



# Sewer Capacity Expansion Project: Westminster, MA

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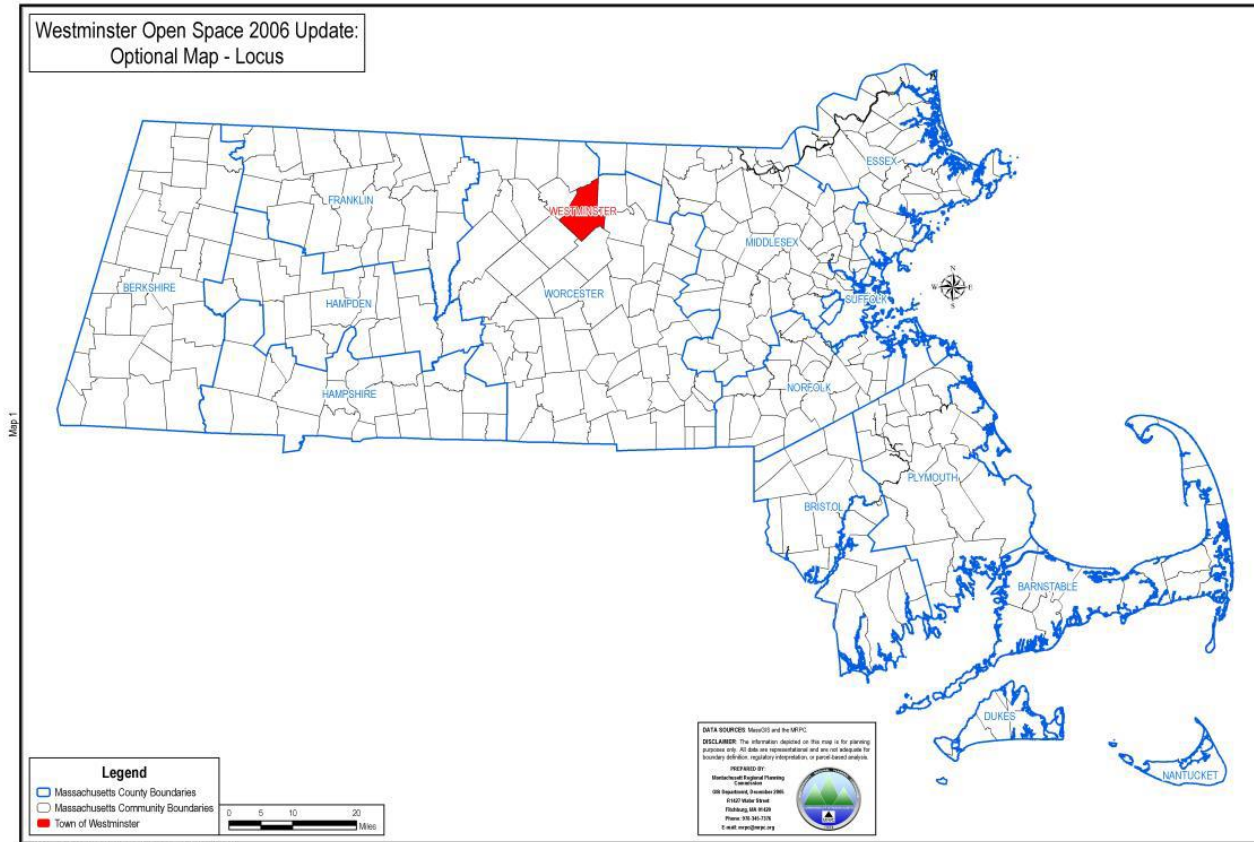
A Presentation for the  
Citizen Planner Training Collaborative

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# Where is Westminster?

Westminster Open Space 2006 Update:  
Optional Map - Locus





# Why is Sewer Capacity an Issue?

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## **Capacity not available to add new Industrial, Commercial or Residential users**

- Town not able to expand the economic tax base.
- Not able to connect to future Senior Housing.
- 1,6 million sq. ft. of industrial floor space permitted, but not able to connect to municipal sewer.

**New Sewer Connection moratorium in place since 2003**

**Addressing Sewer Capacity Issue Identified as Top Priority in 2014 Master Plan.**



## Existing Sewer System Details:

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- Consists of 17 miles of sewer pipes and 7 pumping stations.
- Serves 683 residential and 64 commercial/industrial accounts(25% of town population).
- Sends wastewater to the East Fitchburg treatment plant which discharges into the Nashua River.
- Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) in place since 1983.
- Permitted flow: 320,000 gallons per day.
- Average daily flow: 190,000 gallons per day.
- Peak recorded flow: 374,000 gallons per day.

# Map of Sewer System -





# Nine Options Investigated, We Chose This One.....

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- **Construct an in-line storage system along RT2A to store and control wastewater flows during peak periods**
  - Upgrade Whitman River Station pump station.
  - Allows for current flows permitted but unconnected.
  - Does not impact current IMA with Fitchburg.
  - Costs approximately \$2.25M.
  - Engineering is complete.
  - Construction to begin Spring 2016.
  - Construction will be complete by the end of Summer 2016.



## Funding Sources Investigated.....

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- **USDA Loan (40 Yrs, 25% Grant, Fixed Principal Payments, 85% Taxpayer and 15% Users, 3.25%)**
  - Taxpayer Cost
    - \$25.68 per year (\$2.14/Month)
  - Sewer User Cost
    - \$21.91 per year (\$1.83/Month)
      - Total with property tax \$47.59 per year (\$3.97/Month)
- **MassWorks** – Request 1\$ during 2016 grant round.



## Advice for Towns in Similar Situations...

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- Thoroughly document the problem.
- Educate your policy makers (be patient!).
- Investigate your options.
- Talk with anyone that could possibly help.
- Educate the public (take as long as you need).
- Select your preferred option.
- Bring to Town Meeting for voter approval.
- Implement your fix.
- Put up the “Open for Business” sign!





# Westminster Sewer Capacity Project

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Questions?

Comments?