



# Middle Fort Pond Sewer District

## West Acton Sewer Continuation Project

### *Information for non-West Acton Residents*

For more information, please contact the Engineering Department (978) 929-6630

**Are there any costs of the project paid for by the Town?**

**Yes.** The town's shares the project's general benefits, such as repaving roads and connecting Town properties to sewer, as required by the Town General Bylaw and paid by the general taxpayers. More detailed information is available [on the Town's website](#).

**What about my property in the existing sewer district? Are my sewer payments paying for the project?**

**No.** Existing sewer users paid for the construction of the sewer system and treatment plant through their sewer assessment (known as a betterment) and pay for operations of the treatment plant through their sewer rates.

**Are the West Acton users paying for the sewer like the existing sewer users?**

**Yes.** The West Acton users are paying for construction of the sewer system in the same manner as was done in the existing sewer district.

**Wasn't there money from the sewer fund used for West Acton?**

**Yes.** Town Meeting Authorized funds from the sewer reserves for a detailed preliminary design of the West Acton sewer. This provided a detailed cost estimate and was necessary to provide a sewer connection for the Gates/Douglas school by summer 2020.

**Where did that money in reserves come from?**

Through fees assessed to new development within the existing sewer district that exceeded the initial sewer assessment of the property.

**Are there any benefits of approving the project for existing sewer users?**

**Yes.** The cost of the preliminary design work will be included in the West Acton sewer betterments, effectively repaying the sewer reserves, in addition to \$1 million paid by West Acton users to the sewer funds for their "fair share" of the construction costs of the treatment plant (originally paid for by the existing sewer users). This results in nearly \$1.3 million in sewer reserves that can be used for repairs and upgrades of the plant.

**Are my sewer fees going to go up because of West Acton?**

The cost of operating the sewer system increases every year. Sewer rates are established to cover the cost of operations. After five years it is estimated that sewer rates for South Acton will be approximately ten percent higher without West Acton added to the district.

**Are there any benefits to the Town if my property is outside the sewer area?**

**Yes.**

1. Sewers are a critical infrastructure for a key economic town center which will support businesses in the village area. Sewers make businesses like new restaurants more viable.
2. Sewers help maintain the village character of the neighborhood.
3. The Town will be paving roads throughout the project area and connecting Town-properties to sewer, avoiding the need to replace the septic systems.
4. The sewer project is recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Board of Health and Acton Economic Development Committee.

**Are sewers good for local businesses?**

**Yes.** Several West Acton business owners supporting the sewer project [emailed](#) the West Acton Sewer Committee. [Here](#) are some responses from the West Acton business community:

*“West Acton [is] a district where zoning specifically promotes and encourages the kind of vibrant mix of uses that a sewer [would] enable” – Mathias Rosenfeld, West Acton Villageworks*

*“Town sewer in West Acton would give us an opportunity to grow our business in new ways” – Chris Powell, Orange Door Kitchen*

*“There is a lot of momentum and excitement in West Acton, but in order for it to reach its potential as a vibrant, walkable commercial district, and attract more high quality businesses, we need sewer services.” – Lucy Goldstein, Wellness at Villageworks*

**But why is the project happening now?**

The West Acton sewer project is the result of over 15 years of planning, a recommendation of Acton’s 2020 plan and provides the Gates/Douglas school project a sewer connection by summer 2020.

---