

VINALHAVEN WATER DISTRICT ROUND POND WATERSHED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vinalhaven Water District serves the island community of Vinalhaven's year-round residents and summer visitors from its Round Pond water source. The small, 48-acre watershed of Round Pond is located in the center of Vinalhaven. There are no significant stream drainages that discharge into the pond. The pond is small and relatively shallow. Nearly all the watershed area is in forest growth. The Water District owns a majority of the land in the watershed including most of the shoreland. Additional safeguards for land use are provided through a Water District Zone, and Resource Protection and Shoreland Zoning.

No significant land use threats were identified during the reconnaissance of the watershed. However, the roadway located along the shore causes the pond to be somewhat susceptible to potential impacts from runoff, unauthorized entry and accidental spills related to vehicular traffic.

Round Pond is the primary source of water for the community although emergency backup can be obtained from a nearby source, Folly Pond. Round Pond is used as an unfiltered source with chlorination corrosion treatment prior to entering the distribution system. The Water District monitors raw water and the results show good quality at the source.

The overall susceptibility of the Round Pond water supply is considered to be low. This is based on the extensive ownership of land by the Water District, comprehensive zoning controls, natural forested condition, lack of development, restrictions on recreational activities and community awareness.

SWAP RANKING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The SWAP assessment factors indicate that overall susceptibility of the water quality in Round Pond is low. This conclusion is based on the extensive ownership of land by the Water District, comprehensive zoning controls, natural forested condition, lack of development and the absence of potential threats from land use activities. One feature in the watershed that leads to potential susceptibility is the presence of a roadway along the shore of the pond. Specific factors considered in assessing the overall risk are summarized below.

ROUND POND SURFACE WATER ASSESSMENT

Zone	Measure	Findings	Risk Level
Watershed	Ambient Water Quality	Class GPA, in full compliance.	Low
	Existing Conditions	Forested and undeveloped; strong local awareness for protecting the resource.	Low
	Future Development	Future development is controlled by District ownership, zoning ordinances and alliance with private landowners.	Low
	Overall		Low
Shoreland	Pond Classification	Eutrophic, though no problems noted.	Low
	Soils	No concern for erodible soils along shoreline; road embankment present.	Low
	Activities Posing a Threat	Public access open but restricted for recreational uses; roadway drainage and vehicular traffic may expose pond quality.	Low-Moderate
	Potential for Future Threats	Same as above. Ownership, zoning and public awareness help mitigate threat.	Low-Moderate
	Overall		Low
Intake	Raw Water Quality	TE2 & TE3 testing shows good quality; low turbidity.	Low
	Ownership/Control	Water District owns intake area.	Low
	Activities Posing a Threat	Public access limited by signs and locked gate.	Low
	Potential for Future Threats	None identified.	Low
	Overall		Low
Overall			Low

Recommendations

The overall ranking for the pond susceptibility to threats of contamination is low. Several additional actions could be considered by the Water District and the town to provide added protection to the quality of the water supply.

- Continue to monitor water quality particularly with respect to assessing any effects from roadway runoff and to evaluate the eutrophic characterization designated by the state.
- Increase the visibility and number of signs that are posted around the pond and along North Haven Road in order to notify the public about protecting the water supply and restricting recreational access. Continue daily visits to the watershed to monitor for potential threats to the source.
- Communicate with the local Public Works to establish “best maintenance practices” in the pond watershed along North Haven Road with respect to the management of road drainage and use of commercial products for maintaining the road surface and shoulder areas.

Develop an emergency response plan to address accidental or illegal spills of chemicals or wastes that may occur as vehicles travel on the road adjacent to the pond.

- Continue the Water District's program of protecting land in the watershed through land purchases, conservation easements, landowner agreements, etc.

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