



The Targeted Watershed Grants program started in 2002 to encourage community-based approaches to protect and restore the nation's watersheds. The program emphasizes that strong partnerships lead to measurable environmental results. The goal is to provide resources and build on the successes of strong public and private partnerships already working hard to improve their waterways. Nominees for the Targeted Watershed Grants program were required to set clear goals that include strong monitoring components. Watershed plans and project proposals were judged on criteria such as: innovation, environmental results, broad support, outreach, and financial integrity.

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Fact Sheet/Spring 2005

# Nashua River



## Why Does it Need Special Attention?

- The Nashua River Watershed includes critical drinking water resources for the Boston area which is facing intense growth pressures. The watershed is 538 square miles and includes 31 towns in MA and NH.
- The Squannacook - Nissitissit sub-basin, the focus of this project, is 132 square miles, it is approximately 72% forested and includes head-water streams, outstanding resource waters, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), over 20 rare and endangered species, and high and medium yield aquifers, including Witches Brook aquifer.
- Currently 30,000 people are served by 21 public water supplies in MA; 23 in NH. The growth rates in MA towns is projected to be 25-40% and in NH towns 70-140%. Projected water demands are a concern.
- New development poses threats to water from sodium and chloride; pesticides and fertilizers; fecal coliform and chemicals and solvents.

## What are the Long Term Goals?

- Reduction of phosphorus, nitrogen and suspended solids in waterways.
- Protection of prime drinking water land through land stewardship, conservation easements and land protection measures.

## Progress/Goals for the Future

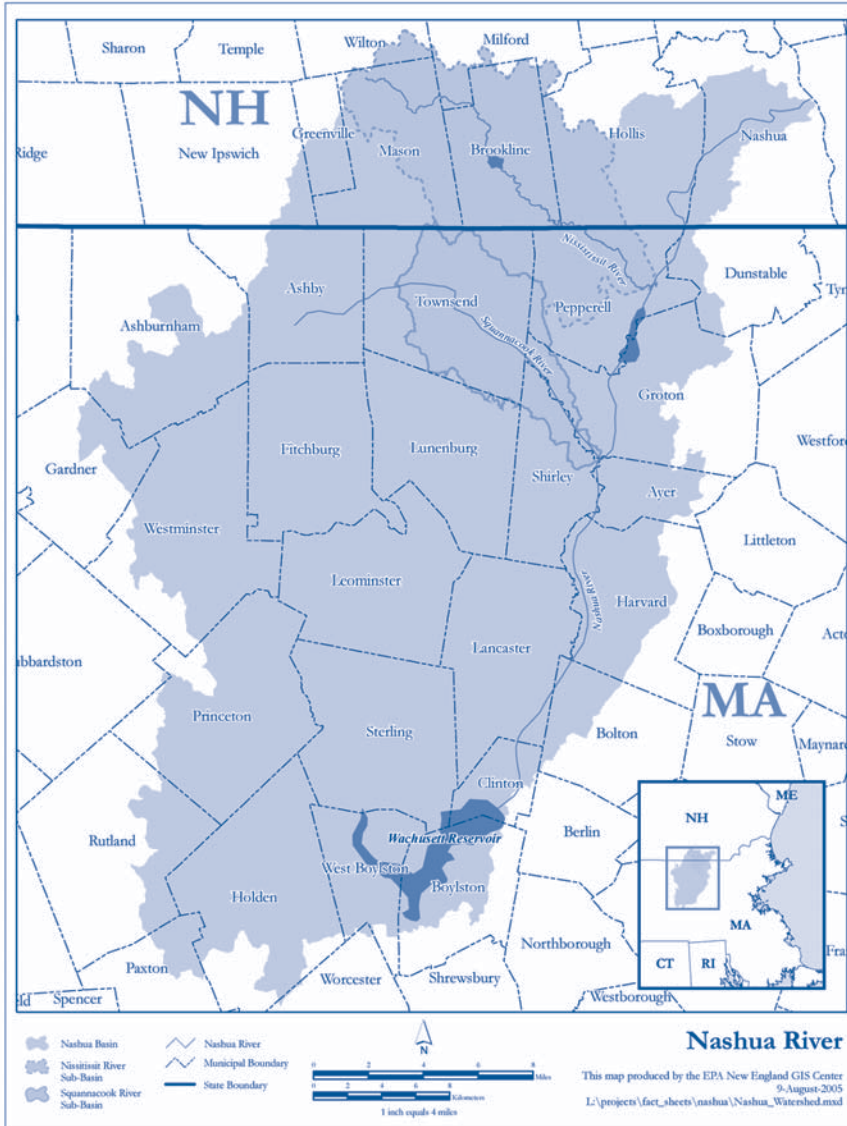
### What Partnership Progress has Been Made?

- The Nashua River Watershed Association, with 3 partner organizations, was one of fourteen watersheds selected nationally under the Targeted Watershed Grant Program and funded with \$770,192 from EPA in 2004.
- Dozens of state and local organizations, businesses, municipalities and professional individuals provided support valued at \$401,175, making the total project worth over \$1.1 million.
- Bi-state and bi-town working groups are being formed.
- This project builds on the Trust for Public Land's Source Water Stewardship Demonstration Project previously funded by EPA, who partnered with USDA Forest Service, University of Massachusetts and the Nashua River Watershed Association.

### What Major Actions are Planned for 2005-2006?

- Identify owners of priority land parcels, GIS assessments, education and assistance.
- Survey forest landowners, and complete forestry cooperative feasibility study.

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## What Major Actions are Planned for 2005-2006? (Continued)

- ▶ Train foresters and resource managers on land management techniques.
- ▶ Train landowners, towns and the public on smart growth techniques.
- ▶ Analyze survey results from 1,100 households to influence water conservation and protection.
- ▶ Conduct baseline water quality and stormwater monitoring.
- ▶ Complete a pollutant dispersion model to calculate pollutant loads.

## Who are the Partners?

Nashua River Watershed Association • Beaver Brook Association • New England Forestry Foundation • Trust for Public Land • Towns of Ashby, Groton, Pepperell, Shirley and Townsend in Massachusetts • Towns of Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Mason, Milford and New Ipswich in New Hampshire • MA State agencies including the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs • Food and Agriculture • Fish and Game • MA Riverways • MA ACEC program • NH Department of Environmental Services • 3 Universities • 4 water suppliers • 3 regional planning agencies • 8 land trusts • 10 conservation organizations • 1 business • 9 attorneys • and 10 professional individuals •

## ▶ Nashua River Watershed Association

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