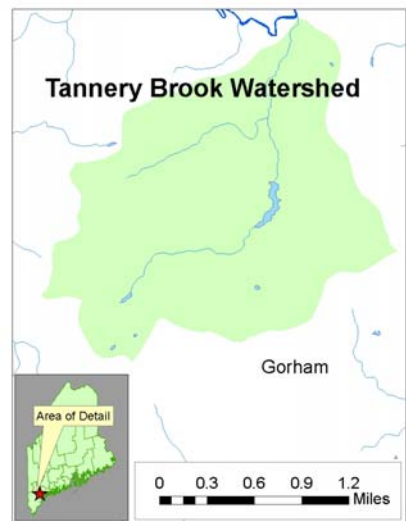


# Tannery Brook Watershed Management Plan Project

#2002-15

Waterbody Name: Tannery Brook  
Location: Gorham, Cumberland County  
Waterbody Status: Presumpscot River - NPS Priority Watershed  
Project Sponsor: Cumberland County SWCD  
Project Duration: April 2002 – December 2005  
319 Grant Amount: \$31,652  
Match: \$21,903



## PROBLEM:

Tannery Brook is a perennial, second order, Class B stream in the Presumpscot River Watershed in Gorham, Maine and is a tributary to the Little River and part of the larger Casco Bay Watershed. The Brook is approximately 4.2 miles in length, and its direct watershed covers 2.8 square miles including Gorham's downtown village area. The watershed supports the largest density of residential and commercial development in the Town of Gorham, one of the fastest growing towns in Maine.

Tannery Brook's water quality is threatened by nonpoint source pollution that washes into the stream from its surrounding watershed, which includes urban areas that contribute excess sediment, increased flows, and thermal pollution to the stream. A water quality and aquatic life monitoring project in 1999 indicated that Tannery Brook was in compliance with the state's class B water chemistry classification, but revealed that the Brook is failing to meet state classification based on biological criteria.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to develop the Tannery Brook Watershed Management Plan that will be used to guide long-term watershed protection efforts in the community. The project began by collecting information about the watershed's specific NPS problems through a watershed survey, which documented a total of 37 pollution sites. The project also conducted a Stream Habitat Walk and a Rapid Geomorphology Survey to identify areas of habitat degradation and prioritize restoration efforts. The University of Southern Maine, whose Gorham campus lies entirely within the Tannery Brook watershed, performed an extensive water quality assessment and produced a MDEP-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan.

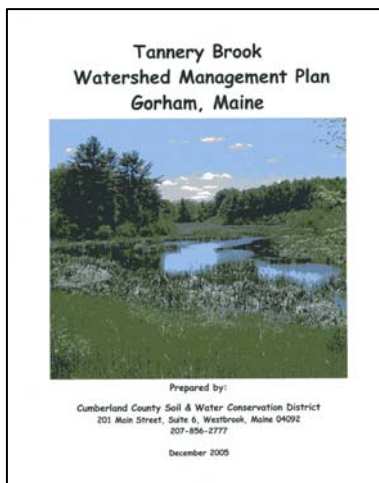


This dumpsite was identified during the Watershed Survey.

In October, 2004, approximately 35 residents and town officials participated in a day-long community forum where they identified issues and developed strategies to protect Tannery Brook. Participants then formed three action workgroups and met four times to further develop conservation strategies. The information was incorporated into a draft plan, and following public input a formal watershed management plan was created.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project Staff and volunteers surveyed the Tannery Brook Watershed and documented 35 pollution sites, with 6 high impact, 6 medium impact, and 23 low impact sites identified. They also developed recommendations, rated cost and technical level required to fix each site, and performed pollutant load estimations.
- Project Staff produced the *Tannery Brook Watershed Survey Report* (June 2005), which summarizes watershed survey findings and lists specific information on each identified site.
- Volunteers and staff conducted a Stream Habitat Walk and Rapid Geomorphology Assessment to identify and document areas of habitat degradation and develop preliminary restoration strategies. Efforts resulted in the *Tannery Brook Rapid Stream Habitat and Geomorphology Survey Report*, produced in January, 2005.
- In October, 2004, approximately 35 residents and town officials attended the Tannery Brook community Forum. Participants identified key issues and outlined implementation strategies which formed the framework of the watershed management plan.
- The *Tannery Brook Watershed Management Plan* was completed in December 2005.



## PROJECT PARTNERS:

Town of Gorham  
University of Southern Maine  
Presumpscot River Watch  
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership  
Gorham Parks and Conservation Commission  
Maine Department of Transportation

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2006) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2005 Annual Report,”  
Document# DEPLW0758. Augusta: MDEP.