

# INTEGRATED PLANNING INITIATIVE

## PURPOSE

The Town of Concord's Integrated Planning Initiative (IPI) has been undertaken jointly by CPW and the Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM) to coordinate and align previous planning efforts. Specifically, this effort seeks to integrate the differing goals and to address future growth and development that were the basis for the following three planning efforts:

- The Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), dated February 2004,
- The Planned Production Housing Plan (PPHP), dated June 2004, and
- The Comprehensive Long Range Plan (CLRP), dated March 2005.

As the initial part of this two-part integration process, this report will: 1) document the current status of the Town's wastewater management capacity; 2) assess projected new development throughout the Town; and 3) develop an integrated planning policy based on the analysis of existing and projected conditions. This report serves as an amendment to the other Town planning documents and should be referenced in the implementation of the recommendations of those plans.

Building on the coordinated information presented in this IPI Part 1 report, Part 2 of the IPI process will revisit the wastewater management alternatives proposed in the CWMP in light of the current assessment of capacity conditions and with consideration of the developed integrated planning policy. The purpose of Part 2 of the IPI process will be to identify possible alternative solutions for managing wastewater associated with new development (and significant redevelopment) within the limitations of the current wastewater management system capacities. Going forward, a significant focus of the IPI

process will be to incorporate stakeholder input on the information presented in this report and seek direction for the continuing IPI process based on that stakeholder input.

## BACKGROUND

Wastewater management for property owners within the Town of Concord is accomplished in one of two ways: on-site (typically with septic systems) or off-site (typically with sewers to the town wastewater treatment plant). Approximately two-thirds of property owners treat and dispose of their wastewater within their own property. Most of these on-site systems are basic septic systems generally consisting of a septic tank and a soil absorption system or leaching field. These systems are governed in Massachusetts by Section 310 CMR 15.000, The State Environmental Code, Title 5, implementation of which is overseen by the local Board of Health. A hand-full of properties subjected to more intense usage and higher flows operate advanced privately owned and operated systems, consisting of equipment and processes to treat the wastewater, with discharge still occurring on-site.

The remaining one-third of town (generally the town centers where development is on smaller lots) is connected to the centralized sewer system and disposes of its wastewater at the Concord Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The Concord WWTP operates under the State and Federal issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. MA0100668, which allows for surface water discharge of treated effluent to the Concord River.