

Love Always, Bridgton, Maine



Why do we need a new wastewater system?

The **existing wastewater system** is

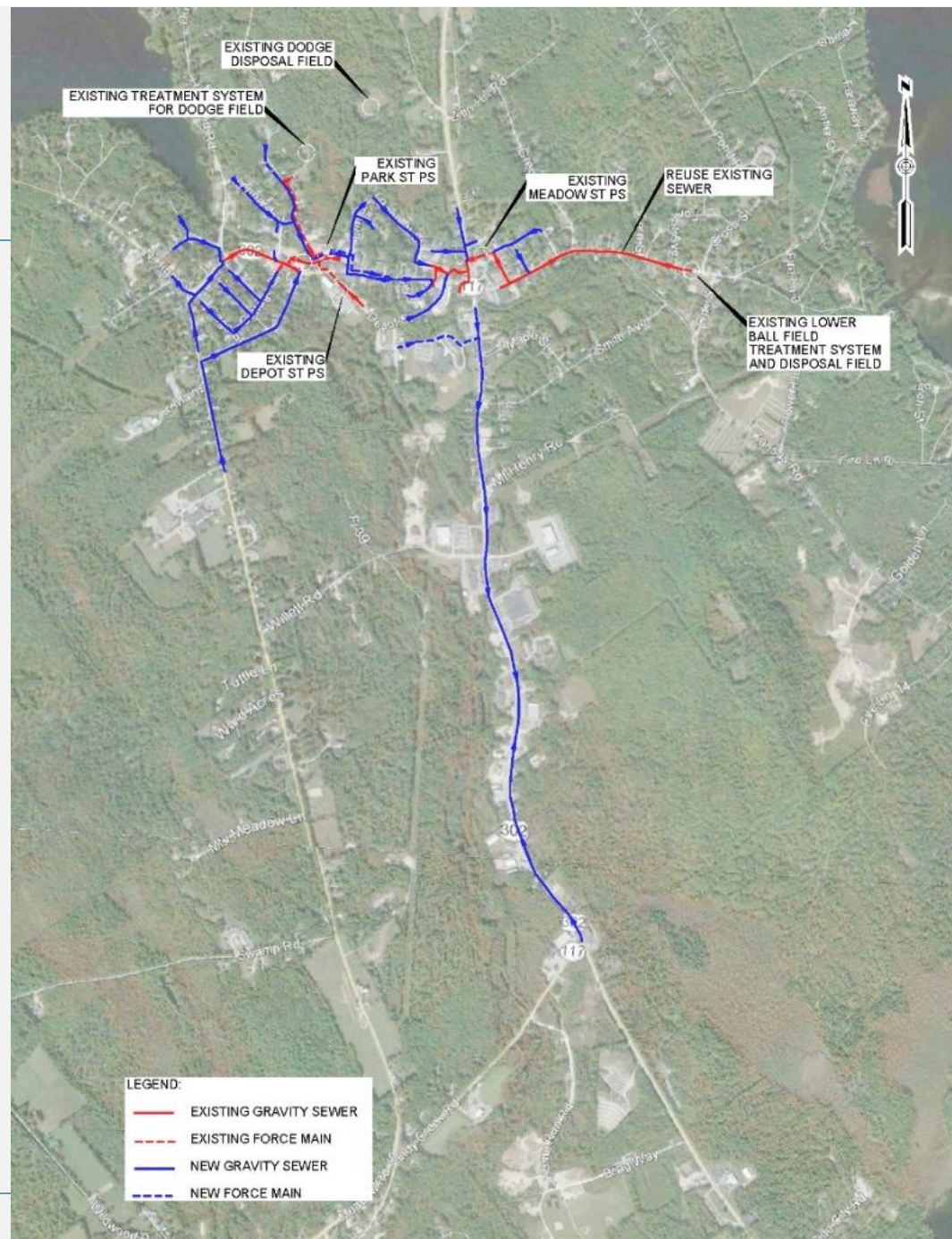
- 30 years old,
- Operates at near capacity,
- Cannot be expanded, and
- Will continue to require significant investment just to meet the needs of the existing users.



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 ball field on the eastern side of downtown to the Civil War Monument on the western side. The sewer will also extend south, along High Street to Bridgton Hospital and 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 along 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 submitted applications to both the USDA Rural Development and the DEP Clean Water State Revolving Fund to help fund the project.
- The funding will consist of a loan that will be paid back, and a grant that will not need to be.
- Exact amounts of the USDA Rural Development loan and grant are not yet known, but will be packaged to provide affordability to users.
- The DEP awarded Bridgton a \$1 million grant and a \$1 million loan in June 2018. *This represents one of only five projects in the State to receive a grant award.*

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 Winter/Spring of 2019, with construction commencing in the Fall 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 offer **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 private 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

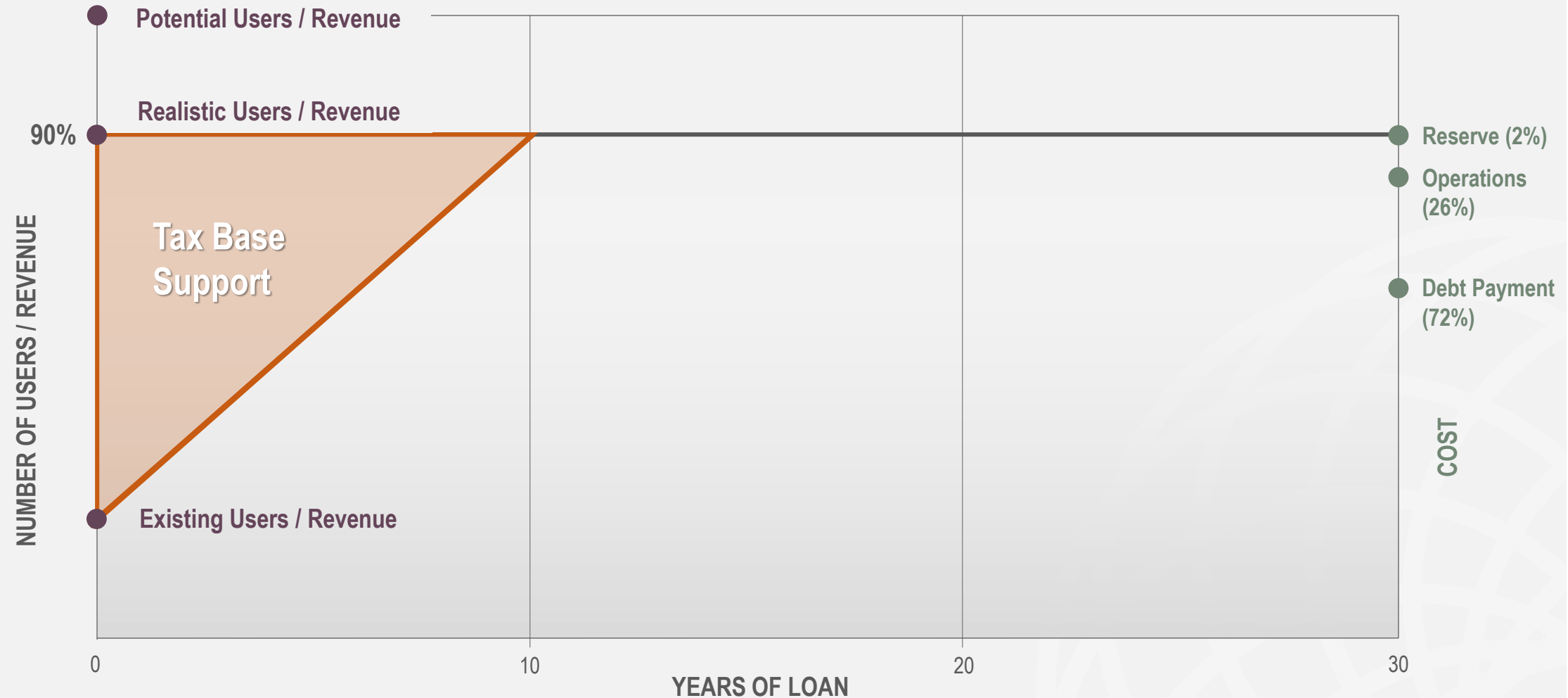
\$22,880,000



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. During the first 10 years of operation while users are in the process of hooking up, the Town may fund a portion of the debt. Once all users are on board, user fees should cover debt and operational costs.
- 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.

Community Support (The Magic Triangle)



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 homeownership.
- 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 full revenue.

Are there any other considerations to doing the work now?

- The existing wastewater system is near capacity, aging, and in need of replacement. The Bridgton Water District has indicated that there are 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 proposed along Main Street would also benefit from an integrated project and money can be saved by working together.

Bridgton Wastewater System

WHY WE NEED IT



1.) WE NEED AN UPGRADE

Our old system is 30 years old, is at capacity, and will soon require significant investments to maintain. Our new system would have triple our current capacity.

2.) IT PROMOTES ECONOMIC GROWTH

Currently, new businesses are unable to expand into downtown Bridgton due to the lack of sewage access. An upgraded system opens the heart of Bridgton to new development.



3.) GROWTH FOR EXISTING BUSINESSES

In general, 80% of economic growth comes from businesses already in an area. A new wastewater system allows our local businesses to continue to call Bridgton home, continue to grow, and continue to bring jobs to the region.

4.) IMPROVES WATER QUALITY

The private septic systems and leach fields near Willett Brook and Stevens Brook are impacting water quality. The new system would improve water quality by connecting our systems.



5.) PROTECTS OUR LIFESTYLE

We all love Bridgton. A big part of that love is rooted in our beautiful lakes and streams. An improved waste water system will protect that water and ensure Bridgton's natural beauty for years to come.

For any questions, email us at townmgr@bridgtonmaine.org

Bridgton Wastewater System

Timeline for Construction



November 6th, 2018

Vote to accept the Wastewater System's funding package.

April, 2019

Complete preliminary work (Survey, Geotech, Easements, Land Acquisition, and Permitting).

August, 2019

Complete final design of the Wastewater Project.

December, 2019

Begin the two year construction period.

December, 2021

Complete construction of the Wastewater System. Existing users of the old system will connect.

Spring, 2022

New users can begin connecting to the new system.

2031

Hook-up to Wastewater System is complete.

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