

Goosefare Brook Watershed Management Plan

Goosefare Brook was identified by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) as an urban impaired stream in 2004. In addition to metals and aquatic life impairments, Goosefare Brook outlets into the Saco Bay between two of Maine’s most popular beaches, just downstream of the Rachel Carson Wildlife Preserve and proximate to Ferry Beach State Park and Ecology School. Therefore, bacteria-related water quality concerns are monitored very closely as this area is one of the most visited recreational areas in Southern Maine.

Since 2014, the City of Saco has been working collaboratively with our neighboring community in Old Orchard Beach as well as members from the MDEP; York County Soil and Water Conservation District; and F.B. Environmental Associates on the development of the Goosefare Brook Watershed Management Plan. The long-term goals are to provide clear and proactive direction to protect and improve the quality of the Goosefare Brook and improve significant wildlife and fisheries habitat. The Watershed Management Plan is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2016.



Most recently, the members of the Goosefare Brook Watershed Management Plan have been evaluating the existing development within the high priority subwatershed areas

to identify potential retrofit opportunities for implementation of stormwater quality best management practices (BMPs). These BMP measures will be targeted in the more urbanized area of the watershed, where land-use patterns are more impervious and vehicle traffic volumes are higher. These are the typical sources of increased pollutant loadings during storm runoff events.

In other portions of the watershed, development is less dense and largely residential in nature; however, these areas can and are having impacts on the water quality of the Goosefare Brook. Residential development can be a significant source of nutrient and bacteria loading as a result of lawn fertilization\pesticide application; failing septic systems; and uncontrolled yard or pet waste.

Every little bit helps – Residential property owners within the Goosefare Brook watershed can do their part in helping reduce their impact on the water quality of Goosefare Brook. Things to consider are:

1. Reduce or eliminate the use of lawn fertilization\pesticide applications.

Maine Yardscaping is a program that can assist you in creating a more environmentally friendly lawn and yard.

For more information, go to:

<http://maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/index.htm>



2. Inspect and maintain your septic system

The Top three things you can do to protect your septic system are:

- Regularly inspect your system and pump your tank as necessary.
- Use water efficiently.
- Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.

For more information, go to:

http://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf

3. Pickup after your pet

Yes, pet waste can be a significant source of bacteria contamination in stormwater runoff. As pet owners, you can do your part by picking up after your pet and disposing pet waste in your household trash.

