

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <[noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 1:45 PM

**To:** Shannon Belanger <[Sbelanger@wellstown.org](mailto:Sbelanger@wellstown.org)>; Mike Livingston <[mlivingston@wellstown.org](mailto:mlivingston@wellstown.org)>

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Us (Dropdown)

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## Contact Us (Dropdown)

First Name	megan
Last Name	walsh
Address1	103 Clark Rd
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City	Wells
State	Maine
Zip	04090
Phone Number	207-252-6608
Email Address	<a href="mailto:canticlefarm96@gmail.com">canticlefarm96@gmail.com</a>
Whom would you like to contact?	Planning & Development
Question / Comment	The town of Wells has retained the Resilience Planning and Design Group,(RPDG) for the purposes of collaborating with the town on the Comprehensive Update Plan, the plan for Well's future. In this project the town endeavors to have current and accurate information available to its citizens to inform the development of this plan. In doing so RPDG has retained

scientists such as Hydrologist, Soil Scientist and many others to provide us with the best and most accurate information. This information can be easily located on the website they have maintained for the town. It is a collection of information, reports and data vital to the writing of the update Comprehensive plan. I am writing to express my concerns about the protection of the Branch Brook Aquifer . Given the information contained in its report I would like to propose to the Board of Selectman that the extension of the Branch Brook Aquifer protection zone be considered in a new ordinance which would reflect the new information as indicated in the excerpts below which are taken from: <https://resilience.mysocialpinpoint.com/wells-comprehensive-plan-update> :

Appendix A Inventory and Analysis: Section 2 Update- Water Resources:Key Findings pg2

Extend aquifer protection zone around Branch Brook. In conversations with the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Wells Water District, we were alerted to the need to extend the Aquifer Protection zone around the Branch Brook Aquifer. These should be updated using groundwater well modeling rather than a surface water buffer. Recommended buffers from the KKWWD are shown on the map below (100-day travel zone in the red hatch and 2500-day travel zone in the solid red).

Chapter 3 pg 45.7. Protect the Branch Brook aquifer from potential sources of contamination by controlling land use in this area and maintaining the availability and quality of other existing and potential water supplies.

Pg 6 Implementation Strategies 1.) Revise the Aquifer Protection District of the Land Use Ordinance to incorporate a two-tiered zone for the Branch Brook Aquifer based on maps prepared by the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells Water District (KKWWD) and adopt use and quality standards as identified in the Aquifer Protection section of the Land Use Policies and Strategies. 2. Work with the KKWWD to acquire key parcels of land with high value for ground water protection and aquifer recharge through fee simple acquisition or conservation easement. 3. Review the Aquifer Protection provisions of the Town's Land Use Ordinance to determine whether or not there is sufficient protection of the groundwater in the Town's sand and gravel aquifer areas. Where appropriate implement and enforce regulations that control the use, handling and storage of hazardous materials in these areas.

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pg 14 Analysis1.) There are several mapped sand and gravel aquifers in Wells. The most important of these are the two aquifer areas associated with Branch Brook, the Town's municipal water supply. The Town should seriously consider if these aquifers need additional protection to preserve the quality and quantity of the groundwater. In addition, consideration should be given to proper management of the remaining aquifers. Wells currently has a protection zone but the new information obtained in the RPDG report recommends the reevaluation and extension of that protection zone. As you may know the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells Water District attempted to purchase the Chick Crossing property because they knew it was vital to the protection of our water source. There is community wide concern by many including the The Branch Brook Watershed Coalition which includes the following entities: KKW, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, The Nature Conservancy, Great Works Land Trust, Kennebunk Land Trust, Kennebunk Conservation Commission, Wells Conservation Commission and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

I would like to respectfully request that the town consider this new and concerning information about the Branch Brook Aquifer's protection and create a new ordinance reflective of this information. The Branch Brook Aquifer is a vital source of water for all residents in the town of Wells.

Thank you for your time and service, respectfully, Megan Walsh

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area

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