



2007

Taunton River Watershed Study Newsletter (June 13, 2007 Public Meeting)

Recommended Citation

(2007). Taunton River Watershed Study Newsletter (June 13, 2007 Public Meeting). *Taunton River Watershed Project Public Meetings*. Item 13.

Available at: http://vc.bridgew.edu/taunton_riv_meetings/13

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TAUNTON RIVER Watershed Study



The Taunton River watershed is 562 square miles in size and is home to over 700,000 people in 42 communities. The Taunton River is the longest river unobstructed by dams in New England, with tidal influence extending upriver approximately 20 miles. This extent of tidal influence maintains large, high quality examples of globally-rare brackish and freshwater tidal marshes. Hockomock Swamp is the largest freshwater wetlands complex in southern New England, providing high quality habitat for numerous rare birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and wetland plants. The Taunton basin hosts the largest spawning population of river herring in southern New England, 68 State-listed rare species, and other environmentally sensitive species such as river otters and freshwater mussels.

The Taunton River and its watershed, including the groundwater below the surface, also serve as a source of drinking water to the communities in the watershed. At the same time, many communities in the watershed discharge treated wastewater and stormwater into the river. And for many, the river also provides many important recreational opportunities.

Where does your drinking water come from? Where does your wastewater go after it leaves your house? Where does all that water go after a storm? What about all those birds and turtles and otters and dragonflies – how are they managing with all these people around? The Taunton River Watershed Study will examine these questions and develop recommendations for an integrated approach to managing the watershed's resources.

Consider This: The Taunton River watershed area is undergoing new growth and development that require a supporting water supply, innovative methods to manage additional wastewater, and effective tools to manage stormwater runoff. Instead of conventional sprawl development, “smart growth” planning techniques can be employed to protect natural resources, enhance quality of life, and provide creative opportunities to restore and preserve the watershed ecosystem.

Where do you live?



Join our Project ListServe by visiting the website.

www.horsleywitten.com/tauntonwatershed



Project Meetings – Come learn, listen, participate and help us!

Watershed Information Meetings

These meetings will include both informational presentations about the project and the watershed and an opportunity for input, ideas and reaction from the audience. The November meetings will be held at different locations throughout the watershed.

- Wednesday, June 13, 2007 (4-7 pm) (Project Introduction)
- Monday, November 5, 2007 (4-7 pm)
- Wednesday, November 7, 2007 (4-7 pm)
- Monday, November 12, 2007 (4-7 pm)
- Wednesday, November 14, 2007 (4-7 pm)



Workshops

These workshops will cover specific topics such as wastewater management, water supply protection, stormwater management, low impact development, and smart growth. Each workshop will cover different topics so you can pick the one that interests you, or come to both! These meetings will include brief informational presentations about the project and the watershed, an interactive session for discussion among participants, and time to provide input, ideas and reaction to the project.

- Wednesday, April 2, 2008 (4-7 pm)
- Wednesday, April 9, 2008 (4-7 pm)

Experience the Watershed

This event is in the planning stages and will probably include a canoe and kayak trip along portions of the Taunton River mainstem or tributaries, with informational discussion throughout the event.

- Saturday, September 15, 2007

