reduction of nitrogen loading in the Connecticut River.

The Commission will utilize the grant funding to purchase and install nitrogen monitoring instrumentation to optimize the Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) process at the plant, and further reduce nitrogen loading into the Connecticut River. As part of the enhanced BNR process, the instrumentation will capture data on the amount of nitrogen in the wastewater, which will be integrated into the treatment system to automatically adjust settings to match real-time oxygen demands in the aeration basins, in which micro-organisms break down the nitrogen products.

It is expected that this advanced optimization will reduce nitrogen loads, discharged by the SRWTF, into the Connecticut River by up to 3,000 lbs. per year.

As the costs associated with cleaning and treating wastewater continue to rise the Commission has been strategic in seeking out grant opportunities and partnerships to advance initiatives aimed at further reducing nitrogen loading in the Connecticut River. This includes a collaborative nitrogen



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sampling program with the U.S. Geological Survey, which was launched in 2018, to use gages installed along the Connecticut River to monitor nitrogen levels in the river water. Another grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), awarded in 2020, further enhanced monitoring and data recording capabilities by funding the purchase of instrumentation at the SRWTF to measure nitrogen levels in the treated wastewater, before it is released into the river.

As science and technology continue to evolve, these grant funding opportunities help support research and upgrades for the wastewater treatment facility, which was constructed on Bondi's Island in 1977 following the adoption of the Clean Water Act in 1972. Much of the equipment and machinery originally installed in 1977 is still in use today, and predate the 2004 LIS nitrogen TMDL by nearly 30 years. The Commission, and its contracted wastewater operator SUEZ, continue to optimize the existing plant to the fullest extent possible, while also investing in new resources and equipment to enhance wastewater treatment and maintain compliance with strict regulations and discharge permits.

The SRWTF serves approximately thirty percent of the entire Western Massachusetts population, and plays a critical role in protecting public health, keeping communities clean and sanitary, and supporting economic development. Cities and towns that convey wastewater to the facility include Springfield, Agawam, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Ludlow, West Springfield, and Wilbraham. Grant opportunities, like those offered by the NFWF allow the Commission to further enhance treatment and continue to fulfill its mission to return clean water to the environment, to benefit not only the local region but the entire Connecticut River Watershed area.

**About the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission**

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, regional public utility that provides drinking water and wastewater service to approximately 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley.

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