

**Ashland Housing Production Plan, Prepared by Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), In the
“Development Constraints and Capacity” section on p.39-40**

Water & Sewer

84% of Ashland parcels are within 100 meters of the public sewer system, containing 91% of the town's housing units. Wastewater is discharged to the MWRA system where it is conveyed to Deer Island for treatment. While sewer costs are a concern in town, capacity is not a significant issue given the size of the MWRA system.

An estimated 98% of Ashland housing units are served by the Ashland public water supply system, which is fed by five wells that produce approximately 600 – 650 million gallons per year; about one-quarter of the water produced is sold to Hopkinton. Average daily withdrawals (in 2013) were approximately 13% less than the registered and permitted withdrawal volumes under the Massachusetts Water Management Act. However, reservoir levels have fallen low enough in recent years to warrant continued Stage 2 water restrictions and emergency connections to the MWRA in 2007 and 2013. One condition of these emergency connections was the development of a long term plan to remedy deficiencies in the local supply. Furthermore, the state's Sustainable Water Management Initiative will also require more robust assessment of the

environmental impacts of water withdrawals in the near future. The town has considered a variety of alternatives, including joining the MWRA for supplementary supply, but a warrant article to pursue that option failed to win the necessary 2/3 majority at the 2014 Town Meeting. The town continues to explore its alternatives, but it is clear that substantially increased water efficiency and/or additional sources are essential for the town to support additional residential and commercial development.