

Bridgton Wastewater System Fact Sheet

Why do we need a new wastewater system?

The existing wastewater system is 30 years old, operates at near its capacity, can't be expanded and will continue to require significant investment to replace it to just meet the needs of the existing users.

Where will the new sewer be located?

The proposed sewer will encompass the downtown area along Main Street and the connected side streets from approximately the ballfield on the easterly side of downtown to the Civil War Monument on the westerly side and extending to Bridgton Hospital. The sewer will also extend southerly along Route 302 to Meadow Road/Route 117. This area is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

What type of wastewater treatment system is being proposed?

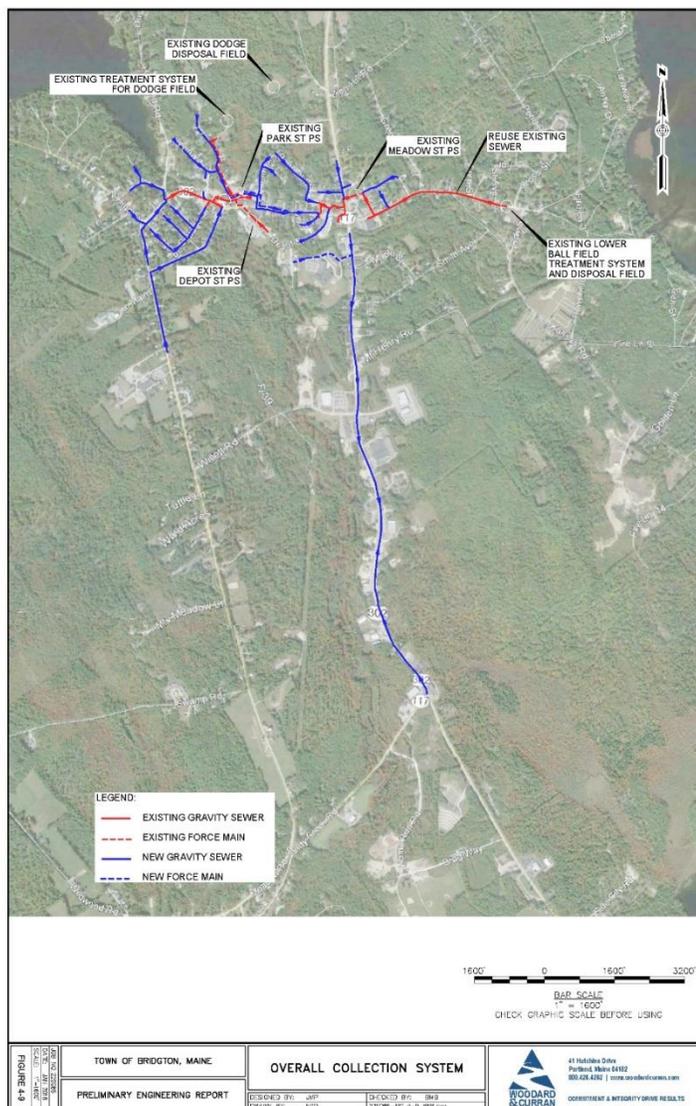
The proposed collection system will consist of gravity and pressure sewers, pumping stations and access manholes that will run primarily in the public roads/right of way. The treatment system will consist of a compact wastewater treatment package plant in a single location with a pressure dispersal system that will release the treated wastewater into the ground.

How will we fund the construction?

The Town has submitted applications to both the USDA Rural Development and the DEP Clean Water State Revolving Fund to help fund the project. The funding will be a loan that will be paid back and a grant that will not need to be. The exact amounts of the loan and grant aren't yet known but will be packaged to provide for affordability to the users.

What is the schedule for the work?

If the Town is successful in funding the project, the preliminary work including the design would be done in the Fall/Winter of 2018 with construction commencing in the Spring of 2019 and continuing for approximately two years.



Who will benefit from the new system?

The system will allow for a large measure of protection to the local environment and water quality, effecting both our lakes and our drinking water which is of great benefit to the Town. Furthermore, the entire Town benefits with increased potential for economic development and in turn a larger tax base. Commercial users will be able to expand their businesses and new development can occur due to the new wastewater system to accompany the public water system that already exists.

What will be the system capacity?

The proposed system will be sized to triple the capacity of the existing system.

Can the users afford the new system?

The Town conducted an income survey of all the residential users that could hook up to the new system so that the funding agencies will consider the affordability of the users when putting together the loan/grant package. The survey was very favorable, and the hope is that the new user fees will be close to what the existing users are paying which is \$590/year/residential user. Commercial, industrial and governmental users will pay user fees in proportion to their potential use per the Town's Sewer User Ordinance.

Is the current system impacting the environment?

The current wastewater system is not directly impacting the environment. However, sampling and testing of Steven's Brook and the point where Willett Brook connects to Steven's Brook in was conducted in 2017 and it revealed that septic systems and leach fields are impacting the water quality. The existing system does not connect up all the users in this area of Town so failed or failing systems are reaching Steven's and Willett Brook. The proposed new system will allow more systems to hook up and would remove these sources of illicit discharge to improve water quality.

What is the cost of the project?

The total project cost is estimated to be \$22,880,000.

How will the Town pay for the project?

The hope is that significant grants will be available to assist the Town, however, the amount not covered by grants will be loans that the Town will have to repay. It is proposed that the users of the system pay for the system through user and connection fees. However, because not every user hooks up right from the start, in the first 10 years after the system is available and when users are in the process of hooking up, the Town may fund a portion of the debt. It is intended that once the users are all on board, they should be able to handle debt and operational costs after this time as all those that need or want to hook up will after this period. The Town is also considering using some of the Tax Increment Financing that has been set up for infrastructure work to help fund the project.

Why would those taxpayers who are not able to connect have to pay anything?

The sewer system reflects a commitment to the environment and to water quality for future generations as well as an investment in the Town's ability to retain and grow both businesses and private homeowners within the Town. The highest taxed properties are within the area served by the proposed system so in effect a portion of their taxes are used to help fund the early years of the system when not everyone is hooked up. The design will accommodate all users, but it generally takes 10 years to get everyone hooked up and realize the full revenue from the users.

Are there any other considerations to doing the work now?

The existing wastewater system is near capacity, is aging and in need of replacement. The Bridgton Water District has indicated that they have some old pipes that need to be replaced within the project area and they would work alongside the Town to accomplish this work for efficiency and cost effectiveness. The Downtown Streetscape work that is being proposed along Main Street would also benefit from an integrated project and money can be saved by working together.

Who do I contact for more information?

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