



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

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PIPELINE PROGRAM
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Now Accepting Applications for The Pipeline Program for Summer 2024

The work-based learning internship program is offered in collaboration with Springfield Public Schools

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce that applications for the Pipeline Program for summer 2024 are now being accepted. Launched in 2023 in partnership with Springfield Public Schools, Veolia North America, and the Massachusetts Water Works Association, the Commission's [Pipeline Program](#) is a work-based learning paid summer internship program for 12 high school students in Springfield.

The aim of the Pipeline Program, now in its second year, is to help build the next generation of water professionals by exposing high school students to rewarding water sector career opportunities and to provide a paid opportunity for area youth to gain critical job skills while serving their local community.

Pipeline Program 2024

To fill the limited available positions in the Pipeline Program the Commission is seeking motivated, hard-working high school students from Springfield looking to explore career options, gain experience, and learn more about the daily operations at the region's largest water utility.

As part of the program interns explore various career opportunities within the water sector and rotate through different Commission departments at its seven facilities including Cobble Mountain Reservoir in Blandford/Granville, West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant in Westfield, the Field Operations Center in Springfield, and the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (SRWTF) on Bondi's Island in Agawam.

This exploratory program provides Pipeline Interns with the opportunity to experience different water-sector careers by working in departments like water and wastewater operations, laboratory services, water quality, watershed and environmental protection, engineering, and information technology and cybersecurity. Commission employees from these departments serve as mentors to the interns and offer guidance on career pathways.



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In addition to the departmental rotations Pipeline Interns participate in enrichment activities including visits to other area water utilities to learn more about career opportunities, mentorship meetings, and team building. Interns will also take an introductory to water operations course through the Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA). This course prepares students for further drinking water treatment courses, training, and the drinking water treatment state licensing process.

Building the Water Workforce of the Future

Water professionals are in high demand due to a wave of retirements and to meet the needs of modern drinking water and wastewater systems. The water sector offers enduring, non-outsourcable careers that provide dynamic opportunities, competitive pay and robust benefits.

Executive Director Josh Schimmel stated, “The water sector is currently experiencing a wave of retirements; meanwhile, daily operations are also evolving quickly due to more advanced treatment systems, the adoption of technology, climate change, and expanding regulations. It is an especially exciting time at the Commission, as we renew our infrastructure through the \$550 million [Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal Program](#), and start construction of the [new West Parish Drinking Water Treatment Plant](#) later this summer. Through the Pipeline Program we aim to build the next generation of water professionals to manage and maintain these systems and continue to provide the essential services we rely on every day.”

Pipeline Program Partnership

The Commission is pleased to continue its collaboration on the Pipeline Program with Springfield Public Schools and its Internship and Career Pathways Program. High school students will work with their school’s Career Readiness Coordinator to help advise them through the Pipeline Program application process.

Superintendent Daniel Warwick of Springfield Public Schools expressed his enthusiasm for the Pipeline Program, stating, "The collaboration between Springfield Public Schools and the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission in offering the Pipeline Program is a testament to our commitment to providing valuable opportunities for our high school students. This work-based learning internship program not only exposes them to the diverse career options within the water sector but also empowers them with essential job skills. We are proud to support the development of the next generation of water professionals and contribute to their success in serving our community."

Veolia, the Commission’s contracted wastewater operator that manages the SRWTF on Bondi’s Island is also continuing its partnership on the Pipeline Program. Veolia will host interns at the SRWTF as part of the internship rotation, exposing interns to the wastewater treatment process and the many rewarding careers available at their wastewater operations around the world.

How to Apply

Applications for the Pipeline Program are being accepted now through April 4, 2024. Applicants can apply online through the Commission’s career portal. More information and links to the application are available on the Commission’s website <https://waterandsewer.org/pipeline-program/>. Springfield Public School high school students can also speak to their Career Readiness Coordinator for more information on the application process.

The program is specifically intended for high school students in Springfield participating in their high school’s college and career readiness programs. Pipeline interns must be at least 16 years old and a current high school



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student (including seniors that will graduate this spring). The Commission is working in collaboration with Springfield Public Schools, however any eligible high school students from Springfield are welcome and encouraged to apply. Other internship and employment opportunities are posted on the Commission's [Careers webpage](#).

More Information

Those with questions or seeking additional information about the Pipeline Program should visit the Commission's website <https://waterandsewer.org/pipeline-program/>, or contact the Commission at 413-452-1300 or pipelineprogram@waterandsewer.org.

Springfield Public School students can also reach out to their Career Readiness Coordinators at their respective schools for support with the Pipeline Program application and candidate interview process.

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 regional drinking treatment to Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, and Southwick, as well as emergency/peak service to several other communities. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and regional wastewater treatment to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

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