

Early settlers of Wayland/Sudbury obtained water from springs, wells and surface water. Being concerned about pestilence they drank milk, cider, ale and beer instead of water. When individual wells were dug early residents appreciated the quality of the Sudbury Valley water.

Boston began drawing on area water supplies in 1848. Lake Cochituate (Long Pond) water was diverted for the Metropolitan Boston Water Supply, with Dudley Pond used as a reserve. James Russell Lowell wrote an Ode to mark the occasion when the water was turned on in Boston Public Garden. It was called "My Name is Water" and the last stanza reads:

By Long Pond, at last, by Blackstone's Spring, in iron
arteries flows!
And Boston claims her destined bride, the fair Cochituate,
As Quincy turns the water on, in Eighteen Forty-Eight!

Until 1872 a large amount of the Boston Water supply came from Lake Cochituate, which restricted recreation in the area. Lake ~~Cochituate~~ Cochituate and three other area reservoirs were released for recreational use in 1947 after the Quabbin Reservoir was operational, but the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) still retains four reservoirs including the Sudbury Reservoir as standby supply sources.

In 1877 the Town established the Wayland Water Works, which was to supply water to Cochituate Village via cast iron and wooden pipes from Snake Brook Reservoir. The reservoir, located at the northwest corner of the Woodridge and Rice Road intersection, held 16 million gallons, which was considered adequate for 40 years.

By 1903, however, the water supply was insufficient for both fire and domestic purposes and it was cloudy and of poor taste. A new supply was recommended and a five member board was named, empowered to investigate, procure plans and get estimates for the new supply. Willard Bullard was one member of the board. He was a banker with the First National Bank of Cambridge, (which became the Harvard Trust Co. in 1904), and a neighbor of Jonathan Maynard Parmenter. Despite an extensive committee report ~~recommending~~ recommending a new supply source, with an extension to Wayland Center, as well as a storage tank, nothing was done until after Jonathan Parmenter died.

Jonathan Maynard Parmenter (1831-1921) lived as a prudent, hardworking Yankee farmer. He and his brother Henry traded cattle and invested shrewdly in southern cotton mills, bonds and real estate. Their neighbor Willard Bullard advised them. After Henry died in 1907, Jonathan made a memorial gift of a parsonage to the First Parish Church. When Jonathan Parmenter subsequently died in 1921, his house and furnishings were valued at \$425.55 and his cattle including four horses, at less than \$5000. Wayland's townspeople were surprised to find he had died a millionaire. In his will he left ten \$25,000 gifts to cousins and Bullard's widow, and small grants to the Library, First Parish Church, Radcliffe College and the Town cemeteries. The larger grants were for scholarships to Harvard College for needy students,

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\$200,000 for a local hospital (which became the Parmenter Center) and \$225,000 for a water supply to Wayland Center.

As a result of Parmenter's will, 30 wells were dug at Baldwin's Ponds, pipes were laid and a 500,000 gallon storage tank was built at Reeves Hill. The Harvard Trust Company administered the will. Their published report (1968) indicates some money ^{was} ~~was~~ left over for system maintenance. The Wayland Historical Society has pictures of the Wayland Center Water System which document the construction. For a brief period there were two water systems, but in 1929 these were joined and the Snake Brook Reservoir was no longer used.

In 1933 State law required the Water Department to be self-sustaining. The Town pays the three water commissioners a salary (\$75 a year currently) and a hydrant rental fee (\$16,000 in FY 1978). The latter is justified by the higher pressure required for the Fire Department.

A 1947 Town report shows that Wayland had run out of water twice in the preceding three years. A connection which had been made with Natick in 1913 was used to supply Wayland during the emergencies. To obtain more water, 19 locations were tested in the southern part of town before finding water at the Happy Hollow site (near the High School). From 1948-1972, when Wayland was experiencing rapid growth in population, five wells were installed which opened up three new well fields. In 1958 a second storage tank was completed on Reeves Hill. This concrete tank holds 2 million gallons. Also in 1958, the Flood Plain District was established to control building in and use of this area. The Watershed Protection Act was voted by Wayland in 1967 to control building in or use of water resource areas.

Through the years Wayland has experienced both droughts and floods. Our groundwater supply has retained its quality. With watchful concern, careful study and monitoring, as well as conservation, we will ensure continued quality and quantity.