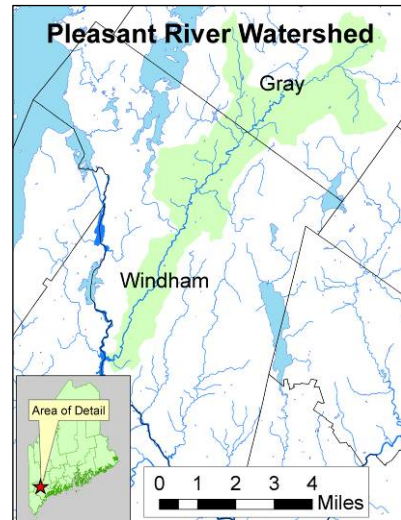


Pleasant River NPS Watershed Survey

#2008PP09

Waterbody Name: Pleasant River
Location: Gray and Windham – Cumberland County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed
Project Grantee: Presumpscot River Watch
Project Duration: April 2008 – September 2009
604b Grant Amount: \$17,690
Local Match: \$15,110



PROBLEM:

The Pleasant River watershed covers 29 square miles and is within the greater Presumpscot River watershed. Presumpscot River Watch (PRW) volunteers have monitored four stations on the Pleasant River since 1989, and their data show that the river has consistently failed to meet the class B standards for dissolved oxygen since 1999. One site in the upper portion of the river failed to meet the class B standards every year from 2000 through 2005. Data shows an increase in bacteria levels, with *E coli* numbers repeatedly exceeding the class B standard in both dry and wet weather.

As a result, PRW and its partners have identified the Pleasant River as the top threat to the water quality of the Presumpscot River and Casco Bay. In 2005 PRW was one of several Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition partner organizations to be awarded a Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant from the US EPA for the restoration of the Presumpscot River.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this project was to identify, document and prioritize polluted runoff sites in the Pleasant River watershed and recommend Best Management Practices (BMPs) for each of these sites. On July 7, 2008, 22 volunteers and technical staff received training on field survey techniques. Teams then surveyed assigned sectors and documented polluted runoff sources using cameras, field sheets and handheld GPS units. Pollutant loading estimates were completed for the 23 high and medium impact sites.

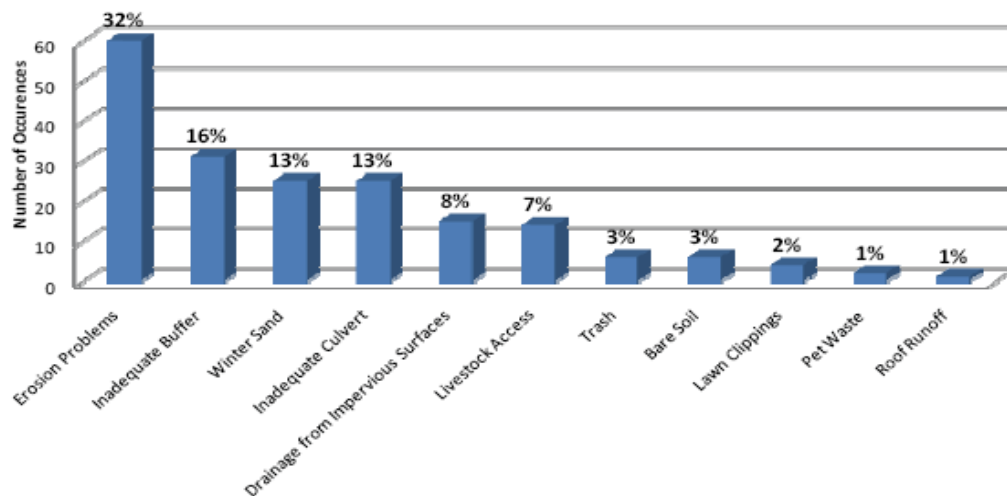
Three high-density areas (downtown Gray, Falmouth Road in Gray and Route 302 in Windham) were surveyed using a modified version of the Center for Watershed Protection's Neighborhood Source Assessment and their standard Hotspots Inventory forms. Stream corridor surveys were completed along sections of Thayer River and Thayer Brook, and additional observations were made during a canoe trip along the Pleasant River. Survey findings were summarized in a final survey report, and survey information was shared with the public through press releases and a postcard mailing to landowners.



Bare soil and inadequate erosion controls at a construction site

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The entire Pleasant River watershed was surveyed, and 95 NPS sites were documented. 35% of the sites were associated with town roads, 15% with private roads, 13% with residential areas, 11% with state roads and 9% with agriculture.
- The *Pleasant River Watershed Survey Report* was completed in September, 2009. The report includes a summary of the survey methods, analysis of findings and a list of identified NPS sites.
- A Stream Corridor Survey was completed for segments of Thayer River and Thayer Brook, and a canoe trip was completed along much of the Pleasant River. Observations were summarized in Section 6 of the *Pleasant River Watershed Survey Report*.
- The CWP's Neighborhood Source Assessment and Hotspots Inventory were completed in three sections of the watershed. The NSA evaluated a total of 352 residential units (216 in the Falmouth Rd. neighborhood, 110 in the Rte. 302 neighborhood, and 26 in downtown Gray). The Hotspot Inventory identified seven (7) 'potential' hotspot sites out of a total of seventeen (17) commercial properties surveyed.
- Pollutant loading estimates were completed for 23 high and medium impact sites in the watershed. These sites deliver an estimated 205 tons of soil and 191 pounds of phosphorus into the Pleasant River each year (Region 5 Method).



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Cumberland County SWCD
Town of Gray
Town of Windham
FlyFishingInMaine.com
Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2010) "Nonpoint Source Management Program 2009 Annual Report," Document# DEPLW-1159 2010. Augusta: MDEP.