

FAQ'S ABOUT THE WESTFIELD VILLAGE WASTEWATER STUDY

What prompted the Town to begin a Wastewater Study?

The Selectboard became aware of a change in Vermont law that now allows accessory dwelling units (ADU) to be built on smaller parcels of land, such as those in the village area of Westfield. This would lead to a larger need for wastewater treatment on each parcel of land. Around the same time, they became aware of a forgivable loan being offered by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation that would allow the Town to begin a wastewater study to see what options the Town may have for a potential wastewater system. There were no specific known septic issues in the village that prompted this study.

How much money is this study costing the taxpayers in Town?

The loan being used to fund the Village Wastewater Study is a forgivable loan. This means that the Town is not incurring any costs for the study to be done.

What was the amount of the forgivable loan the Town received?

The forgivable loan totals \$125,000.

Who is conducting the Village Wastewater Study?

AES Northeast, a company based in New York, are the engineers working on the Village Wastewater Study.

Who decides what happens after the Village Wastewater Study is complete and whether the Town moves forward with installing a wastewater system?

The Town will hold a vote once the study is complete to decide whether to move forward with one of the options presented as viable in the Village Wastewater Study.

How can residents get updates about this study?

On the Town's website there is a page dedicated to information relating to the Village Wastewater Study, <https://westfield.vt.gov/village-wastewater-study/>. There are also public meetings held at various stages of project completion that the public is encouraged to attend. The first 30% progress meeting was held on July 24th, 2025. A 60% progress meeting will be held in December 2025, a 90% progress meeting will be held in April 2026, and the Final Report meeting will be held in August 2026. These meetings will be available

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to attend online via Zoom or by phone if you are unable to attend in person. Links to the Zoom meetings will be posted on the Town website prior to the meeting.

Where can I see the reports for each step in the study process?

The reports get sent to the State for approval first. Once the State approves them, they will be sent to the Town and will be posted on the website, copies will be available for pick up at the Town Office.

Why is only the village area included in the Village Wastewater Study?

The State of Vermont discourages sprawl, and for that reason these studies are limited to the Village Designation Area and a ¼ mile buffer surrounding that designated area. The exact area, if the project moves forward, will be determined by the outcome of the study.

There are many questions that are commonly asked regarding things like: what the cost will be for users if a system is put in; will the Town be connecting to the Troy Wastewater System; what will the total cost of installing a wastewater system be; or will I have to connect to the wastewater system, etc.?

All these types of questions cannot be answered until the study is completed. The goal of the study is to supply the Town with 1-3 options for wastewater systems, which will include costs for each system. It will not be until these options are presented that a clearer answer for these types of questions will become available.

Will my water bill go up if the town has a wastewater system?

The drinking water system is currently handled by Westfield Fire District #1, and at this time there will be no change in this. The water invoice would remain separate from any wastewater system invoice.

Want more information?

If you have questions about the project, contact the Town Clerk's office for more information or you are welcome to attend a monthly Selectboard meeting.

- Phone: (802) 744-2484
- Email: townclerk@westfield.vt.gov or info@westfield.vt.gov
- or stop by the Town Office, 38 School St., Westfield, VT 05874