

One of the most valuable resources a community has is its pure water supply. Ware is fortunate to have not one, but two sources of high quality water. Both sources rely on water drawn from wells which are located in what is known as an aquifer. An aquifer is an underground water-bearing layer of permeable material (such as sand or gravel) that will yield useable groundwater to a well.

Need more information?

Please call or stop by the
Planning & Community Development Department
 during normal business hours.

We are here to provide information and to assist you
 with your permitting process.

Planning Board

Richard Starodoj
 Nancy Talbot
 Ed Murphy, III
 Kenneth Crosby
 Chris DiMarzio
 Elizabeth Hancock, Alt.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Lewis Iadarola
 Jodi Chartier
 Charles Dowd
 Greg Eaton
 Phil Hamel
 David Skoczylas, Alt.
 George Staiti, Alt.

Planning & Community Development

413.967.9648 ext. 120

Rob Watchilla
 Director of PCD Dept.
rwatchilla@townofware.com

Kristen Jacobsen
 PCD Dept. Admin. Assistant
kjacobsen@townofware.com

Planning & Community Development 126
 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
www.townofware.com

Brochure updated:
 November 2022

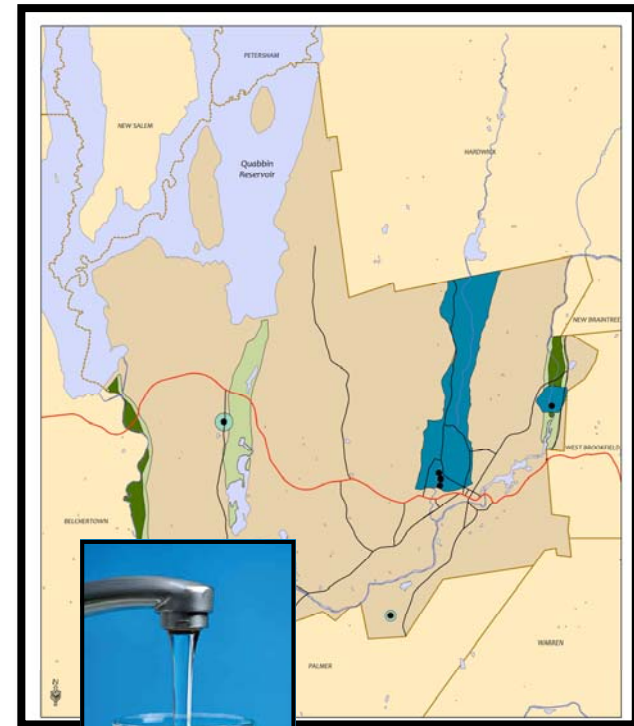
Zoning Bylaws

At a Glance

Protecting Our
 Drinking Water
 Supply

Article 4.9.2

The Aquifer Protection District



It is important to protect our aquifers because if left unprotected, pollutants that reach it generally remain for a long time, can contaminate the water source, and potentially render it unusable for human consumption. In 1987, Ware adopted its first groundwater protection regulation as part of our zoning bylaw [dark blue on map].

In 2000, a second, more precise groundwater protection district was added [light blue areas]. Water is drawn from here and therefore has much stricter regulations for land uses. In 2012, these two districts were combined into one section of the bylaw, but the regulations still differ as described below.

Zone II and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) [blues]: Zone II areas are defined by scientific studies and/or state regulations around existing municipal well field areas (i.e. Barnes Street and Dismal Swamp wells). IWPA's are privately owned but publicly regulated drinking water source wells that provide water to more than 25 members of the public per day for at least 60 consecutive days per year. Two such wells exist in Ware: at the Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative mobile home park on

Monson Turnpike Road, and the other off Malboeuf Road.

Medium and High-Yield Aquifers [greens]: are other areas that have been defined by MassDEP as potentially productive aquifers for future water supply. The aquifers in both designated areas [dark and light green] are protected by restrictions on the type of facilities that can be located over them and the activities that can be conducted within them.

All four areas have certain permitted uses, mostly related to conservation, passive recreation and farming, and residential development. The areas also have prohibited uses, mostly related to waste disposal, impervious surfaces and earth removal; some uses are allowed but require a Special Permit.

Legend

- Public Water Supply Wells
- Zone II Groundwater Protection Area
- Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA)
- High Yield Aquifer
- Medium Yield Aquifer



Q: How are we protecting aquifers that source private wells?

A: These areas are protected by both state and local regulations. Additionally, these areas are protected by the residential nature that is allowed in the RR district, where the majority of private wells exist. A typical residential well draws water from a much smaller area than a large municipal well.

