

Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

Success Story: Investing in the Future of Community in Northumberland, New Hampshire

\$5.11 Million

WWD loan from
USDA RD

1.75%

WWD loan
Interest rate

\$1.72 Million

WWD grant from
USDA RD

\$30,000

USDA SEARCH grant
project funding

13,000 feet

Restored water & sewer
mains & connections

2,288

Townpeople positively
impacted

Rich in COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Northumberland is designated a poverty-target area, or Opportunity Community, yet townspeople are forward-looking and consistently make critical investments in roads, buildings and water infrastructure, even in hard times. This preventative maintenance ensures future generations can work and live in the community. Despite major loss of employer businesses, the town pressed forward to identify aging water and sewer lines, and proactively upgraded them through RD-funded projects in '05 and '15.

A Silver Lining of OPPORTUNITY

Past infrastructure upgrades were crucial, but further analysis through a USDA Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities & Households (SEARCH) grant revealed more was needed. A bond resolution to restore more water & sewer lines was intended for the 2020 town meeting, but the COVID-19 pandemic—and the need for a user rate study—delayed the vote. Though the pandemic negatively impacted timing, it lowered interest rates—and Northumberland residents took advantage.

Positive Health & Environmental IMPACTS

Northumberland will restore aging water infrastructure with transformative funding from the USDA. The project will repair and replace connections for water & sewer, restore storm drains, roads and surfaces, and floodproof the wastewater-treatment facility's control building. The project will enhance the sustainability of the town's infrastructure, thereby reducing costs and positively impacting water quality for 2,288 townspeople—and thousands downstream in proximity to the Connecticut River.

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



L to R: Water & Sewer Superintendent Reggie Charron, Road Agent Glenn Cassady, Selectman Keith Bronson, Horizons Engineering Senior Project Engineer Cathy Conway

