

## Provincetown DPW – Final Sewer Expansion Project

# Fact Sheets

Frequently Asked Questions

# Important Sewer Milestones Over Last 75 Years

<b>1947</b>	First Sewer Plan developed by Metcalf & Eddy. This project was not approved by Town Meeting and never constructed.
<b>1999</b>	The Town approved a unique sewer system to serve 350 downtown businesses and other property owners who wanted to connect to the sewer after decades of trying to agree on an affordable approach that also allowed most of the property owners to continue to manage their wastewater needs on site. This included asking the Legislature for Special Legislation to create the “checkerboard” sewer district and the design/build/operate approach, resulting in an award from the Mass. Municipal Association for this innovative project.
<b>2006</b>	The Town used data from the operation of the Treatment Plant and the disposal beds to show the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection that there was capacity available to expand the sewer system to serve important Town priorities including Seashore Point, Province Landing, the Laundromat, and the low-lying Court Street and Shank Painter Road area.
<b>2010</b>	The Town successfully won a major \$9 million “Stimulus Grant” from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to expand the sewer to serve the entire harbor front and the Bradford Street area from the Truro town line to the Cape Cod National Seashore Park including many properties in low-lying areas that were under Administrative Consent Orders requiring them to replace their system or connect to the sewer. Because of the increased interest in a sewer connection, over the next five years, this expansion invested more than \$20 million, half of that from grants, and served many additional properties including the area adjacent to Shank Painter Pond
<b>2018</b>	The sewer system has to be built and operated for the peak summer days, particularly around July 4 <sup>th</sup> and Carnival. The Town received additional grant funding from USDA to construct a peak flow storage tank to smooth out the large peak flows so as to be able to serve more properties in the existing sewer district. Planned to serve only 350 properties, the sewer now serves some 1,100 properties, more than one-half of all properties in the town.
<b>2021</b>	The 2021 Dept. of Public Works Outreach Survey and the Health Dept. Onsite Systems Report showed that there is still a great deal of interest and public health needs throughout the town. Now that we have exhausted the easier incremental improvements to the sewer system, as well as the available land at the Treatment Plant site, it is time to build on the successes to date and to finish the job by serving the remaining half of the properties in town, including providing the treatment and disposal capacity to allow for carefully managed growth for the next 20 years through the Town’s long-standing and equally successful Growth Management By-Law process.
<b>2022</b>	Currently one-half of the properties in town are served by the sewer and by the end of this decade, every property in town will be able to connect to the sewer with the proposed Expansion Project. Provincetown will be the first and only town on Cape Cod that is 100% served by a municipal sewer, a huge testament to the efforts by so many community members over the past 25 years.
<b>By 2030</b>	By 2030, everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Provincetown will be able to benefit from knowing that the important natural and historical resources are protected from the potentially harmful effects of older onsite wastewater systems that are at risk of flooding in the future due to climate change events. Onsite septic systems are not the future for the Town of Provincetown because of our high density of structures and the proximity to sensitive environmental and natural resources on all sides.