



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Receives Water Supply Protection Grant**

*\$47,500 grant will support source water protection in the Little River Watershed*

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce it was recently selected as a recipient of state funding from the Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program. The funds will help to protect land in the Little River Watershed, surrounding Cobble Mountain and Borden Brook Reservoirs in Blandford and Granville, MA, the Commission's primary drinking water supplies.

Through the DWSP Grant Program, overseen by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Commission will receive \$47,500 to be used for water supply protection purposes. The funding will support the Commission's watershed land acquisition program, through the purchase of 12-acres of watershed property, located off Gibbs Road in Blandford, MA. Within the 12-acre property, which abuts Commission water supply land, is a tributary that discharges to Cobble Mountain Reservoir. The land, and tributary, will be protected, and actively managed through the Commission's Watershed Management Program, to help safeguard the public drinking water supply, which serves approximately 250,000 customers in the Lower Pioneer Valley, from contamination and development.

Within the Little River Watershed, the Commission owns and maintains over 14,000 acres of forestland surrounding Cobble Mountain and Borden Brook Reservoirs. As part of the Commission's Land Acquisition Program the potential purchase of properties for protection is prioritized based on several factors, including if the parcel has acreage with 400 feet of a surface water supply, known as Zone A, under Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. The 12-acre Blandford parcel includes areas within Zone A, as well as Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) wetlands. The 12-acre Blandford parcel fulfills DWSP eligibility requirements as it is located in an existing Mass DEP approved drinking water supply area and is being purchased by the Commission for the purpose of water supply protection and land conservation purposes.

The announcement of the DWSP grant funding comes as the Commission celebrates [Source Water Protection Week](#), September 26 – October 2, 2021, a week devoted to raising awareness of the critical role source water protection and watershed management play in ensuring a safe and reliable drinking water supply and maintaining healthy



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communities. As stewards of the region's drinking water, the Commission is committed to protecting and preserving source water quality of Borden Brook and Cobble Mountain Reservoirs, as well as the emergency water supply, Ludlow Reservoir, in Ludlow, MA, to protect public health and adapt to changing drinking water regulations to provide an uninterrupted water supply to customers. As part of Source Water Protection Week, the Commission encourages the public to learn more about their drinking water supply, in Borden Brook and Cobble Mountain Reservoirs, as well as measures the Commission has taken to protect the drinking water supply source. More information is available on the Commission's website <https://waterandsewer.org/education/watershed-management/>.

**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. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow, and wholesale drinking water to Agawam, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow, as well as emergency/peak service to Southwick, West Springfield, Westfield, Chicopee, and Wilbraham. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and wholesale wastewater service to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

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