

# At a glance...



**Owner/Operator:** New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division, WRBP Bureau

**Statutory Authority:** RSA 485-A:45-54

**Communities Served:** Bay District (portions of Center Harbor, Moultonborough), Belmont, Franklin, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Northfield, Sanbornton and Tilton

**Gallons Treated/Year:** 5 million gallons septic; 2 billion gallons wastewater

**Total Expenditures:** Operating, administration & capital debt repayment

FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
\$4.4M	\$4.3M	\$4.4M	\$4.4M	\$4.2M	\$4.7M	\$4.4M

**Staffing:** 20 full-time positions

**Achievements:**

- EPA Region I and National First Place Facility O&M Excellence Award
- Outstanding Industrial Pretreatment Program National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award
- Governor’s Excellence in Energy Efficiency Award
- NHWPCA Operator of the Year
- WEF George W. Burke Safety Award
- Implemented Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and Balanced Scorecard Initiative

– visit the WRBP website for details –

## Testimonials

*“The WRBP is the Lakes Region’s realization of what can be accomplished through regional cooperation” and “has had a profound impact on the quality of life and water quality of the Lake Winnepesaukee watershed.”*

– Jeff Hayes, Director  
Lakes Region Planning Commission

*“The IPP is essential to WRBP communities as it provides the technical assistance necessary to meet permit requirements like for the Franklin Waterworks without the need for costly process modifications.”*

– Brian Sullivan, WRBP Advisory Board Chair  
Franklin Municipal Services Director

*“There would be no Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program without the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program.”*

– Michele Tremblay  
Chair, Upper Merrimack River  
Advisory Committee

## Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP)



Franklin wastewater treatment plant

The state-owned collection system and wastewater treatment facility serving ten Lakes Region communities



Winnepesaukee River Basin Program  
528 River Street, P.O. Box 68  
Franklin, NH 03235  
Phone: (603) 934-4032  
Fax: (603) 934-4831

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wrbp/index.htm>



## Beneficiaries and Benefits of the WRBP

**Customers:** Residents and businesses in Central New Hampshire; citizens and visitors to New Hampshire who enjoy the beautiful, clean lakes and rivers.

**Services:** Operates and maintains the state-owned sewer system serving over 14,500+ residential connections in 10 communities (or 43% of the population – not including the influx of tourists each year). Serves as an outlet for septic and holding tank disposal from more than 80 New Hampshire communities and numerous RV vacationers. Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) permits and inspects 13 industries and has permitted over 70 new commercial businesses since 2005.

## NH Challenges Addressed by the WRBP

For decades preceding the Clean Water Act (CWA), discharges of untreated and poorly treated wastewater into Central New Hampshire Lakes and Rivers resulted in

“pea soup” conditions and fish kills in Lake Winnepesaukee, Lake Winnisquam, and the Tioga and Winnepesaukee Rivers. The WRBP was created in the 1970s as part of CWA efforts to construct wastewater infrastructure and eliminate these discharges. This program preserves

water quality in the Lakes and Rivers of Central NH, supporting tourism and recreational opportunities, enhancing economic and residential development, and helping create a prosperous and thriving environment with sustainable water resources.



*Algae bloom, unnamed water body, circa 1972*



*Mill discharge coloring a local river, circa 1960*

**Winnepesaukee River Basin Program Collection System**



### Map Legend

- WRBP state-owned interceptor, the main sewer line that collects wastewater from member communities.
- Pump stations that move the flow along to its destination, the Franklin Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ★ Franklin Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ★ WRBP Maintenance Facility in Laconia, centrally located to the service area.

## Member Community Sewer Connections

In addition to the WRBP’s main interceptor, 14 pump stations and treatment plant, there is a vast network of local sewer infrastructure that is owned and maintained by each respective community or by private parties. These local sewers connect to the homes and businesses in each community.

## Understanding Sewer Rates

The WRBP is funded by the communities it serves. A portion of the sewer bill collected by each community is passed on to the WRBP and goes towards the costs of operating and maintaining the collection and treatment of millions of gallons of wastewater per day (costing about  $\frac{2}{10}$ ths of a penny per million gallons treated per year). It’s important to understand that a rate increase on your sewer bill does not necessarily reflect an increase in WRBP costs. In fact, the WRBP total costs have decreased by an average of 2% over the past ten years. The chart below shows the annual residential sewer rate for each community with the portion attributable to the WRBP highlighted.

