

# PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Safe and healthy lives in safe and healthy communities

## **Touisset Point Water Trust** Pollution Risk Assessment Results

**Touisset Point Water Trust** (PWSID 1615626) is a community water system in Warren that serves approximately 225 residents through 68 service connections. The water system consists of two gravel developed wells and six storage tanks. Water is treated before distribution. The last sanitary survey was June 5, 2001. For further information contact Edward McAloon at 3 Bayview Avenue, Warren, RI 02885.

## Treatment:

An aeration system is used for corrosion control.

**The Source Protection Area** was drawn based on RI DEM's estimation of where the water pumped from the well originates. For more information, contact RI DEM's Office of Water Resources. The area is an irregular shape about 1/3 mile north to south and about ½ mile east to west (see Figure 2 on back). It is mostly moderate to high density residential development with a developed recreational area. Beaches and small areas of pastureland and woods are located along the periphery (see Table 1 on back).

Sample Summary (for the previous five years)

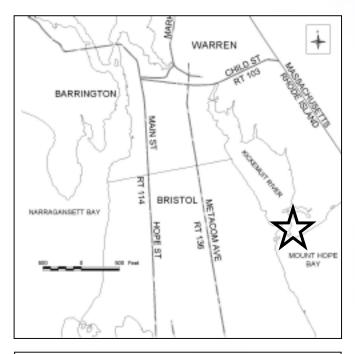
- ▲ Bacteria have not been detected.
- Nitrate levels in groundwater are higher than half the US EPA standard for nitrate. This indicates significant contribution from human activity. A program to reduce nitrate may be helpful.
- No violations of the standards for other regulated contaminants have been identified. However, there have been detections below levels considered acceptable by US EPA. This indicates the need for continued monitoring.

**This report** summarizes assessment results for this water system. The assessment identifies both known and potential sources of pollution occurring in the

#### Source Water

The focus of these assessments is on public drinking water supply "source" areas—the wellhead protection area that recharges a well or the watershed that drains to a surface water reservoir. Source water is untreated water from streams, lakes, reservoirs, or underground aquifers that is used to supply drinking water.

Source Water Assessments were conducted by the R.I. Department of Health in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (URI CE) under the Rhode Island Source Water Assessment Program. This is part of a national initiative, established under the 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), to foster more comprehensive protection of drinking water supplies at the local, state, and national levels.





**Note:** A ranking of **HIGH** does **NOT** mean that the water is unsafe to drink. It **DOES** mean that we must be especially aggressive in protecting the water supply.

source protection area, and ranks the water source based on the likelihood of future contamination. The goal of this study is to help water suppliers, local officials, residents and consumers to learn more about source water protection. Because water quality is directly related to land use activities, everyone living or working in the source protection area has a role to play in keeping local water supplies safe.

#### POLLUTION RISKS:

- High-intensity land uses, including recreational and residential, are densely clustered near the wells.
- ▲ Several roads are located near the wells, increasing the risk of hazardous material spills and road salt contamination.
- ▲ Heating oil is stored in most residences, posing the risk of groundwater contamination.

#### **PROTECTION OPPORTUNITIES:**

- ▲ The town can continue to pump septic systems twice a year.
- Residents should consider reducing applications of fertilizer and pesticides. More guidelines for reducing the impact of household contaminants can be found on the back.

Table 1. High-intensity land uses identified within the source water protection area that have the potential to contaminate drinking water.

| Land Use Category                          | Associated Contaminants <sup>1</sup> | % of Protection Area |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| % Residential                              | Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs     | 73.9%                |
| % Commercial, Industrial,<br>Institutional | VOCs, SOCs, Solvents, Inorganics     | 4.3%                 |
| % Intensive Agriculture                    | Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs     | 0.0%                 |

<sup>1</sup>Potential contaminants include nutrents (nitrates and phosphorus from fertilizers and human and animal waste), pathogens (bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms that can cause disease); volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in fuels and solvents; synthetic organic compounds (SOCs), such as pesticides and plastics; and inorganics, including metals and other substances that can harm human health in high concentrations.



## What You Can Do To Protect Water Quality

## Public Water Suppliers:

- Implement all recommendations in the latest Sanitary Survey.
- Protect undeveloped land within the wellhead or watershed protection area. Work with municipal boards and government as needed to implement land use protection measures and education programs.
- Post signs alerting public to Wellhead or Watershed Protection Area.
- Inspect water supply and protection area regularly for potential pollution sources.

#### Municipal Boards and Government:

- Develop a groundwater protection plan and ordinance and supporting protective zoning regulations, such as limits of paved surface areas within new developments.
- Incorporate groundwater and source water protection goals into the Comprehensive Plan.
- Implement on-site wastewater management or sewer maintenance plans and ordinances.
- Develop programs for land acquisition, conservation easements, or other critical lands protection.
- Adopt a stormwater management plan and ordinance.
- Establish a community education and outreach program that promotes residential pollution prevention and best management practices for the Public Works Department.

#### **Residents:**

- Inspect septic systems annually and pump as needed.
- Replace/repair cesspools and failing septic systems.
- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Reduce stormwater runoff by limiting paved surface
- areas and maintaining good vegetative cover.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Properly use, store, and dispose of hazardous products.
- Properly maintain motor vehicles and fuel storage tanks. Consider replacing underground storage tanks with properly contained above-ground tanks.
- Check all municipal laws that may apply.

Farmers and Landowners: Develop conservation plans on agricultural and forest lands that:

- Reduce soil erosion, sediment, and stormwater runoff.
- Address proper nutrient, manure, pest, and irrigation water management.
- Address proper fuel storage and equipment maintenance.
- Conserve water, improve soil health, and protect
- surrounding natural resources.
- Check all federal and state laws that apply.

## **Commercial and Industrial Businesses:**

Adhere to all laws, regulations, and recommended practices for:

- A Hazardous waste management
- Above- and underground storage tanks
- Wastewater discharge
- Floor drains
- Proper training for all employees

#### For More Information

R.I. Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water Quality,

(401) 222-6867, www.healthri.org/environment/dwq/Home.htm

URI CE Home\*A\*Syst Program (401) 874-5398, www.uri.edu/ce/wq URI CE Negregiat Education for Municipal Officials (401) 874-212

URI CE Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (401) 874-2138, www.uri.edu/ce/wq Local Municipal Boards and Government, contact town/city hall

R.I. DEM Office of Water Resources (401) 222-4700, www.state.ri.us/DEM/programs/benviron/water/index.htm.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation District Offices,

(401) 828-1300, www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov

