

Dedham-Westwood Water District Annual Report

<i>Westwood Commissioners:</i>	<i>Gary Yessaillian - Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Mark Phillips</i>	<i>Lou Kustwan</i>
<i>Dedham Commissioners:</i>	<i>Robert Lexander - 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.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and the Water Service Line Inventory Project

The [Lead & Copper Rule Revisions \(LCRR\)](#) were announced in December 2021 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to better protect communities from exposure to lead in drinking water. The revised rule will require public water suppliers to create a lead service line inventory and replacement schedule by October 2024. In addition, sampling protocols have changed to better meet the science behind how lead and copper enter the water, and there are increased sampling requirements for schools and daycare facilities, which were previously not included in sampling programs. All public water suppliers across the country are required to comply with these new regulations.

To help kickstart the inventory project, in June, the district received a [\\$907,400 State Revolving Fund Grant](#) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust to support the creation of an inventory that meets the LCRR.

After multiple planning sessions, the district's [Water Service Line Inventory Project](#) was formally launched in September by mailing approximately 12,000 postcards to customers whose water service line material was unknown. The cards provided customers with information about how to locate, identify, and self-report their service line material to the district online.

Public outreach for this project was conducted at several community events, including Dedham and Westwood Days, and Farmer's Markets. Also, information was routinely sent to local media outlets and both towns. Complimentary project kits were given out at events, our office, and town buildings to provide customers with the necessary tools to help them identify their water service line's material.



Photo of the Water Service Line Inventory Kits. Kits include a magnet, a mini screwdriver, and stickers.



Photo of the Dedham-Westwood Water District's booth at Dedham Day on September 24, 2023. Customer Service Representative Paula Coe and Communications Coordinator Allyssa Jewell are Pictured from left to right.

A second mailing card was sent out in November to generate additional responses. By the end of 2023, approximately 22% of the district's 13,500 service line connections were successfully inventoried!

Water Conservation

This past year, Westwood and Dedham, part of the Southeast Region, experienced a wet spring and summer.

The district issued voluntary water restrictions from May to September due to how much rain the region received.

In March, the district launched a new [Water Leak Detection Guide](#). The guide, available as a printable checklist and web page online, provides customers with information about common indoor and outdoor premise leaks, including what to look and listen for. This resource can be accessed by visiting www.dwwd.org/leak.



The district continued to offer 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 credit for installing a new toilet (two rebates per lifetime of the property). In 2023, 84 customers received rebates totaling \$7,025. For more information about the program, please visit www.dwwd.org/rebate.

Public Outreach

This year, the district conducted and participated in many public outreach opportunities. In February, the district went in front of Westwood's and Dedham's Select Boards to discuss Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Topics discussed included a basic overview of PFAS substances, current state regulatory requirements and proposed national standards, recent testing results, and how the district is proactively preparing to install a treatment plan.

In June and July, the district presented to the Dedham Retired Men's Club and the residents of New Bridge on the Charles. Attendees learned about the district's history, daily operations, and responsibility as the public water supplier for the towns of Dedham and Westwood.



In September, the district attended Dedham and Westwood Days to promote the Water Service Line Inventory Project.

Lastly, in October, Executive Director Blake Lukis presented at the Town of Dedham’s Annual Summit. Updates were provided about recent and future capital infrastructure improvements, the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.

2023 Capital Improvement Projects

Starting in April, water main improvements were made on Veterans Road and Oakland Terrace in Dedham. In total, 2,100 linear feet of new water main, six hydrants, 19 valves, and 21 water service lines were installed.

Beginning in August, water main improvements were also made on Brookfield Road, Beacon Street, and a portion of Washington Street (between Brookfield Road and Marshall Street) in Westwood. In total, 3,300 linear feet of new water main, eight new hydrants, 24 valves, and 50 water service lines were installed.

2023 Dedham-Westwood Water District Metrics	
Linear Feet of Water Main Replaced	5,400
Number of Water Main Breaks Repaired	30
Number of Water Meters Installed	1,435
Number of Cross Connection Tests Performed	1,562
Gallons of Water Pumped	1.527 Billion

Between both projects, \$2,090,000 was invested in these infrastructure upgrades.



Photo of an excavator installing new ductile-iron water main pipe on Washington Street in Westwood.



Photo of an excavator backfilling a water service line connection on Veterans Road in Dedham.

2024 Service Plan/Goals:

- **Public Outreach:** Continue to partner with the Neponset River Watershed Association to provide educational outreach about water resource protection and conservation at both Dedham and Westwood public schools.
- **Burgess Avenue Booster Pump Station Reconstruction Project:** Complete construction design plans and specifications to replace the existing pump station in Westwood. The new station will include increased fire protection and an on-site generator to provide more reliable water delivery throughout all conditions.
- **PFAS Regulations:** Continue to design a treatment plan for PFAS removal at the White Lodge Treatment Plant. Funding for construction will be through the State Revolving

Fund Loan Program, with the potential to provide interest-free loans and partial principal forgiveness.

- **Revised Lead and Copper Rule:** Comply with all aspects of the EPA's new Lead and Copper Rule Revisions by the October 2024 deadline. Two major components include completing the service line inventory and creating a replacement plan.
- **East Street Water Main Replacement Project:** Complete design, bid, and construction of 6,280 linear feet of water main replacement on East Street, Martin Bates Street, and a portion of Highland Street in Dedham. This project is being done in cooperation with the Town of Dedham's paving schedule to reduce the overall construction costs.

Special Recognition

The District would like to thank Jim Fox from Westwood for serving on the Board of Water Commissioners for the past 5 years!

Respectfully submitted,
Blake D. Lukis, Executive Director