

WPC ANNUAL REPORT

The Wellhead Protection Committee (WPC) was formed in 2007 to “develop, maintain, and oversee the Wellhead Protection Plan and ensure that every effort is made to carry out its details...; encourage community discussion through public outreach and education; develop strategies needed to protect our water supply in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection’s Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report and other pertinent information; advise the Board of Water Commissioners (successor Department of Public Works) and make recommendations regarding wellhead protection issues; and support ongoing source protection efforts.”

The initial phase of the WPC’s first major project was to oversee a groundwater capture zone analysis of the town’s eight existing wells. As part of the second phase, the Happy Hollow wells were identified for further study due to water quality protection concerns, and monitoring wells were installed. The project is scheduled for completion in fall or winter 2009.

As part of its educational efforts, the WPC co-sponsored a Drinking Water Forum with the League of Women Voters in April 2009 which has been rebroadcast by WayCAM. The topics of discussion were: who owns Wayland’s water; where does Wayland’s water come from; and how can we use water more wisely? In June WPC members attended the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center workshop to learn about the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater management strategies to protect well source waters.

As part of its conservation efforts, the WPC sent informational letters to the top tier water users with tips to reduce outdoor usage. It also co-sponsored the Organic Demonstration Lawn at Mellen Green, a prime example of smart lawnkeeping.

The WPC has submitted its draft Wellhead Protection Plan for the town’s wells to the DPW and plans to formalize the long-range planning document for submission to DEP.