

## **Rhode Island's Source Water Assessment Program**

### ***A Unique Approach through Citizen Involvement***

As a resident of Washington County, you depend solely on rich groundwater resources for your source of drinking water. Do you share the vision of preserving these clean, plentiful waters for Washington County's future? Would you enjoy working with maps of your local area and combining it with your intimate knowledge of your community to ensure that local drinking water supplies remain clean and safe? Would you like to serve as a voice for your community in identifying and adopting management practices that would protect and enhance local, critical water supply areas?

***If you have answered yes to any of these questions***, please take note that the University of Rhode Island (URI) Cooperative Extension is working with the Rhode Island Department of Health to complete the State's Source Water Assessment (SWA) Program, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This Program was established by the 1996 Amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and assesses threats to public water supplies throughout the State.

Rhode Island's EPA-approved SWA Program is unique to involve citizen volunteers. Not only are local citizens the most knowledgeable about their community, they also benefit directly from efforts to protect and enhance local drinking water supplies. Increasing citizen awareness and involvement will improve the success of each town's plans to manage and improve drinking water supplies.

**Get Involved!!**  
**Preserve Your Community's Drinking Water**  
***Seeking Volunteers in Washington County***

There are two different volunteer opportunities—***Inventory*** and ***Assessment***. Some volunteers will inventory land use changes and potential sources of contamination within the public water supply protection areas, while others will provide input on the assessment model and analysis options. Volunteers can participate in one or both portions of this program.

**URI Cooperative Extension will be seeking volunteers to assist with Source Water Assessments in the following Towns:**

***North Kingstown—March 2001***

***Westerly—May 2001***

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If you would like to be involved, **please contact: Holly Burdett or Alyson McCann** at URI Cooperative Extension, **(401) 874-5398** to find out more. A fact sheet describing the **Inventory** and **Assessment** volunteer time commitments and duties is available at URI Cooperative Extension.