

Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

Success Story: Lower Bartlett Builds Out Water Infrastructure with Eye on the Future

\$14,999,000

WWD loan from
USDA RD

3.00%

WWD loan
Interest rate

\$6,447,000

WWD grant from
USDA RD

Over 40%

Area Population Increase
Per Decade, 1970–1990

26,745 ft. / 245

Length of New Sewer Line
/ Service Connections

588

Residents positively
impacted

Demographic Trends Affect HEALTH & SANITATION

The commissioners of the Lower Bartlett Water Precinct (LBWP) in eastern Bartlett, New Hampshire, couldn't ignore the inevitable any longer. The area has seen a significant population increase over the last fifty years, and more and more part-time residents were making permanent homes out of their once seasonal structures. Though the town has a healthy sense of community, the increase in privately owned septic systems increases nitrates, PFAS, and pharmaceutical pollutant levels in soils and groundwater, making the environmental hazards untenable. With a focus on livability for residents and their future generations, the community decided to make a move.

From Private to Public TRUST & RESPONSIBILITY

Effecting a transformational upgrade to water infrastructure required a major transfer of ownership. LBWP leaders proposed that the precinct replace individual septic systems with connections to a municipal sewer system. The resulting common collection tank would then connect to the nearby North Conway Water Precinct for treatment. Without this shared network, the failing or poorly maintained individual septic systems would continue to pollute the environment and prevent more affordable housing options in the region. Community residents saw the wisdom of the plan and gave it their thumbs up. Capital to complete the project, however, was the biggest hurdle to overcome.

Stepping Up to Help BUILD UP THE COMMUNITY

With the town's health and quality of life on the line, LBWP representatives reached out to USDA Rural Development to seek funding. The Agency came through with a \$14,999,000 loan and \$6,447,000 grant through the Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program. This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. The crucial Lower Bartlett Water Precinct project includes roughly 27,000 feet of sewer main, 100 manhole covers and 245 participating households, improving quality of life for roughly 600 residents.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the [USDA RD fact sheet](#)

