

Location

1. Why is a new site needed for the water treatment plant? Can the new water treatment plant be constructed on the same site as the OOB water treatment plant?

To effectively treat Scituate's water, the new water treatment plant will require a larger footprint than the current water treatment plant. The OOB water treatment plant site and adjacent ballfield are within the floodplain, limiting their use for a critical water supply asset like a treatment plant. Even if there was enough space on the existing site and adjacent ballfield for a new facility, it would significantly increase both the cost and construction duration of the project. Additional information on the cost, schedule and siting limitations to construct the water treatment plant on the existing site will be presented at the July 13th public meeting.

2. Why is the Town prioritizing protecting the ballfield over constructing a new water treatment plant on the existing site?

An evaluation was completed during the last year, utilizing design parameters from the ongoing pilot work, indicating that even if the ballfield was removed, there would not be enough space at the existing site for the new water treatment plant and required construction operations. The evaluation considered the fact that a significant portion of the existing site and the property containing the ballfield are within the flood plain. Additional information on the feasibility of constructing the water treatment plant on the existing site will be presented at the July 13th public meeting.

3. How was the Stearns Meadow site selected as the preferred location for the water treatment plant?

During the Town's water master planning efforts in 2019, the Town's engineering consultant, Tighe & Bond made some assumptions on possible treatment processes that might be effective and did conceptual layouts for the OOB water treatment plant location. In the time after the finalization of the Water System Master Plan in January 2021 and prior to the selection of a design engineer (Woodard & Curran) for the water treatment plant project, Tighe & Bond and the Town discussed if there were any other potential locations for a water plant besides the site of the OOB water treatment plant due to space constraints. When it was learned that the Stearns Meadow site would be available the Town acted to acquire that site. Town meeting voted funding to purchase the site and the purchase and sale of what is now referred to as the Stearns Meadow property was finalized prior to the design engineer being contracted.

As part of the preliminary design phase of the water treatment plant, Woodard & Curran evaluated the preferred location for the new water treatment plant looking at the Stearns Meadow and the OOB water treatment plant sites in more detail. Based on costs, project timeline, constructability, permitting requirements, site constraints, existing flood zones, and existing wetlands, the Stearns Meadow site was determined to have the lowest cost, the least risk during construction and the ability to bring the new plant online in the shortest time frame. Based on feedback from residents, the project team is conducting a townwide evaluation of all parcels in Scituate to determine if there are other sites that could achieve the project needs. More details will be shared prior to the July 13th public meeting.

4. Are there other parcels of land in Town that can be considered for the new water treatment plant?

Scituate has limited usable land available to be considered for the new water treatment plant. The Town has researched additional sites and determined that the Stearns Meadow site is the preferable

location for the approved project budget and timeline. A widespread site evaluation of all parcels in Scituate is in progress and will be shared prior to the July 13th public meeting.

5. Has the location of the new water treatment plant been finalized?

Preliminary work to select the location of the water treatment plant has been completed including evaluating costs, project timeline, constructability, permitting requirements, site constraints, existing flood zones, and existing wetlands. The Stearns Meadow site was found to be preferable for providing a long-term solution for Scituate's water. The proposed final location of the new water treatment plant will be determined by the Special Town Meeting vote in September, and then would be subject to further local and State permitting reviews.