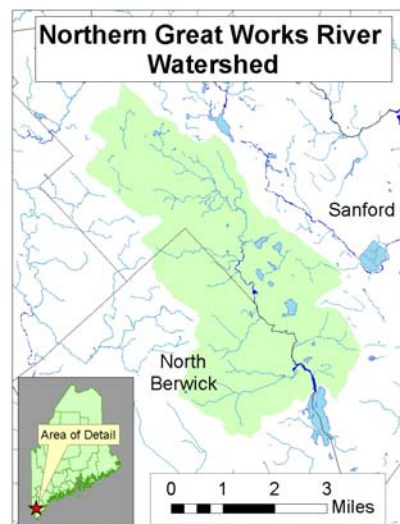


Northern Great Works River Watershed Survey

#2003P-04

Waterbody Name: Great Works River
Location: North Berwick, Sanford – York County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed
Project Sponsor: York County SWCD
Project Duration: April 2003 – August 2005
319 Grant Amount: \$9,800
Local Match: \$8,350



PROBLEM:

The Great Works River watershed covers about 84 square miles and flows through Sanford, North Berwick and South Berwick. According to the Maine DEP, the Great Works River is the largest contributor of NPS runoff to the Salmon Falls River, which is on Maine's Impaired Waters list. In 2000, an NPS survey was conducted in the middle and southern portions of the Great Works River watershed (68 square miles). Project staff and 25 volunteers identified 78 NPS sites in survey areas.

The Northern Great Works River Watershed (NGWR) has a drainage area of approximately 16.4 square miles. The river flows south-easterly into Bauneg Beg Pond, which is impounded at its lower end. Land cover consists primarily of upland forests with scattered regions of grasslands, scrub/shrublands and wetlands. The northernmost portion of the watershed includes significant urbanized areas, high value plant and rare animal habitats, large undeveloped blocks of land and deer wintering areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The primary purpose of the project was to complete an NPS survey in the northern portions of the Great Works River watershed. The 16.4 square mile watershed was divided into seven sectors. Volunteers received classroom training on survey techniques, and field teams documented NPS sites information and GPS coordinates in their assigned sectors. The survey focused primarily on private and public crossings with the Great Works River and its several tributaries.

Project staff developed a ranking system and prioritized sites for future mitigation efforts. Initial findings were presented at public meetings in both North Berwick and Sanford in early 2005. The final survey report was completed in August 2005 and a two-page summary was mailed to 750 watershed residents.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and volunteers completed the watershed survey and identified 64 NPS sites, categorizing 13 as high-priority. Over 70% of the NPS sites were associated with public and private roads and road culverts.
- The *Northern Great Works River Watershed Survey Report* was completed in August 2005.
- Project staff completed an Impervious Surface Analysis for the urbanized Goodall Brook subwatershed in Sanford. The high impervious cover for the watershed led to the addition of Goodall Brook on the state's watch list for possible inclusion into the 303(d) impaired waters list.
- The survey helped build strong partnerships between the Great Works River Watershed Coalition, York County SWCD, Bauneg Beg Lake Association, local officials and area residents.
- A preliminary action plan was completed to target priority sites and identify partners to engage in participation and embark on remediation efforts.



Eroded gully identified in the survey



Great Works River near confluence with Goodall Brook

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Great Works River Watershed Coalition

Town of Sanford

Town of North Berwick

Bauneg Beg Lake Association

Cumberland County SWCD

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