



# Water and Sewer Facilities

This section of the plan will identify and analyze existing and forecasted needs for services and facilities used by the public, including water supplies and sewage disposal systems. It will include specific goals, objectives, and actions for the Town to pursue in the coming years.

## Did you know?...

**Drinking water** in Bolton is provided through individual residential wells and several public water supplies for businesses, municipal facilities and multi-unit accommodations. The Bolton Board of Health, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH) and the Dept. of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) enforce regulations to assure the appropriate location, initial testing of all wells and the regular testing of public water supplies. These include:

- ◆ [Town of Bolton Well Regulations](#) (26 Apr 22)
- ◆ [Database of MA wells \(including Bolton\)](#)
- ◆ [MA DEP Public Water Supplies Regulations](#) (2 Oct 20)

PFAS (Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of “forever” chemicals that have been detected in many drinking water sources and can be a significant health threat even in very low concentrations. However, drinking water can be made safe with treatment. PFAS has been detected in initial testing by the State and the results for Bolton are available [here](#).

**Sewage** in Bolton is managed primarily through residential and commercial septic systems. Information about operation and maintenance of septic systems is the responsibility of the owner; the Board of Health provides [useful guidance](#). The Town maintains a Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) located behind the Florence Sawyer School which services Florence Sawyer School, Emerson School, Public Safety Bldg., Library & Houghton Bldg. An 2022 assessment of the WWTF 2022 addressed [the condition, remaining capacity, and potential expanded use](#) of the WWTF for residences in the vicinity. The good news for the center of Bolton along Main St. is that the need for a public sewage district is not pressing. The residential septic systems in the vicinity have been upgraded or replaced and now water quality in Great Brook has improved dramatically to near drinking water standards.

## Goals and Objectives - Current Draft for Inclusion in Master Plan

Below is the draft list of Goals and Objectives for Water and Sewer that we anticipate including in the final version of the new Master Plan.

### Goal 1: Preserve wells as the primary source of water for residents

- Objective 1: Organize community education sessions and outreach initiatives to raise awareness about water resources.

### Goal 2: Identify and secure sites for a community water source.

- Objective 1: Determine the most suitable locations for a water source.

### Goal 3: Evaluate the requirement for public water & sewer systems and anticipated future capacity.

- Objective 1: Determine the need and associated cost for implementing public water and a potential sewer district in commercial areas.

## Other Key Points

When it comes to specific actions that could be taken to improve municipal services and facilities, the elephant in the room is always “How much will it cost?” The Master Plan Steering Committee believes that cost should always be a factor when considering how and when to implement a recommendation from the Master Plan. We understand that [taxes](#) are a perennial concern for Bolton’s residents, and there are often trade-offs to be made when deciding whether to pursue improvement in facilities or services. That’s why the implementation matrix for all recommended actions in the new Master Plan will include a column for “Magnitude of Cost” and a column for “Resources”.