

Scituate Commons Pollution Risk Assessment Results

Scituate Commons (PWSID 2980323) is a community water system in Scituate that serves approximately 38 residents daily. The water system consists of one drilled well. The water is filtered then discharged into three pressure tanks before being distributed. There is also an unapproved dug well on the premises. The last sanitary survey was October 26, 1999. For further information contact Ronald Whitford, Richard Kilduff and James Kilduff at 29 Institute Lane, North Scituate, RI 02857.

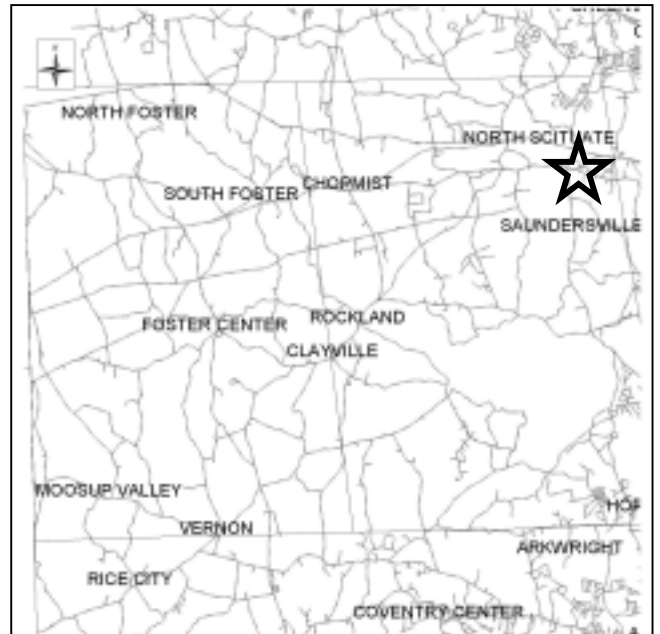
Treatment: A cartridge filter is used for sediment removal.

The Source Protection Area is a circle of radius 2,466 feet, or about 440 acres (see Figure 2 on back). It is wooded with moderate to high density residential and commercial development. The Scituate Reservoir crosses through the western portion of the area and Moswansicut Pond crosses the northeast section. Institutional and developed recreational land uses are located in the center of the area (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.
- ▲ There has been no detection of other regulated contaminants.

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



Susceptibility To Contamination		
Low	√ Moderate	High

Note: A ranking of **MODERATE** means that the water could become contaminated one day. Protection efforts are important to assure continued water quality.

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 institutional land use is densely clustered near the well.
- ▲ Several roads are located near the well, increasing the risk of hazardous material spills and road salt contamination.
- ▲ Several underground storage tanks are located inside the source protection area.
- ▲ Underground storage tanks was removed from the Scituate Commons property.

PROTECTION OPPORTUNITIES:

- ▲ Some of the source protection area consists of undeveloped forestland.
- ▲ The town can implement land use controls and programs to protect this source protection area from high-intensity development.
- ▲ The town and supplier can encourage institutions and businesses to use best management practices in handling potential contaminants.
- ▲ Residents can follow the guidelines on the back to reduce the impact of household contaminants.

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.

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 ¹	% of Protection Area
% Residential	Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs	21.5%
% Commercial, Industrial, Institutional	VOCs, SOCs, Solvents, Inorganics	16.2%
% Intensive Agriculture	Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs	0.5%

¹Potential contaminants include nutrients (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.

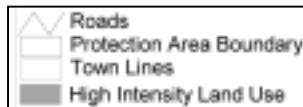


Figure 2. Areas of high-intensity land use are shown in dark gray.

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:

- ▲ 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 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) 826-1300, www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov

