

Goosefare Brook Watershed Survey

#2001R-20

Waterbody Name: Goosefare Brook

Location: Saco, Old Orchard – York County

Waterbody Status: Urban Impaired Stream

Project Sponsor: City of Saco

Project Duration: April 2001 – September 2006

319 Grant Amount: \$24,000

Local Match: \$40,900



PROBLEM:

Goosefare Brook drains directly into Saco Bay mid-way between Old Orchard Beach and Ferry Beach State Park, two major beaches on the longest recreational sand beach in the State of Maine. The Department of IF&W has rated the estuary as a “Coastal Wildlife Concentration Area of State Significance”, and much of the estuary is part of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. The lower reach of Goosefare Brook is a swimming, boating and fishing recreation area. The watershed covers 7.6 square miles (1.6 square miles in Old Orchard Beach and 6 square miles in Saco). Watershed land use includes agricultural, forest, wetland, urban and residential areas. The watershed is 7.5% impervious.

Goosefare Brook does not meet state Class B water quality standards for aquatic life due to toxics, including seven heavy metals from industrial stormwater discharge and polluted runoff. Approximately 3.2 miles of the Brook are listed as impaired from downstream of the Maine Turnpike to below the Route 1 crossing.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

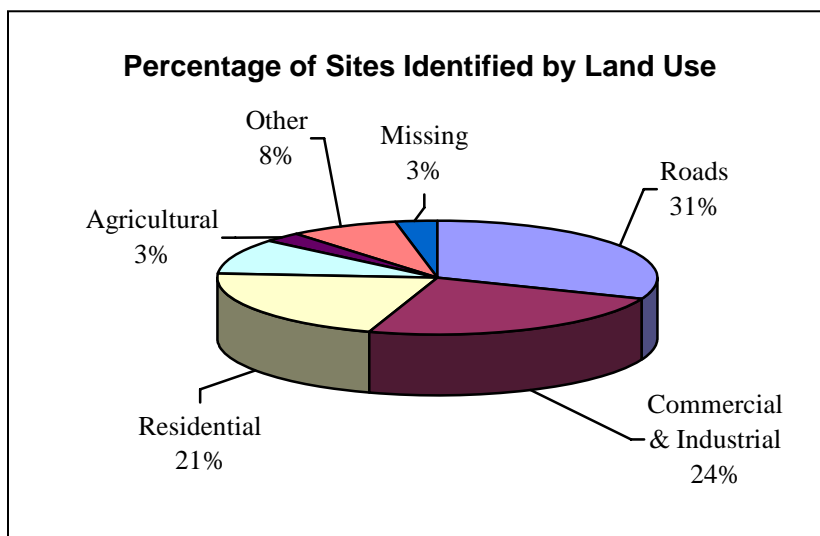
The purpose of the project was to identify and prioritize sources of polluted runoff to Goosefare Brook. Local volunteers attended a training session and were provided with kits containing maps, cameras, documentation forms and outreach brochures. The 36 volunteers completed the survey in the summer of 2001, and professional staff from Old Orchard Beach Planning Department, Saco Public Works, a private consultant and DEP verified accuracy of the survey data. A private consultant completed a watershed survey report that summarized survey findings.

Press releases were released periodically throughout the project, and survey information was placed on the City webpage. At the time of the survey, a study, “Ecosystem-level Effects of Roadway Runoff on Headwater Streams in Maine”, was being conducted on the effects of the Maine Turnpike to the Brook.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- A survey of the entire Goosefare Brook watershed was completed and assessed by volunteers and professional staff in the summer of 2001.
- The *Goosefare Brook Watershed Survey Results* report was completed in August 2002.
- A total of 78 sources of polluted runoff were identified and rated for impact to water quality.
- In 2006, the City has submitted a draft Compensation Fee Utilization Plan to MDEP for review and approval since Goosefare Brook is now considered an “urban impaired stream” under Chapter 502. The watershed survey has been used to help identify potential project sites for retrofits. The focus is on a few heavy-use parking lots and detention pond retrofits along Industrial Park Road.
- In 2004, the Maine Department of Transportation completed a storm water management demonstration site at the “park and ride” lot on Industrial Park Road adjacent to Goosefare Brook. The project involved grading the site and installing a proprietary underground treatment system on the corner of the lot closest to the Brook.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

City of Saco

Town of Old Orchard Beach

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2007) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2006 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW0836 2007. Augusta: MDEP.