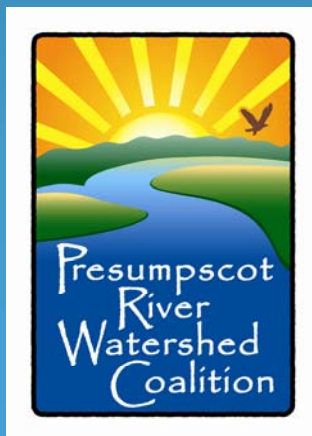


The Presumpscot Watershed Initiative

Presentation to the
Falmouth Town Council
October 27, 2008



Matt Craig

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

Betty Williams

Cumberland County Soil & Water
Conservation District



Overview

- About the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
- Summary of Presumpscot Watershed Initiative tasks
- Highlight PWI activities in Falmouth
- Discussion

Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition

Municipalities:

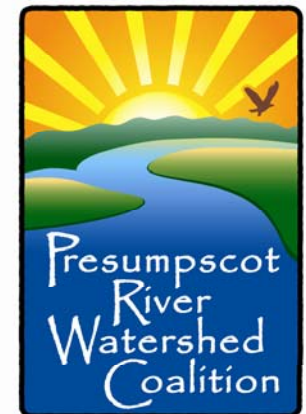
City of Westbrook
Town of Cumberland
Town of Falmouth
Town of Gorham
Town of Windham

Federal & State Agencies:

Maine DEP
NOAA Fisheries
US EPA
US Fish and Wildlife
Service

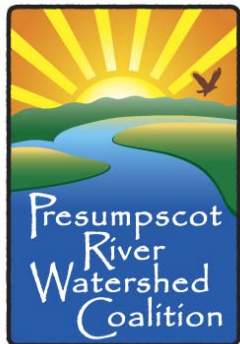
Non-Governmental Organizations:

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
Cumberland County Soil and Water
Conservation District
Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust
Friends of Casco Bay
Friends of the Presumpscot River
Presumpscot Regional Land Trust
Maine Audubon
Portland Trails
Presumpscot River Watch
Windham Land Trust



Presumpscot Watershed Initiative (PWI)

- Targeted Watershed Grant from US EPA
- Objective: *Implement water quality improvement projects*
- Grant recipients: CBEP, PRWC
- Towns: Buxton, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gorham, Gray, Portland, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham
- Partners:



Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District



PWI - Task Overview

1. Stream Crossing Erosion Control & Culvert Replacement
2. Agricultural Management Improvements For Farms
3. Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps and Riparian Buffer Enhancement
4. Golf Course Environmental Certification & Equipment Wash Pads
5. “Yardscaping” to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution
6. Maps for Schools Program
7. Water Quality Monitoring

1. Stream Crossing Erosion Control & Culvert Replacement

- Erosion control & bank stabilization at stream/road crossings
- Three State roads identified in Falmouth
- CCSWCD partnered with ME DOT to address two
- Totten Rd. in Gray - bottomless culvert demonstration



Blackstrap Road (2007)



2. Agricultural Management Improvements

- Divert livestock from rivers/ streams to improve water quality and reduce erosion
- Farms share cost for fencing, alternative watering systems, and buffer plantings
- Coordinated by CCSWCD in partnership with farmers and NRCS
- Walnut Crest Farm (Dale Rines): 3,000 trees/shrubs planted; 600 ft. of fencing & alternate watering system



3. Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps

- Area youth restore riparian vegetative buffers & install erosion control Best Management Practices
- Warren Taylor (2006)



Smelt Hill Dam Removal Site (2006): stormwater management; erosion



4. Golf Course Environmental Certification



Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Certification Program

- Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use
- Improve wildlife habitat & vegetated shorelines
- Address 'hotspots'

Falmouth Country Club

- Leader among area courses on certification
- Teamed with PRW & CCSWCD to design and build treatment and catchment BMPs for chemical mixing area & wash-down area
- Utilizing 'compost tea' for fertilizer



5. Yardscaping



- Outreach to homeowners, businesses, & landscaping industry to encourage use of low-impact lawn care techniques, reducing pesticide and fertilizer use & reducing water quality impacts.
- Coordinated by CCSWCD, in conjunction with the Interlocal Stormwater Working Group and State programs.
- Addresses municipal stormwater requirements

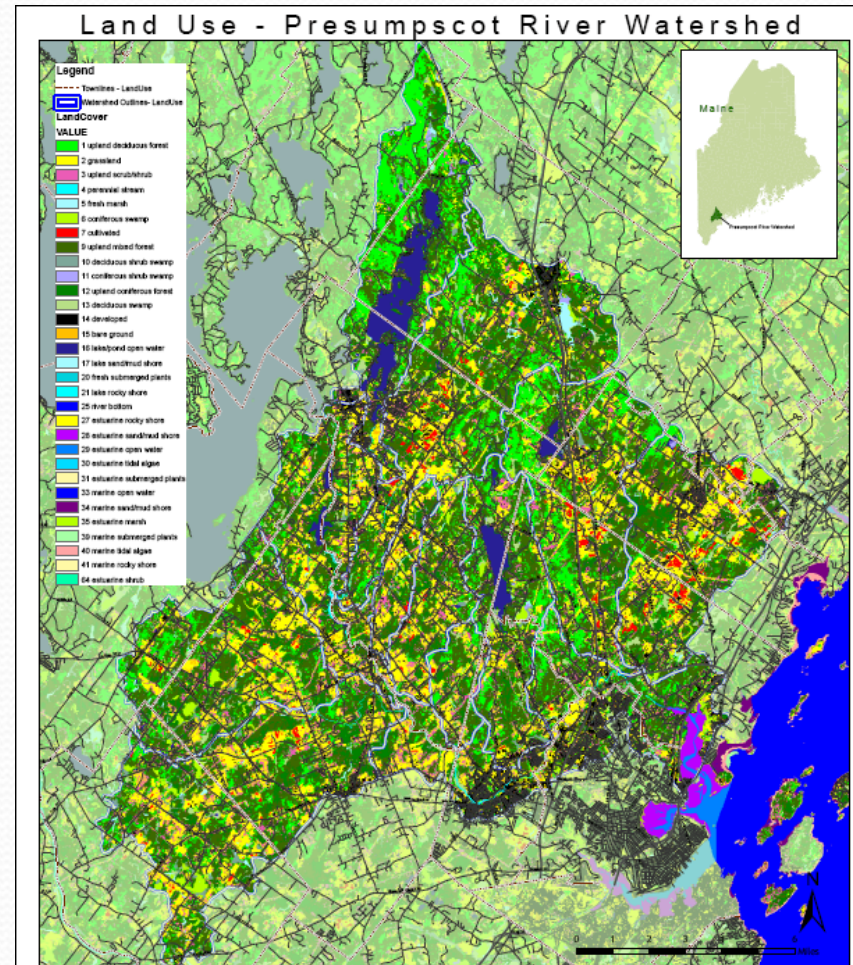
Falmouth Activities:

- Adult Education classes through Falmouth Community Programs
- Booth at Falmouth Green Expo



6. Maps for Schools

- Watershed education activities in schools
- Goal to create place-based education programs about the Presumpscot River, and foster stewardship
- Developing a series of GIS maps for watershed
- In Falmouth Middle School this fall; field trip November 6th



This work was supported by the national Targeted Watershed Grant Program, with funding provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Cooperative Agreement with the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition.

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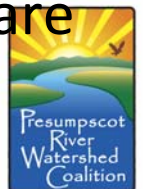
7. Water Quality Monitoring

- Compile baseline water quality information over time to learn about watershed health
- Presumpscot River Watch & Friends of Casco Bay
- Five automated sondes in the water for 6 months at a time; data collected once every 15 minutes
- Falmouth:
 - East Branch Piscataqua
 - West Branch Piscataqua
 - Presumpscot Estuary, Walton Park



Benefits/Outcomes

- Reduced overall sediment, bacteria, nutrient, and pesticide loads to the watershed
- Improved riparian habitat
- Behavior changes among residents to reduce water quality impacts
- Fewer sources of water quality degradation
- Demonstration sites
- Expanded baseline water quality data for future analysis
- Increased stewardship among residents, particularly youth
- Long term: establishment of programs that will continue and are replicable to adjacent watersheds



For More Information

Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition

<http://www.presumpscotcoalition.org>

