

Town of Westwood - 126th Annual Town Report

Dedham-Westwood Water District Annual Report

<i>Westwood Commissioners:</i>	<i>James Fox, Chair</i>	<i>Andrew Kara</i>	<i>Gary Yessaillian</i>
<i>Dedham Commissioners:</i>	<i>Robert Lexander, Vice Chair</i>	<i>Eric Merithew</i>	<i>John Healy</i>

Mission

To provide high-quality drinking water and water for fire protection to both the Towns of Westwood and Dedham.

Water Quality

In 2022, the District complied with all United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) drinking water standards. Water quality sampling is conducted weekly for numerous contaminants to ensure the safety of our customers.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) levels have been detected in the District’s water. However, results have **continued to comply** with MassDEP’s regulatory standard (below 20 parts per trillion quarterly).

New regulatory standards from the EPA, much lower than MassDEP’s, are anticipated to be implemented in January 2024. With these forthcoming changes, the District is working proactively to implement a treatment plan to mitigate PFAS and ensure compliance.

A feasibility study is underway to implement treatment for PFAS at both the Bridge Street and White Lodge Water Treatment Plants. Once the treatment testing is permitted and completed, a design will be furnished, and the project will go out to bid.

2022 Dedham-Westwood Water District Metrics	
Linear Feet of Water Main Installed	1,080'
Number of Water Leaks Repaired	50
Number of Water Meters Installed	1,250
Number of Cross Connection Tests Performed	1,242
Gallons of Water Pumped	1.473 Billion
Number of Customer Service Connections	16,000

Water Conservation

This past year, Westwood and Dedham, part of the Southeast Region, experienced a significant drought.

The District issued mandatory water restrictions from May to October to ensure our water supply could meet necessary


demands for public health and safety. With little to no rain for almost the entire summer, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs did not repeal the region’s drought status until October.

Water conservation is encouraged year-round, not only outside the house but inside too. Saving water can easily be achieved by being mindful of your daily habits, including taking a shorter shower, only running full loads of dishes and laundry, turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, and more.


The District offers a [Water Conservation Rebate Program](#) for homeowners and businesses. Residential customers can receive a \$100 water bill credit for installing a new washing machine (one rebate every seven years). Both businesses and residents can receive a \$75 water bill


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credit for installing a new toilet (two rebates per lifetime of the property). Washing machines and toilets that meet the program's eligibility will ultimately help conserve water. For more information about the program, please visit www.dwwd.org/rebate.


DON'T MISS A *DR*OP OF INFORMATION! 

Connect with the Dedham-Westwood Water District

 **ONLINE:** WWW.DWWD.ORG

 **SOCIALLY:**

 **FACEBOOK:** DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT
 **TWITTER & INSTAGRAM:** DWWD_H20



New Website and Increased Social Media Presence

In June 2022, the District launched a new and improved website that is easier to navigate and more aesthetically pleasing. Since the launch, we have continued to update and develop new website content, including submittable online digital forms. In addition, the District has increased its social media presence by consistently sharing news, programs, and water-related information. Residents that wish to stay informed can follow us on

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Social media account information can be referenced in the graphic above.

2022 Capital Improvement Projects

Last year, \$288,000 was invested into an undersized water main in Westwood on Hillcrest Place and Beverly Lane. Two additional projects, Veterans Road in Dedham and Beacon Street/Brookfield Road in Westwood, were slated for construction, but due to material shortages, both projects were delayed to 2023. In total, 960 linear feet of new water main, two hydrants, valves, and ten water service lines were installed. In addition, repairs were made to 250 curb stop boxes (water shut-off valve to each customer's property) throughout Westwood and Dedham.



An excavator is making the finishing touches around a newly installed fire hydrant.

Hillcrest Place is being dug for a new water main.

2023 Service Plan/Goals

- **Public Outreach:** Attend Dedham Day and Westwood Day to promote the District and water conservation efforts.

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- **Collaboration with Dedham and Westwood:** Continue planning infrastructure investments with both towns to ensure upgrades are timely with their paving and sidewalk improvement schedules.
- **PFAS Regulations:** Continue proactive preparations to comply with EPA's anticipated PFAS regulations by fully designing a treatment plan.
- **Revised Lead and Copper Rule:** Continue to make headway with EPA's Revised Lead and Copper Rule by creating an inventory of all service line materials and complying with new testing procedures.

Special Recognition

The District would like to thank John Miller from Dedham and Andrew Kara from Westwood for serving on the Board of Water Commissioners. John served on the Board for eight years and Andrew served for two years!

Respectfully submitted,
Blake D. Lukis, Executive Director