

GENERAL HYDROLOGY

HYDROLOGIC CYCLE AND GROUND-WATER-FLOW SYSTEM

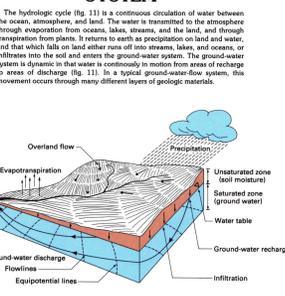


FIGURE 11.—Generalized hydrologic cycle and ground-water-flow system.

GROUND-WATER LEVEL

Long-Term Ground-Water Level

Long-term trends of water level decrease or increase are caused by extended periods of drought or above-normal precipitation, respectively. Water levels measured in observation wells GLW 5 (Granville 5), GLW 6 (Granville 6), and OTW 7 (Otis 7) from 1965 to 1986 are shown in figure 15. All three wells have 2-inch-diameter casing with 2-foot-long screens, exposed to 6.7 to 20 feet, and 17.5 feet below sea level, respectively. These are the only wells, unaffected by pumping, with long-term records in the basin.

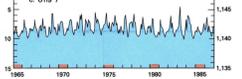


FIGURE 15.—Long-term ground-water level for:
A. Granville 5 well
B. Granville 6 well
C. Ots 7 well

GROUND-WATER-FLOW SYSTEM

In an idealized pattern of ground-water flow in thick sand and gravel aquifers in the southern part of the Westfield River basin, precipitation infiltrates the soil as recharge, percolates downward to the saturated zone, and flows down-gradient toward the Westfield River where it discharges as streamflow (fig. 12). The idealized pattern, however, does not always occur. For example, in upland areas of the lower Westfield River basin, ground-water flow in the upper (shallow) parts of the aquifer discharge into upland tributary streams, whereas ground-water deeper in the aquifer flows beneath tributary streams and discharge into the Westfield River (fig. 12). The actual flow pattern generally is more complex than shown because of variations in hydraulic conductivity of aquifer materials.

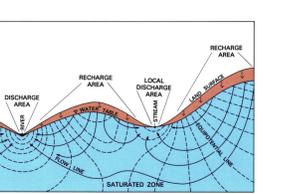


FIGURE 12.—Idealized pattern of ground-water flow in a sand and gravel aquifer.

STREAM DEPLETION BY PUMPED WELLS

Pumping of a municipal well near a stream, such as the municipal wells in Pond Brook and Great Brook aquifers, can result in depletion of nearby streamflow. Streamflow depletion may occur either by infiltration of water from the stream to the pumping well by reduction of some or all of the ground-water flow that would have been discharged to the stream if it had not been diverted to the pumping well, or by direct streamflow depletion. Using data on given distances between a well and a stream, and aquifer transmissivity, streamflow depletion can be estimated by using the graph in figure 17, which was adapted by Breckley and Hansen (1977) from Jenkins (1970).



FIGURE 17.—Estimate of stream depletion by pumped well.
EXPLANATION
Transmissivity, in feet squared per day
100
2500
4000
Distance of well from stream in feet 100, 500, 1,000

Water-Level Duration

Water-level duration curves of monthly measurements of wells GLW 5, GLW 6, and OTW 7 (fig. 16) show the percentage of time water level was equal or exceeded from 1965 to 1986. The curves indicate that the maximum ground-water level in the shallow aquifers generally occurs in March and April. The lowest water level occurred in August and September. However, when April is the water level from the land surface is greater than 30 feet, the response to recharge is delayed and the maximum water level rate occurs as late as May, in spite of the growing season being in progress. Duration curves for months not shown in figure 16 are shaped similar to and between the highest and lowest months shown.

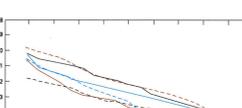


FIGURE 16.—Ground-water level duration curves for:
A. GLW 5
B. GLW 6
C. OTW 7

GROUND-WATER/SURFACE-WATER RELATIONS

Induced infiltration from streams and rivers to wells is the principal source of water to most large production wells in the study area. Induced infiltration occurs when the stream stage is greater than the hydraulic head in the aquifer beneath the stream. The rate of induced infiltration depends upon several factors, including vertical hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer and streambed, and the hydraulic gradient that is established between the stream and the well. To determine ground-water/surface-water relations, observation wells, some of which were equipped with continuous water-level recorders, were installed near the municipal wells in the Pond Brook aquifer (fig. 18). Water-level data obtained from these wells were used to determine the extent of the cone of depression and area of influence, and the rate of induced infiltration from Pond Brook caused by municipal pumping (fig. 19).

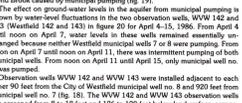


FIGURE 18.—Location of observation wells and municipal supply wells in the Pond Brook aquifer.

Comparison of the water levels in figure 20 indicates that pumping causes a water-level decline (about 4 to 6 ft in the deep observation well, WWV 143, than in the shallow observation well, WWV 142 (about 2 ft). The greater water-level decline in the deep observation well occurs because the municipal wells are screened at the bottom of the aquifer, and because the aquifer has an estimated 5 ft of induced infiltration from the Westfield River. Water-level fluctuations in observation wells WWV 166, 167, and 170 for October to November 1, 1985, are shown in figure 21. Wells WWV 166 and WWV 167 were installed 1,000 feet from the Westfield River, 7 feet between the municipal well and Pond Brook (fig. 18), and are screened from 105 to 107 feet and 81 to 83 feet below the land surface, respectively. Well WWV 170 was installed in Pond Brook 150 feet from municipal well no. 7 (fig. 18) and is screened 7 ft below the bottom of the brook. The effect of pumping of the municipal wells on the water levels observed in these three observation wells is similar to that observed in wells WWV 142 and 143 (fig. 20). Water-level decline when the municipal wells are being pumped and rise when pumps are shut off. The water level in Pond Brook is higher than the water level in WWV 170, water from the brook is infiltrating down into the Pond Brook aquifer. Conversely, when the stage in Pond Brook is higher than the water level in WWV 170, ground-water from the aquifer is discharging into Pond Brook.

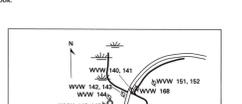


FIGURE 19.—Induced infiltration from Pond Brook into Westfield municipal well no. 8.

WATER BALANCE

Annual precipitation, determined by averaging rainfall amounts at 12 sites about the basin from 1951-80, is 47 inches. A water balance (fig. 13) based on data collected at Knightville Dam (located immediately upstream from the Westfield River at Knightville gauging station) shows that annual precipitation totals 47 inches and annual evapotranspiration equals 23 inches (as determined by the method described in Thornthwaite and Mather, 1957). During the period when precipitation exceeds evapotranspiration, a water surplus of 24 inches is available for runoff and recharge to the ground-water system. Evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation in June, July, and August creating a water deficiency of 3.3 inches.

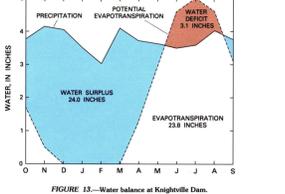


FIGURE 13.—Water balance at Knightville Dam.

SEASONAL CHANGES IN STREAMFLOW AND GROUND-WATER STORAGE

Streamflow and ground-water levels fluctuate as a result of seasonal differences in the amount of water available for runoff and storage. During late fall, winter, and early spring, streamflow and ground-water levels are high because withdrawal to water systems is low, plants are least active, and evapotranspiration rates are low. During the summer months, ground-water levels and streamflow are reduced as water is withdrawn from storage and ground-water contribution to streamflow is reduced because withdrawal to water systems increases and evapotranspiration plus consumption by vegetation exceeds replenishment of soil moisture by precipitation. These seasonal changes are shown in figure 14 for two streams and two wells in the basin. The mean and peak on the hydrographs (fig. 14) occur when the water surplus is greatest (fig. 13) and decline occur when evapotranspiration increase and a water deficit (fig. 13) is present.

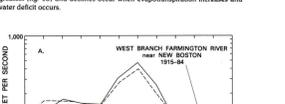


FIGURE 14.—Median monthly hydrographs of streamflow and month-end water level for:
A. West Branch Westfield River at Huntington and West Branch Farmington River near Boston
B. Granville 6 well and Ots 7 well

Estimate of High Ground-Water Level

Estimates of probable high ground-water level are required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Quality Engineering for permitting secondary sanitary sewage-disposal systems. The information commonly is needed at potential building sites or other places that may be adversely affected by high ground-water level. Ground-water level generally reaches its maximum altitude during the early spring; however, measurement at all ground-water observation points during the short period of high level is not always possible. To estimate the high ground-water level for a particular site at any time of year, Fimpser (1981) developed equations that relate the water level at that site to the water level at an observation well measured during the same month. Hydrologic and climatic conditions at the site are similar to those at the observation well, and the water level is derived for use in the Westfield and Farmington River basins. Data from long-term observation wells located about the Westfield and Farmington River basins were applied for sites in different hydrologic environments.

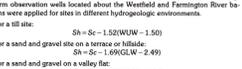


FIGURE 15.—Estimate of high ground-water level.

For a hill site:
 $SH = 3c - 1.59(WWV - 1.50)$
For a sand and gravel site on a terrace or hillside:
 $SH = 1.61(6.9LW - 2.49)$
For a sand and gravel site on a valley flat:
 $SH = 2c - 1.31(WWV - 3.16)$
where:
SH is the estimated depth to probable high water level at the site, in feet.
LW is the measured depth to water in observation well West Brookfield 6, in feet (for location of this well, see Kojima and Weisberg, 1986).
GLW is the measured depth to water in observation well Granville 6, in feet.
WWV is the measured depth to water in observation well Westfield 152, in feet.
Example: Estimate of the probable high water level for a particular hill site where $c = 13.61$ feet and $WWV = 9.23$ feet:
 $SH = 1.61(6.9(9.23) - 2.49) = 1.25$ feet
The most recent water level for observation wells West Brookfield 10, Granville 6, and Westfield 152 can be obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey report "Current Water Resources Conditions in Central New England," which is issued each month by the New England District office of the U.S. Geological Survey.

¹U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, New England District, 10 Cresseway, Boston, MA 02222

WATER QUALITY

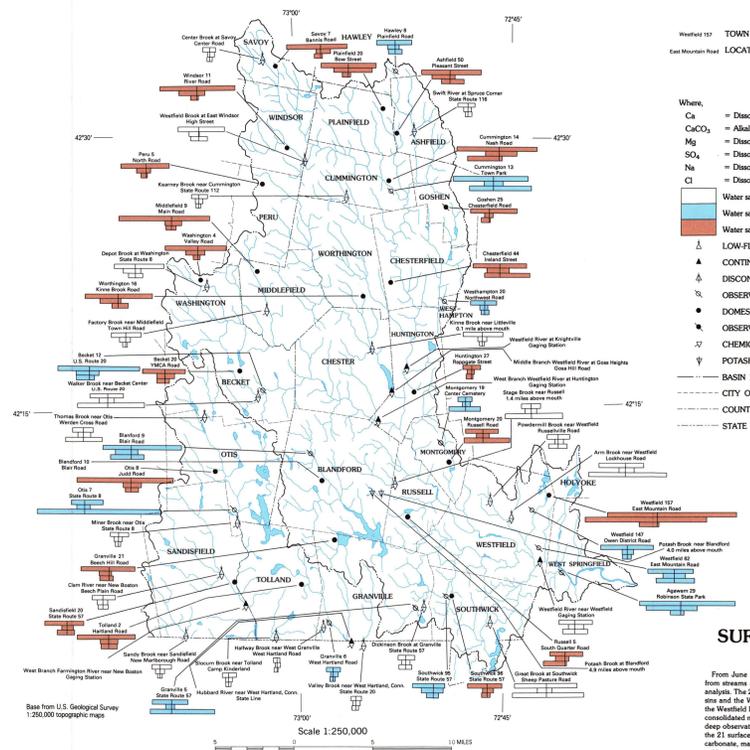


FIGURE 22.—Water-quality sampling sites and common concentration of water samples collected at those sites.

TABLE 3.—Range of field observations of pH and specific conductance for stream waters (—, insufficient data; μ S/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25°Celsius)

Stream and location	Observation Number	Water year	pH (standard units)		Specific conductance (μ S/cm)	
			Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
Arm Brook at Lockwood Road	6	1984-86	7.3	6.6	550	196
Benton Brook at Ots	5	1984-85	7.6	7.0	93	60
Clam River near New Boston	5	1984-86	7.6	7.0	86	69
Diamond Brook at Granville 3	3	1984-86	7.4	6.8	79	70
Diamond Brook at Ots	5	1984-85	7.1	6.9	126	50
Fall River below Ots	29	1977-81	—	—	96	44
Great Brook at Shaw Pattern Road at Southfield	3	1984-86	7.3	7.0	280	130
Great Brook near Westfield Gaging Station	39	1977-82	—	—	255	75
Great Brook near Westfield Gaging Station	5	1984-86	6.8	5.6	38	22
Westfield River near Westfield	7	1971, 1984	7.4	5.9	44	16
Haddam River near Westfield	1986	7.3	7.1	144	133	
Middle Branch Westfield River at Ots	50	1977-86	—	—	93	36
River Brook near Ots	6	1984-86	7.4	6.8	73	68
River Brook near Ots	4	1984-86	7.1	6.8	87	78
Sandy Brook near Sandfield	4	1984-85	7.5	6.7	65	49
Silver Brook near North Ots	6	1984-86	7.1	7.2	80	72
Strom Brook near Toland	6	1984-86	7.1	6.3	85	40
Thomas Brook near North Ots	10	1984-86	7.1	6.2	260	83
Thornton Brook near Westfield	5	1984-86	7.3	6.1	255	69
Walker Brook near Westfield	24	1975-77, 1978-1981	—	—	103	43
West Branch Farmington River near New Boston	37	1977-82, 1984-1978-86	—	—	509	44
West Branch Westfield River at Huntington	74	1982, 1977-82	—	—	509	44
Westfield River at Knightville	68	1984-86	—	—	286	54
Westfield River near Westfield	1971-74, 1978-86	—	—	94	50	

WATER USE

Water pumped in the study area in 1985 (table 4) from public and private water supply systems totaled 143 million gallons per day (mgd) per inhabitant. About 80 percent of the population is served by public-supply systems, and the remainder by private wells. As a general rule, the public-supply systems rely on surface water and on shallow wells completed in treated effluent. Most private wells are finished in bedrock. Water-use data are not included for the following municipalities because most of their area and nearest to any public supply in these towns is outside the basin boundaries: Agawam, Ashfield, Haverly, Hinsdale, Holyoke, Monterey, New Marlborough, Southampton, Tyngham, Washington, and Westhampton.

TABLE 4.—Municipal water use, 1985

Municipality	Projected population 1985 ¹	Percentage of population served by public supply ²	Water use from public supply ³		Self-supplied water ⁴		Total water use ⁵	Gallons per capita	Source of supply
			in million gallons per day	in million gallons per day	in million gallons per day	in million gallons per day			
Berkett	1,360	0	0	0.10	0.10	0.10	75	On-site self-supply	
Blandford	1,070	80	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.09	84	On-site self-supply	
Chester	1,120	65	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.12	107	Auton Brook Reservoir, Farm Brook	
Chesterfield	1,080	0	0	0.08	0.08	0.08	75	On-site self-supply	
Cummington	680	59	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	44	Cummington Center well, West Cummington	
Goshen	690	30	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	72	On-site self-supply	
Huntington	1,820	15	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	44	On-site self-supply	
Madfield	395	0	0	0.03	0.03	0.03	75	On-site self-supply	
Montgomery	665	0	0	0.05	0.05	0.05	65	On-site self-supply	
Ots	980	0	0	0.07	0.07	0.07	62	On-site self-supply	
Peru	695	0	0	0.05	0.05	0.05	75	On-site self-supply	
Plainfield	465	0	0	0.03	0.03	0.03	68	On-site self-supply	
Russell	1,610	77	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.38	236	Black Brook Reservoir, one well, Springfield	
Sandfield	685	0	0	0.05	0.05	0.05	75	On-site self-supply	
Southwick	7,710	50	0.42	0.29	0.29	0.71	92	On-site self-supply	
Toland	230	0	0	0.02	0.02	0.02	75	On-site self-supply	
West Springfield	27,000	100	3.86	0	3.86	143	West Brook Reservoir, Springfield		
Westfield	36,990	92	6.22	2.22	2.22	6.44	175	Westfield Reservoir, one well, Westfield	
Westfield	630	0	0	0.05	0.05	0.05	75	On-site self-supply	
Worthington	990	52	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.08	81	On-site self-supply	
TOTAL	88,105	80	11.28	1.35	1.35	12.63	143		

¹Data from Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 1983.
²Estimated from population and water use data.
³Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, Division of Water Resources and local contacts.
⁴Estimated from population and water use data.
⁵Estimated on basis of 75 gpcd per capita.

FIGURE 21.—Water-level fluctuation and induced infiltration caused by pumping of nearby municipal supply wells.

EXPLANATION

TONY NAME AND LOCAL WELL NUMBER
LOCATION
CONCENTRATION IN MILLIEQUIVALENTS PER LITER
5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 1230 1235 1240 1245 1250 1255 1260 1265 1270 1275 1280 1285 1290 1295 1300 1305 1310 1315 1320 1325 1330 1335 1340 1345 1350 1355 1360 1365 1370 1375 1380 1385 1390 1395 1400 1405 1410 1415 1420 1425 1430 1435 1440 1445 1450 1455 1460 1465 1470 1475 1480 1485 1490 1495 1500 1505 1510 1515 1520 1525 1530 1535 1540 1545 1550 1555 1560 1565 1570 1575 1580 1585 1590 1595 1600 1605 1610 1615 1620 1625 1630 1635 1640 1645 1650 1655 1660 1665 1670 1675 1680 1685 1690 1695 1700 1705 1710 1715 1720 1725 1730 1735 1740 1745 1750 1755 1760 1765 1770 1775 1780 1785 1790 1795 1800 1805 1810 1815 1820 1825 1830 1835 1840 1845 1850 1855 1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2