

WHAT THE SLUDGE?!



How the West Street Landfill expansion safeguards clean water for our community

The Project:

In 2023, the City of Gardner will construct a 4.3-acre expansion to the existing West Street sludge landfill, which receives biosolids, a nutrient-rich byproduct of the city's wastewater treatment processes. The City has explored numerous alternatives for managing biosolids and determined that landfill expansion best balances our community's infrastructural, environmental, and economic priorities.

Considering Our Community:

Gardner residents, visitors, and business owners rely on wastewater treatment as a public health utility. Expanding the sludge landfill secures effective long-term biosolids management to promote human, environmental, and economic health in our community.

Protecting Our Environment:

The landfill expansion design includes a double-composite groundwater protection system, consisting of five impermeable barrier layers, a primary leachate collection system, and a leak detection and secondary leachate collection system. The landfill's operation and maintenance plan includes frequent inspections and contracted environmental monitoring to monitor the performance of these systems.

Optimizing the City's Investment:

The City explored nine alternatives before committing to expansion of the West Street sludge landfill. Many alternatives were eliminated by a combination of environmental, regulatory, or economic incompatibilities. We are confident that expansion of the landfill is the safest, most effective, and fiscally responsible solution for biosolids management.

For more information, visit the City's website: gardner-ma.gov

