Where Does Your Water Come From?

Reservoirs

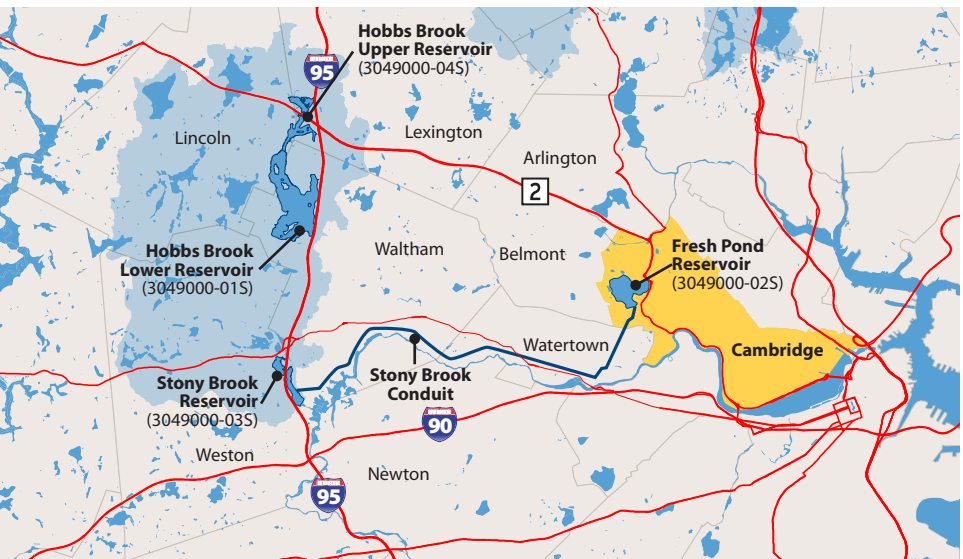
The Cambridge Water System extends across four towns and includes four bodies of water. The Hobbs Brook Upper Reservoir flows into the Hobbs Brook Lower Reservoir and connects with the Stony Brook Reservoir. From Stony Brook, the water flows to the Fresh Pond Reservoir through an underground aqueduct. The Stony Brook Reservoir watershed extends from Weston north into the town of Lincoln. The watershed for the Hobbs Brook Reservoirs includes areas of Waltham, Lexington and Lincoln. The watershed for the Fresh Pond Reservoir is completely within the City of Cambridge. Storm drainage modifications were implemented to divert street runoff away from Fresh Pond Reservoir. The combined capacity of the Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook reservoir system is 3.1 billion gallons; an additional 1.3 billion gallons of water is stored in Fresh Pond Reservoir. Our water supply is backed up by interconnections to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) system. For a more detailed map of our water sources and their protection areas please visit cambridgema.gov/cwd

Watershed Protection

As part of our ongoing commitment to protecting the resource water, we participated with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in preparing a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report completed in 2003. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of our public water supply and notes the key land use and protection issues, including: Zone A Land Uses, Residential Land Uses, Transportation Corridors, Hazardous Material Storage and Use, and Presence of Oil or Hazardous Materials Contamination Sites. A copy of the Cambridge SWAP Report can be found on the MassDEP website at www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/nero/3049000.pdf or at the Cambridge Water Department.

Because of the developed nature and types of land uses within the Cambridge watershed, our source waters are considered as having "high" susceptibility to contamination. Susceptibility is a measure of a water supply's *potential* to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within its recharge (watershed) area. If a source is susceptible to contamination, it does not necessarily mean the source has poor water quality. The Cambridge Water Department has taken the following actions to minimize contamination threats to our water supply:

- Work cooperatively with watershed towns on emergency response and storm water management
- Placed spill kits at strategic points within the watershed
- Actively monitor source water quality throughout the watersheds, using the data to target source protection
- Work cooperatively with businesses in the watersheds to encourage source protection
- Adopted the Fresh Pond Master Plan, which includes long-term protection measures for the Fresh Pond Reservation
- Dedicated staff resources to inspections, public education, and coordinating of source protection efforts



In 2011, the Watershed Division of the Cambridge Water Department updated its comprehensive Source Water Protection Program. The major components of the program to ensure a continuous supply of high quality water include:

1. **Extensive monitoring** – sampling and analysis of water chemistry
2. **Hazardous materials emergency response planning** – to reduce the potential for contamination in the watershed
3. **Partnership development – relationship-building** with other parties in the watershed with common goals
4. **Proactive site review and monitoring** – to minimize potential impacts on the watershed from construction
5. **Stormwater management** – insuring that Best Management Practices are implemented
6. **Community outreach** – public relations and education

For questions about our source water and our protection efforts, please contact David Kaplan, Watershed Protection Supervisor, at dkaplan@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4799.

10 things you can do to protect your water supply

- Do not dump oil or any other substances in street drains
- Use organic, low phosphorus fertilizers sparingly, and never before rain
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash where wastewater is treated
- Avoid using pesticide, herbicide or other chemical treatments in your landscape or garden
- Plant drought-tolerant native plants in your yard, not grass
- Pick up after your pet
- Do not flush old medication
- Use alternative deicers such as calcium magnesium acetate, and avoid table or rock salt
- Don't litter – and yes, this includes cigarette butts
- Spread the word – be a water advocate!