

TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

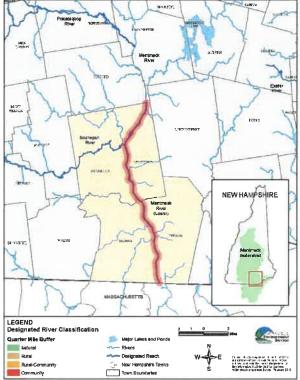
Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION								
Date Submitted: December 15, 2022 Submitted by: George May Department:				Date of Meeting: January 12, 2023				
				Time Required: 15 minutes				
Speakers: George May				Background Info. Supplied: Yes: No: No: _			No:	
CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)								
Appointment:	ppointment:		Recognition/Resignation/ Retirement:		n/ =			
Public Hearing:	blic Hearing:		Old Business:					
New Business:	New Business:		Consent Agenda:					
Nonpublic:	onpublic:		Other:	ther:				
TITLE OF ITEM								
Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (LMRLAC) & Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC) Presentation & Discussion								
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM								
The Town Council to be presented with information regarding the Lower Merrimack Local Advisory Committee (LMRLAC) and the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC).								
REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)								
RSA:			Warra	rrant Article:				
Charter Article:			Town Meeting:					
Other:		N/A	N/A					
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)								
Projector:	rojector:		Grant	Grant Requirements:				
Easel:			Joint Meeting:					
Special Seating:			Other:					
Laptop:		None:	e:					
CONTACT INFORMATION								
Name:	George May		Addre	SS				
Phone Number			Email	Address georg	gemay@	@comcast.	.net	
Approval								
Town Manager:	Yes _⊠_	No:	Chair/	Vice Chair:	Ŋ	es _	No:	

Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (LMRLAC)

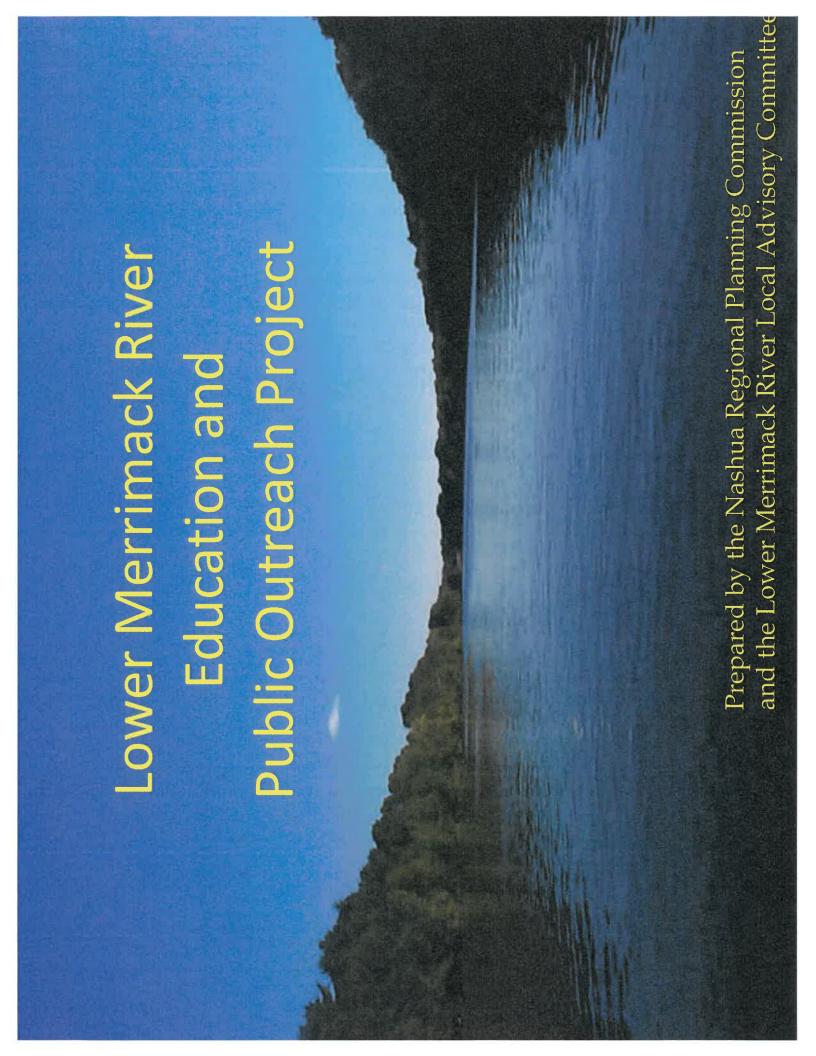
In the NRPC region, both the Lower Merrimack River and the Souhegan River have been designated as protected rivers due to their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee formed in 1990 after the Lower Merrimack received designated status. Under RSA 483 Local River Management Advisory Committees are appointed for each designated river or segment. Activities of the Committees vary from reviewing wetland applications and site plans for development, to assisting with trail projects and commenting on conservation activities within the river corridor.

Lower Merrimack River Base Map



In 2008, NRPC and LMRLAC updated the Lower Merrimack River Watershed Management Plan. Local involvement of the LMRLAC was crucial in order to develop a Management Plan that is consistent with the goals of each community in the Corridor and that provides a comprehensive action plan for the long-term management and protection of the Lower Merrimack River Watershed. An important part of the planning process involved a series of four river tours to identify areas of concern in each of the corridor communities.

In 2012, the NRPC conducted the <u>Lower Merrimack River Continuity Assessment</u> to determine the level of aquatic habitat fragmentation resulting from bridges and culverts, to identify and prioritize the specific stream crossings that can be targeted for improvement, and to provide guidance on the long-term ability of the river's culverts to handle flow and sediment transport processes and their risk of failure.



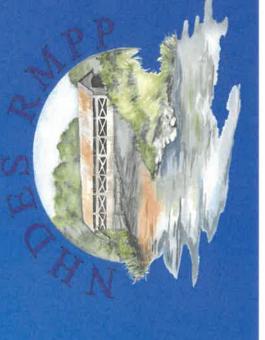
Introduction

- NH DES and the RMPP Program
- Lower Merrimack River Corridor
- Lower Merrimack River Education and Public Outreach Project
- Project Timeline
- Communication with Corridor Communities
- Questions and Answers

IH Rivers Management and Protection Program

RSA 483: Became law in 1988

- Competing interests/and demands for limited river resources
- through state and local resource management. Purpose: To protect unique NH rivers for the benefit of present and future generations

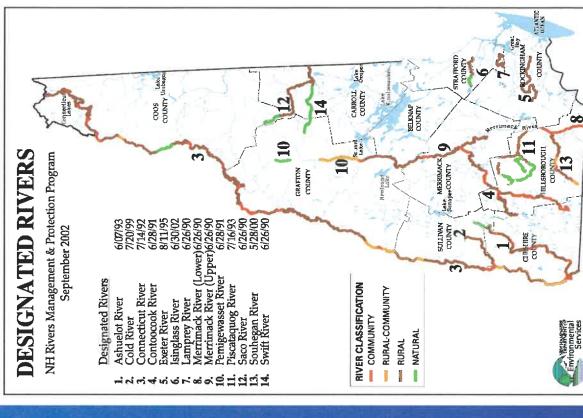


H Rivers Management and Protection Program

14 Rivers Designated

• 781 Total Miles

• 137 Riverfront Towns



NACES Notershed Management agreed

Local Advisory Committees

- At least 1 individual from each of the communities in the designated river corridor
- Concerned citizens with diverse interests in how the river is managed
- · Individuals formally nominated by their community and appointed by DES Commissioner
- Review developments in each community for opportunities and potential impacts to the river





Lower Merrimack River Corridor

- Lower Merrimack River designated June 26, 1990
- Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee charged with overseeing the protection of the River Corridor.
- NRPC provides assistance to LMRLAC
- Corridor Management Plan completed in 1990

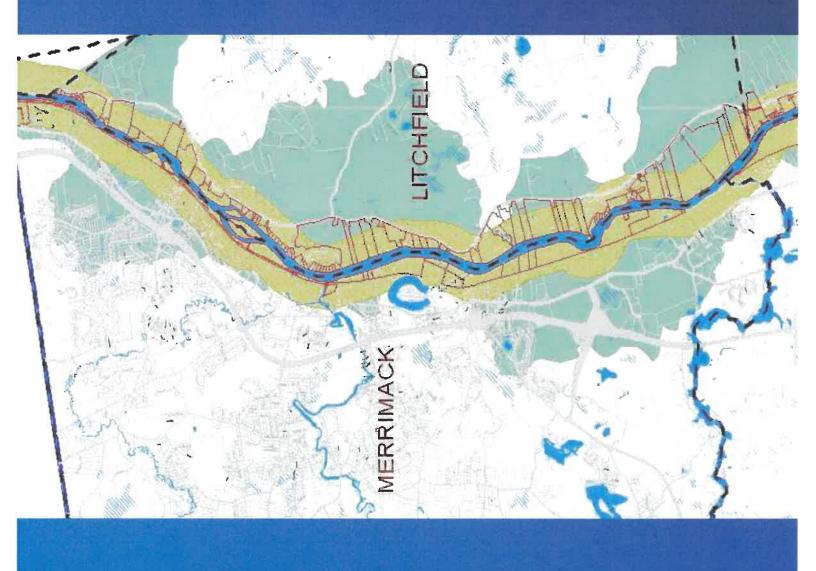
Lower Merrimack River Corridor

From the
Bedford/Merrimack
town line to the
New Hampshire/
Massachusetts state
line.



Includes the Towns of Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack and the City of Nashua

The Corridor is defined as "the river and the land area located within a distance of 1,320 feet (1/4 mile) of the normal high water mark or to the landward extent of the 100-year floodplain... whichever distance is larger."





Lower Merrimack River Corridor

LMRLAC responsibilities/activities:

- Review projects along the Corridor and provide comments to NH DES and communities in the Corridor
- Identify violations and provide input on restoration techniques
- Develop/update a Corridor Management Plan
- Program on Lower Merrimack River · Oversee Water Quality Monitoring

Lower Merrimack River Corridor Education and Public Outreach Project

Purpose

Management Plan while increasing awareness Update the Lower Merrimack River Corridor and stewardship for the Merrimack River

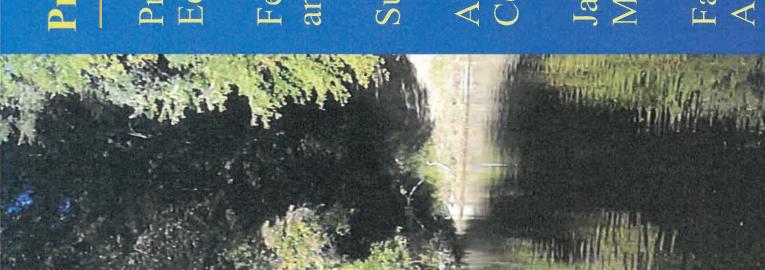




Background

 Lower Merrimack River Corridor Plan completed in 1990 NRPC receives mitigation funds from NH Chemical in January 2004 • Joint effort between LMRLAC and NRPC





Project Timeline

Present - February 2005: Initial Outreach and Education February - August 2005: Identify River Values and Threats

Summer 2005: Conduct Watershed Audits

August - December 2005: Outreach Events with Communities

January - November 2006: Complete Management Plan Fall 2006: Present Plan to Communities for Adoption

Communication with Corridor Communities

Goal

and all four Corridor Communities to protect Increase communication between LMRLAC the health and integrity of the Lower Merrimack River





Communication with Corridor Communities

Typical timeline for a Project along the River Corridor

- Planning Board reviews and approves a project
- Dredge and Fill Application to State/NH DES 2. Town/City Clerk submits a Site Specific or
- 3. NH DES sends the LMRLAC the application with 30-day timeline
- 4. LMRLAC reviews the application and sends comments to NH DES, community and applicant(s)



Ideal timeline for a Project along the River Corridor

- Planning Board receives an application for a project along the River Corridor
- 2. Planning Dept/Board forwards application to LMRLAC for review and comments
- 3. LMRLAC reviews application and sends comments to the community, applicant(s) and NH DES (if necessary)
- 4. Planning Board considers LMRLAC comments while reviewing application

Communication with Corridor Communities

Benefits

- LMRLAC serves as "consultant" for projects along the River Corridor
- Education about the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act
- Access to numerous resources to protect the Merrimack River

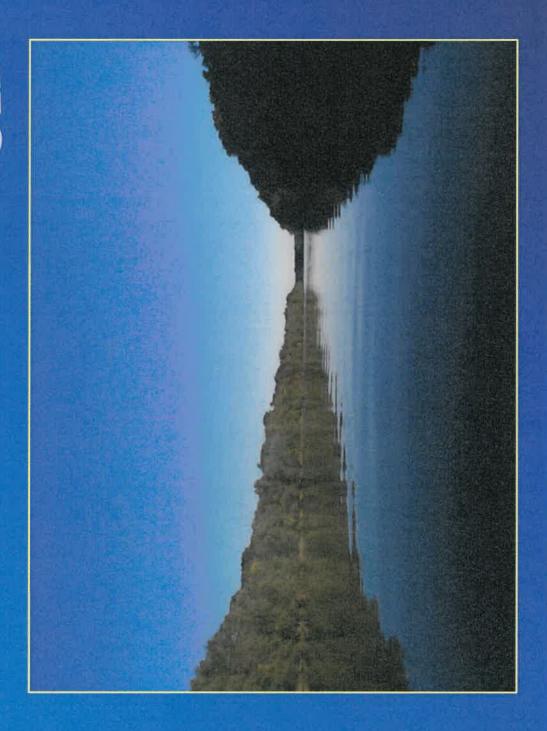




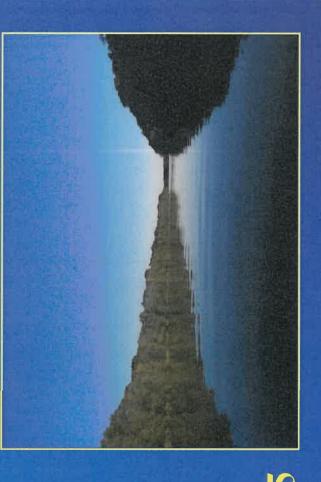
Development Review Checklist

- Developed to assist LMRLAC review applications
- Used Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act to compile
- Can also be used by Planning Boards and the applicant to review an application

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LMRLAC c/o NRPC 115 Main Street, Nashua Phone: 603-883-0366, x15



Website: www.nashuarpc.org/envplanning/lmrlac

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BY LAWS Adopted June 26, 2003

Article I NAME

A. The name of this voluntary organization shall be the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee.

Article II AUTHORIZATION and DUTIES

- A. The authorization for the establishment of the Committee and its duties are set forth under New Hampshire RSA Chapter 483 and amendments thereto.
- B. The Committee shall:
 - 1. Advise the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner), the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), and the municipalities, through which the Lower Merrimack River flows, on matters pertaining to the management of the river.
 - 2. Consider and comment on any federal, state, or local governmental plans to approve, license, fund, or construct facilities that would alter the resource values and characteristics of the River.
 - 3. Develop or assist in the development and adopt of a watershed management plan. The watershed management plan shall include a river corridor management plan pursuant to RSA 483:10. No such plan shall have any regulatory effect unless implemented through properly adopted ordinances.
 - 4. Report annually to the RMAC, the Commissioner, and the local governing bodies on the activities of the Committee, including but not limited to, community education and outreach services, river corridor protection or restoration efforts, and management plan development or implementation.
- C. The Committee may apply for and accept, from any source, gifts, grants, and donations of money. The Committee may, without further authorization, expend any funds so received to carry out its duty pursuant to RSA 483:8-a.

Article III MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Commissioner shall appoint the Committee. Committee members shall be chosen from lists of nominees submitted by the local governing bodies of Nashua, Merrimack, Litchfield and Hudson.
- B. The Commissioner shall appoint at least one (1) person from each of the municipalities named in Article III A. to the Committee. All members of the Committee shall be New Hampshire residents. In the event of a member's resignation, the Commissioner shall appoint a new member upon the nomination of that municipality's governing board.
- C. The Committee shall be composed of at least seven (7) members who represent a broad range of interests in the vicinity of the Lower Merrimack River corridor. These interests shall include, but not be limited to, local government, business, conservation interests, recreation, agriculture, and riparian landowners. If an interest is not represented by the local governing bodies' nominations, the Commissioner may appoint a member from the vicinity of the Lower Merrimack River corridor to the Committee who will represent that interest.
- D. Each member shall serve a term of three (3) years.
- E. Associate members may be appointed to the Committee annually by majority vote of full Committee members. Associate members are non-voting members of the Committee, but may engage in all remaining regular activities of the Committee. Associate membership is open to the residents of all communities within the Lower Merrimack River Watershed.

Article IV OFFICERS

- A. The Officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations.
- B. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the Committee and the Chairperson or her/his designee shall have the authority to represent the Committee as required before local, state, and federal governments, and public and private agencies in carrying out the duties of the Committee.
- C. The Vice-Chairperson shall act for the Chairperson in his/her absence and assume such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson or the Committee.
- D. The Treasurer shall receive and make payments as authorized by the Committee,

maintain and reconcile bank accounts, report on all financial activity to the Committee at the regular monthly meeting, submit an annual report of all financial activity to the Committee, and transact any and all other necessary financial business as authorized by the Committee.

- E. The Secretary shall be responsible for posting notice of upcoming Committee meetings as indicated in Article VII A. and keep a record of all such notices, and record all correspondence sent and received by the Committee and shall assume such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson or the Committee. The Secretary shall keep minutes for each meeting unless the Chairperson, or his/her designee, appoints another Committee member to record the minutes prior to the meeting's commencement.
- F. The Public Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for outreach, education, publicizing the efforts of the Committee, serving as press spokesperson and submitting annual reports to each community in the corridor in addition to the State.

Article V ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. Officers shall be elected annually in June of each year. A candidate receiving a majority vote of the members present shall be declared elected and shall serve for one year. Vacancies in office shall be filled immediately at the next meeting by a majority vote of the members in attendance, providing a quorum is present.
- B. A nominating committee shall be appointed in March.

Article VI VOTING POWERS

- A. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and each member must be present to vote.
- B. Business, including that requiring a vote, may be conducted with a quorum present. Should a simple quorum not be present, all business requiring a vote shall be deferred until the next regularly scheduled meeting. A quorum is when greater than 50% of the membership is present at the time of the vote.
- C. Determinations of any matter before the Committee shall require a quorum.

Article VII MEETINGS

A. All meetings shall be open to the public. Notice of all meetings shall be posted in an agreed upon location in each of the riverfront towns named in Article III A at least 24 hours in advance and in accordance with all applicable local, state, and

federal laws.

- B. Regular meetings of the Committee will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month or as agreed upon at a prior meeting.
- C. Regular meetings of the Committee will normally be held at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission or as agreed upon prior to the meeting.
- D. Special meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chairperson provided that at least four (4) days notice of the time, place, and business of such meeting be given to each member.
- E. Robert's Rules of Order will govern the proceedings at the meetings when necessary as determined by the Chairperson.
- Praft minutes shall be forwarded to the Selectmen and City Councilors or other appropriate municipal boards or commissions for each of the waterfront towns named in Article III A within 6 days following the meeting. Draft copies of the minutes from previous meetings shall be forwarded to each member prior to the next meeting. The minutes of previous meetings shall be submitted for approval at the regular meeting and any errors noted and corrections made, after which the regular order of business may be addressed. The reading of the minutes may be dispensed with and approved if there are no objections.
- G. Records shall be kept of member attendance. In the event that any member is absent from three consecutive meetings and six meetings within a twelve month period, the Chairperson may request the Commissioner to terminate that membership and make a new appointment to replace that former member.
- H. In the event that an issue comes before the Committee that requires a confidential discussion in a non-public forum among Committee members, the decision to call an executive session may be invoked. Specific purposes of an executive session may include, but are not limited to, personnel matters, land negotiations, and legal issues. In order for an executive session to be called a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Committee members present at the meeting shall vote to exclude all except voting Committee members. During such executive sessions the Committee may discuss the issue under consideration, but may not take action or reach a formal decision on how to proceed in a non-public session. At times of executive session all non-Committee members shall leave the meeting, unless specifically requested to remain by the Committee. The proceedings of an executive session shall comply with RSA 91-A:3.

Article VIII SUPPORT SERVICES

A. The Committee may enter into agreement for services, funding or other support

Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee BYLAWS, June 26, 2003 Page 5 of 5

from municipalities, regional planning commissions, National Park Service, New Hampshire Office of State Planning, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Merrimack River Watershed Council, Pennichuck Brook Watershed Council, local governments, or other entities as appropriate.

Article IX AMENDMENTS

A. These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a quorum provided that such amendment has been presented in writing to the Committee at its previous meeting.

As adopted June 26, 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL

Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

WD-R&L-17 2019

The Souhegan River

Formed by the convergence of its South and West Branches in New Ipswich, the Souhegan River flows approximately 34 miles through the communities of New Ipswich, Greenville, Wilton, Milford, Amherst and Merrimack before joining the Merrimack River. The Souhegan River is one of the largest tributaries to the Merrimack River in southern New Hampshire, with a drainage area of approximately 425 square miles. Throughout history, the river has provided transportation, powered early mills, supplied water for irrigation and drinking, and carried away wastes. Today, the river continues to provide these services; however, there is a greater appreciation for its natural, recreational and cultural resources.



Open Space

Despite the rapid pace of development in southern New Hampshire, large areas of undeveloped land exist along the Souhegan River in each community, particularly in the western sections of the corridor. Major parcels of undeveloped land along the river have been protected in the communities of Merrimack, Amherst, Milford, Wilton, Greenville, and New Ipswich.

Geology

During the last ice age, glacial Lake Merrimack extended up the Souhegan River to Milford Center, leaving behind fine sands and silts that underlie the floodplains of the river. Additionally, streams flowing from melting glaciers deposited sediments in layers of similar sized grains. These geologic resources, known as stratified drift aquifers, provide a source of high quality drinking water used for public supplies by the towns of Merrimack, Milford and Wilton. The aquifers also supply water for a spring water company in Wilton and a fish hatchery in Milford. Other significant geologic resources include scenic areas such as the gorge in Greenville, Horseshoe Falls in Wilton and Wildcat Falls in Merrimack.

History

The Souhegan River corridor has accommodated a wide range of land uses. Over three hundred years ago, a band of Penacook Indians settled on the banks of the river they named "Souhegan." Rough English translations of Souhegan are "river of the plains" and "river of difficult portages." A 1652 scouting report indicated there were about 50 Penacook families near the mouth of Salmon Brook and the Nashua River and many more along the banks of the Souhegan and Merrimack Rivers. In the 1700s, the area became increasingly populated by European settlers. Settlements were accompanied by agrarian development of the land, the establishment of mills, and the incorporation of towns. The development of mills, largely textile, continued through the 1800s and into the early 1900s. In the 1920s, shoe factories began locating in the region, further increasing the

manufacturing base of the area. The prosperity of mills and factories became threatened by the end of World War II when a shift in the textile industries from the northeast to the southern U.S. occurred. Today, few of the communities in the Souhegan River corridor maintain a strong manufacturing role, having undergone a transition to other industries including electronics, defense, and computer technology, or having become primarily residential.

Wildlife, Habitat and Vegetation

Mammals and birds found in the Souhegan River corridor are those commonly found in southern New Hampshire. Depending on the season, the river corridor is host to a wide diversity of bird species such as warblers, sparrows, wrens, and several species of raptors. A number of species of ducks, geese and herons nest in the area or migrate through the corridor. Rural areas of the watershed support animals that require larger territories such as moose and black bear. The river corridor is also home to the state-listed endangered Blanding's turtle and Eastern hognose snake, and the state-listed threatened grasshopper sparrow, bald eagle, and Northern leopard frog.

Typical plant species in the river corridor include white pine, hemlock, red maple, red oak, sycamore, and numerous species of grasses and shrubs. In addition, state-listed threatened species such as the bird-foot violet, clasping milkweed, and Giant Rhododendron, as well as state-listed endangered northern wild senna and red-footed spikesedge, have been documented in the river corridor.

Fishing and Recreation

Native fish species in the Souhegan River include brook trout, smallmouth bass, sunfish, yellow perch, suckers and dace. In addition, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department annually stocks game fish, including over 5,000 rainbow, brown, and brook trout in the Souhegan River. The river was also an important part of the, now discontinued, Merrimack River Anadromous Fish Restoration Program and was considered one of the most productive rivers in the watershed. The upper reaches of the Souhegan and its tributaries provide ideal habitat for Atlantic salmon. The dams on the river are equipped with downstream passage only at this time since natural reproduction is not expected. However, the Merrimack Village dam, the lowermost dam near the Souhegan River's mouth at the Merrimack River, was removed in 2008, improving fish passage opportunities for many species.

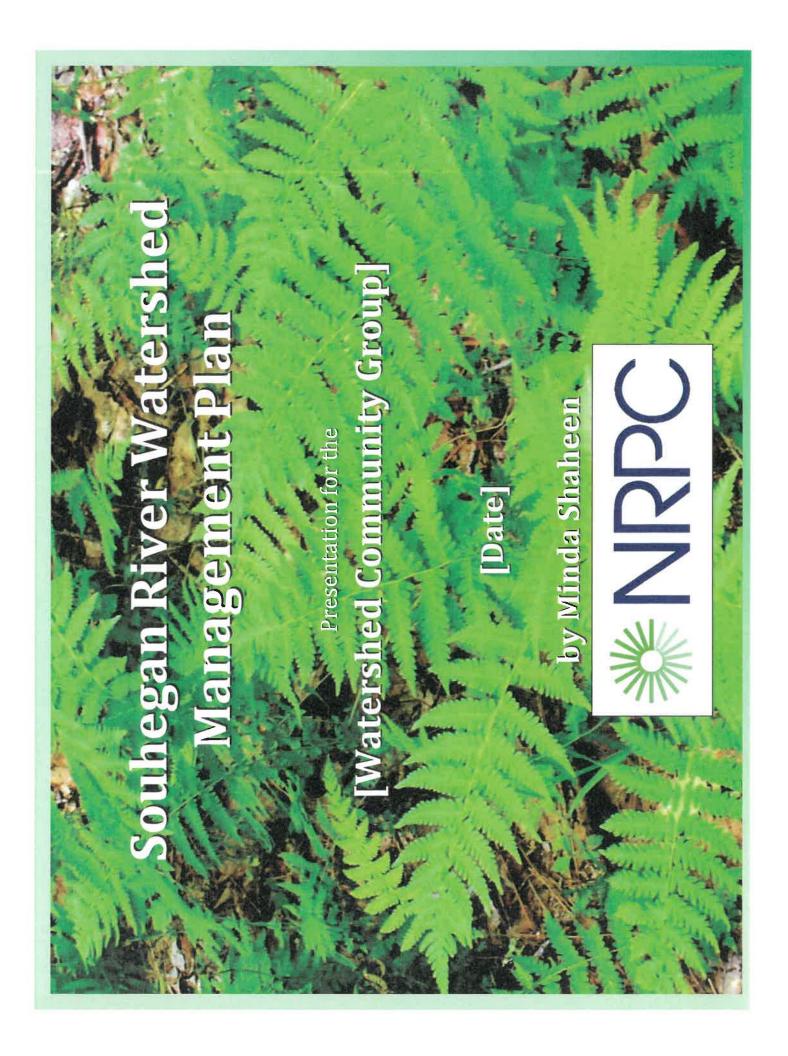
Boating on the Souhegan River is limited to canoes and kayaks since water depth is generally low. Both the Appalachian Mountain Club's River Guide and the New England Whitewater River Guide identify the river as good, intermediate whitewater. The rapids in the Greenville/Wilton stretch are classified as Class II, III and IV whitewater. There are public access sites in the towns of Merrimack, Amherst, Milford, and Wilton.

Protected Instream Flow

The Souhegan River was one of the first two designated rivers on which the Instream Flow Program was applied. Studies of the river's flow-dependent, instream public uses were conducted to determine the seasonal flows necessary to support both natural aquatic habitats and human uses. These flows were established in 2013 as protected flow criteria, and are implemented under a water management plan that includes conservation and water use management by larger water users and impoundment management at selected dams. Examples of water management actions include water-use restrictions or bans, and water releases from the dams to create relief flows to support protected instream flows during periods of unusually low flow. The program aims to ensure that lake and river ecosystems as well as the water needs of human users are equitably supported.

For More Information

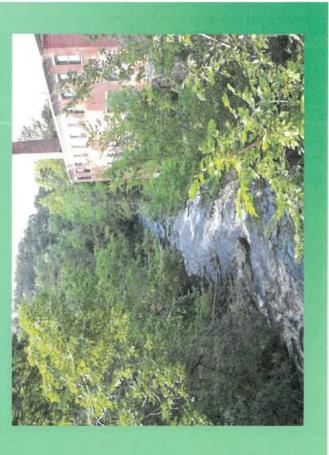
For further information about the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program, visit the NHDES website and search for RMPP, or contact the Rivers Coordinator, 29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-2959; riversprogram@des.nh.gov.

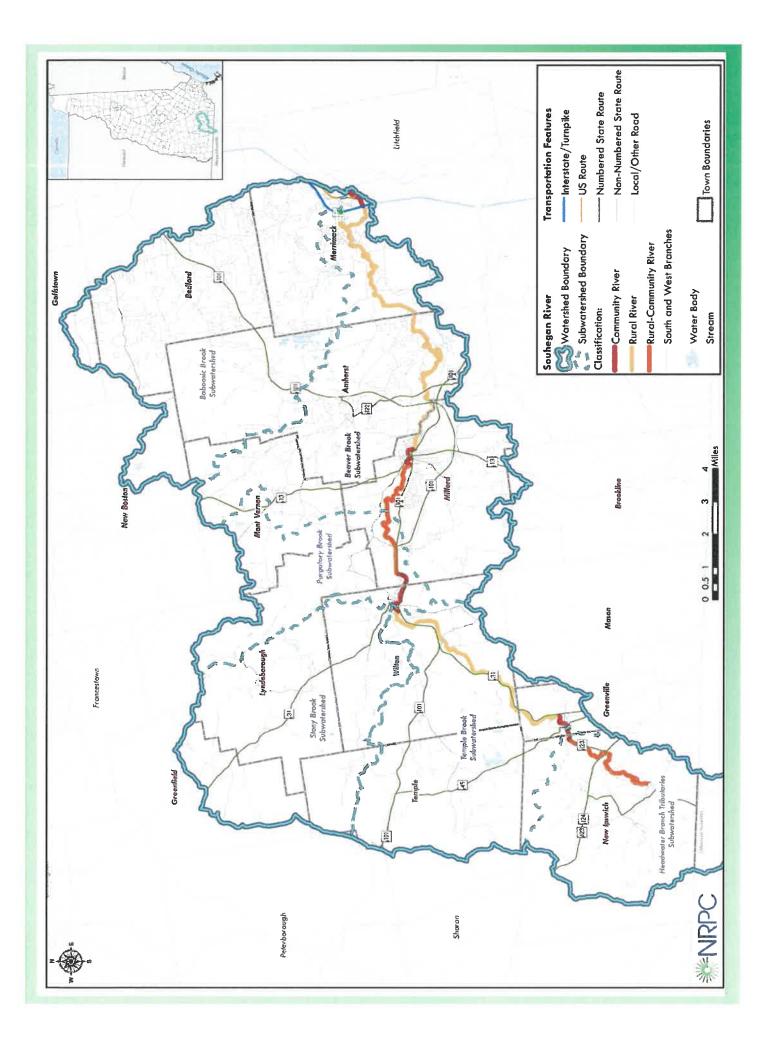


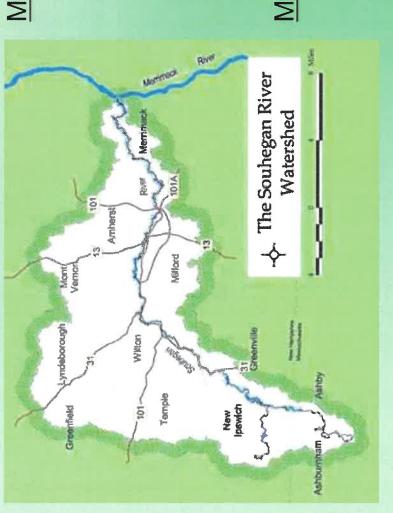
Presentation Overview

- Intro to the Souhegan River Watershed
- Overview of the SRWMP
- Incorporation into Community Master Plans
- Next Steps and Available Resources

- Designated River under the NH River Management and Protection Program (RSA 483)
- Members appointed to the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee by nomination through local governing body and approval by NHDES Commissioner
- Membership represents a broad range of interests and all communities through which river flows





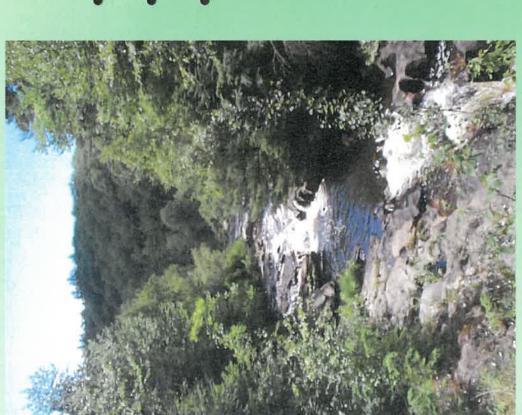


Major Watershed Communities

AmherstMilfordBedfordMont VernonGreenvilleNew IpswichLyndeboroughTempleMerrimackTemple

Minor Watershed Communities

Brookline New Boston
Goffstown Peterborough
Greenfield Sharon
Greenville Ashburnham, MA
Ashburnham, MA
Ashby, MA



- Lots of existing data
- Lots of threats
- Lots of stakeholders

- 34 river miles from Ashburnham MA to the Merrimack River
- 220 square miles contained by the watershed
- 6 subwatershed areas
- 8,217 acres of wetlands in the watershed (NRPC 2006)
- 1,707 acres of lakes and ponds
- 14 major tributaries to the Souhegan
- 347 river miles of contributing streams
- 39 to 818 cfs flow range recorded at the USGS gauging station above Wildcat Falls in Merrimack
- 900-foot elevation change from New Ipswich to Merrimack
- 19 Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species

- Prepared by NRPC on behalf of SoRLAC in March 2006
- Specifies long-term use and protection strategies for the Souhegan River and its watershed

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view way, 231 Antenna Access to an agent years to a
view way it has the contact of the green wayers from

Prepared by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission

Contents of the Plan

Chapter 1 - Executive Summary

Chapter 2 - Introduction

Chapter 3 - Watershed Conditions

Chapter 4 - Watershed Assessment

Chapter 5 - Watershed Protection Techniques Toolbox

Chapter 6 - Implementation Strategies

Chapter 7 - Measuring Results

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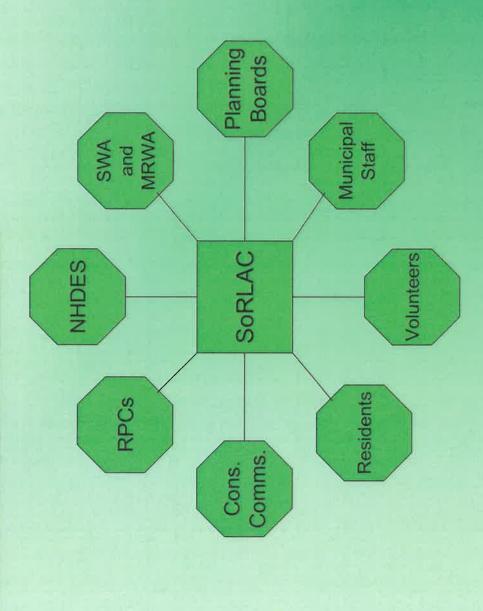
Chapter 6 - Implementation Strategies

Chapter 7 - Measuring Results

Implementation Strategies

-) Watershed Planning
- 2) Land Conservation
- 3) Aquatic Buffers
- 4) Better Site Design
- 5) Erosion and Sediment Control
- 6) Stormwater Management
- 7) Non-stormwater Discharges
- Watershed Stewardship Programs

Watershed Management Partners



Purpose of the Plan

- Develop strategies and goals that improve the watershed environment and river resource
- Manage resources at a watershed scale
- Improve understanding of the watershed and its processes
- Provide direction for stakeholder groups on issues and opportunities

Priority Management Objectives

- Adopt a watershed management approach
- Encourage public access to the Souhegan River
- Encourage land conservation and open space in the watershed
- Prevent loss of wetlands
- Prevent development of floodplains
- Maintain and restore vegetated buffers
- Adopt site design practices that protect aquatic resources

Priority Management Objectives (cont.)

- Prevent soil erosion and require use of BMPs
- Use water quality BMPs to mitigate impacts of stormwater
- Prevent non-stormwater discharges
- Promote watershed stewardship activities
- Continue and expand water quality monitoring efforts

Incorporation Process

- Allow communities to become familiar with the plan through public presentations and discussions with SoRLAC and NRPC
- Copies of the SRWMP
- Watershed Maps
- Community Watershed Brochures
- Web-based Resources (www.srwa.org and www.nashuarpc.org/SRLAC
- Follow-up Presentations
- Identify areas where Master Plan goals coincide with SRWMP objectives as well as new objectives or strategies

Next Steps and Resources

- 1) Form a local subcommittee
- 2) Review the SRWMP in detail
- 3) Ask questions about the Plan
- Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee
- Souhegan River Watershed Association
- Nashua Regional Planning Commission
- NH Department of Environmental Services
- Hold informational meetings as needed
- Discuss findings from each step with municipal officials 2
- 6) Adopt the Plan (RSA 675:6)!





Next Steps and Resources

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee and Souhegan River Watershed Association
George May, Chair georgemay@comcast.net

Nashua Regional Planning Commission
Minda Shaheen, Environmental Planner
mindas@nashuarpc.org

NH Department of Environmental Services

Laura Weit-Marcum,

Acting Rivers Coordinator

laura.weit-marcum@des.nh.gov

