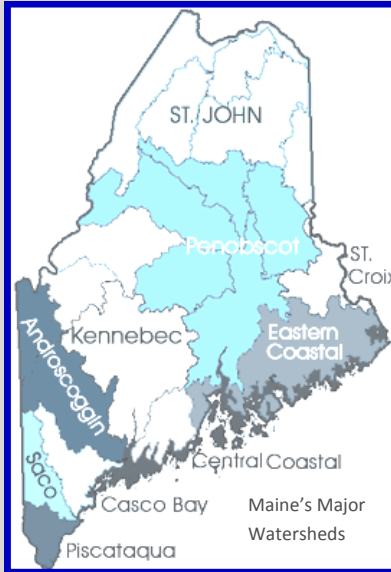


## Maine Water Facts

**Average annual rainfall:** 42– 48 inches.  
Equivalent to 73,500,000 acre-feet or 24 trillion gallons.

**Run-off:** About 50% of precipitation, or about 12 trillion gallons, runs off the landscape in streams and rivers.



**Evaporation/transpiration:** About 30-40% of rainfall evaporates or is transpired through vegetation. This equals about 7-10 trillion gallons.

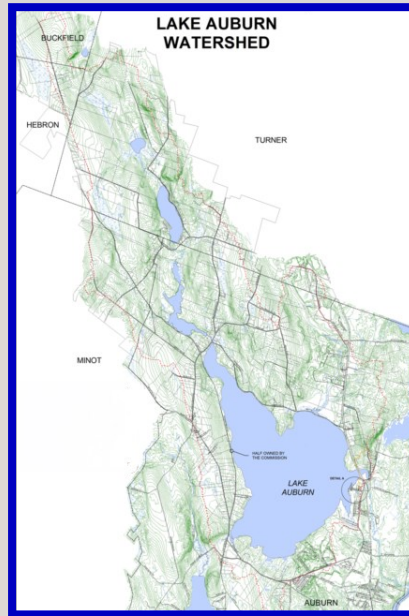
**Infiltration to groundwater:** About 10-20% of precipitation infiltrates to recharge groundwater. This is about 2-5 trillion gallons annually.

### Fact:

Sebago Lake contains about 1 trillion gallons of water!

*"...an abundant supply of clean water has undoubted advantages as an inducement for new industries (sic) to locate in [Maine]. These advantages will increase as the problem of water supply becomes more acute in other parts of the country; and we should improve our position in this respect as quickly as possible."*

*-Governor Edmund S. Muskie Inaugural Address, 1955*



This brochure was created by the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission.

The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission (LAWPC) was formed by mutual agreement between Auburn Water District and the City of Lewiston's Division of Water in the spirit of consolidation and partnership for the benefit of both cities' citizens. The LAWPC's primary mission is to protect the entire watershed feeding Lake Auburn, the source of drinking water for Maine's second largest



[www.lakeauburnwater](http://www.lakeauburnwater)

## PROTECTING MAINE'S DRINKING WATER: FROM THE SOURCE TO THE SEA



January 12, 2016  
Maine State House  
Hall of Flags

*Presented by the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission, Auburn Water District, and the City of Lewiston Division of Water, members of:*



## What is A Watershed?

The word means a parting, a shedding of waters, but a watershed is also a gathering place. It is a place where hills and plains

and people's lives are connected by falling rain and flowing water. Hilltops and ridges that act as boundaries measure a watershed. It is shaped by the hills, valleys, and plains that act as the landscape and it is tempered by the forests, fields, lakes, and marshes that serve as habitats for its creatures.

Most of us know a watershed through its streams and rivers that connect forests with fields, farms with cities, mountains with sea, and each of us changes the watershed day by day, bit by bit, as we go about the business of our lives.

## Water cycle:

In a watershed, rain, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and even our drinking water are all parts of an intricate cycle. Rain falls onto the land and soaks into the earth. Some runs off to streams; some evaporates before it ever reaches the earth. The water that soaks into the ground becomes part of the groundwater and feeds the streams and wetlands that supply much of our drinking water. Surface runoff forms streams, ponds, lakes, and rivers that eventually empty into the ocean. Rivers are the sign that the cycle is working, returning water to where it can evaporate, form clouds, and fall again.



## What is Source Water?

Surface water (streams, rivers, lakes) or ground water (aquifers) can serve as origins of drinking water, referred to as **source water**. Source water provides water for public and private drinking water supplies.

Public utilities treat most water used for public drinking water supplies.

Source water in Maine provides water to water utilities, mobile home parks, nursing homes, schools, factories, restaurants, campgrounds, homes, etc.

## Why Protect Source Water?

It may seem obvious, but the cleaner the source of your drinking water, the less expensive it is to treat. Maine depends on plentiful supplies of clean water to keep life the way it should be!

Maine water supports business, industry, agriculture, tourism, fishing, public health, fire safety, and the aesthetic and outdoor heritage we enjoy.

Protecting source water assures Maine's way of life for future generations.



Fall foliage, Lake Auburn

## How Can We Protect Source Water?

### A Multi-Barrier Approach

Reduce/Eliminate Pollutant Inputs  
Reduce Pollutant Transport  
Intercept/Remove Pollutants

- **Know the Watershed**

Identify areas for protection and inventory potential contamination threats.

- **Educate**

Inform and educate the public about their role in protection and encourage the use of best management practices to lessen impacts.

- **Professional, Science-Based Management**

Manage source water to reduce, prevent, and eliminate risk factors. Develop contingency plans to provide continuous supply.

## Who Protects Source Water?

- EPA- Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act
- State legislation and agencies
- Local ordinances, comp plans
- Water utilities
- Businesses, industries, NGOs, individuals
- **Everyone can make a difference**

For More Information, Contact:  
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[www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org)