Municipality/Organization: Town of Exeter, NH  
EPA NPDES Permit Number: NHR041007  
Annual Report Number & Reporting Period: Year 11  
April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit  
Annual Report  
(Due: May 1, 2013)

Part I. General Information

Contact Person: Phyllis Duffy  
Title: Engr. Tech  
Telephone #: (603) 772-1345  
Email: pduffy@exeternh.gov  
Mailing Address: 13 Newfields Road, Exeter, NH 03833

Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature:  
Printed Name: Russell Dean  
Title: Town Manager  
Date: 4/29/2014
NPDES General Permit - Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)

NHR041007  Town of Exeter, NH

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 – 2014

Part II. Self-Assessment

The Town of Exeter has completed the required self-assessment and has determined that our municipality is in compliance with all permit conditions, with the possible exception of the following provisions:

Part 1 C. Discharges to Water Quality Impaired Waters

1. The permittee must determine whether storm water discharges from any part of the MS4 contribute; either directly or indirectly, to a 303(d) listed water body.

2. The storm water management program must include a section describing how the program will control the discharge of the pollutants of concern and ensure that the discharges will not cause an instream exceedance of the water quality standards. This discussion must specifically identify control measures and BMPs that will collectively control the discharge of the pollutant(s) of concern. Pollutant(s) of concern refer to the pollutant identified as causing the impairment.

The Town of Exeter is participating in Project WISE (Water Integration for the Squamscott and Exeter Rivers) an integrated planning opportunity with neighboring communities to meet regulatory requirements for treating and discharging stormwater and wastewater and to find effective and affordable means to meet water quality goals.

WISE is a regional effort to meet the new more stringent wastewater and stormwater permit requirements and improve water quality in the Exeter River, Squamscott River, & Great Bay. Officials from the Towns of Exeter, Stratham and Newfields are working with a team from Geosyntec Consultants, the University of New Hampshire, Rockingham Planning Commission, Consensus Building Institute and the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to develop the foundation for a Water Integration Plan that meets the needs of three communities and finds effective and affordable means to meet water quality goals.

The WISE monitoring program will meet regulatory requirements for the current Exeter Administrative Order of Consent (AOC) and pending Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits (2013 Draft NH Small MS4 General Permit). The Project Team will consult and work with representatives from US EPA Region 1 and NH Department of Environmental Services. Additional stakeholders representing organizations throughout the Great Bay watershed will provide input at key project points.
NPDES General Permit - Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)

NHR041007 Town of Exeter, NH

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 – 2014

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PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

BMP #1 DISPLAY AT ALEWIFE FESTIVAL - Festival no longer takes place.

- Exeter and partners began the project with an education and outreach program, “meet the participants” in the Marshall Farms neighborhood. This outreach program was to determine those in the neighborhood interested in participating in the project and their area of interest. A display board explaining a rain garden, a rain barrel, and information on soil testing, as well as discussion of the project provided information on ways homeowners could reduce stormwater runoff and pollutants entering Brickyard Pond.
- Exeter and partners presented and displayed information on storm water runoff pollution and actions residents could take to reduce/eliminate runoff. Town employees and partners presented information on pollution prevention and interacted with residents at second outreach event. Partners with technical expertise presented information on creating rain gardens, sampling and monitoring neighborhood runoff, installing rain barrels, proper fertilizer application and how these activities could reduce/prevent water quality concerns in the adjacent pond. Residents signed up for residential rain gardens, rain barrels and soil sampling.

BMP #2 STENCIL STORM DRAINS

All catch basins in town were stenciled with the message “Attention – Drains to Local Waterway”

BMP #3 STORMWATER VIDEO ON LOCAL PUBLIC STATION

No videos were played on local public station. However, the Town does have educational videos on the town website; “Stormwater Rubber Duck” PSA & “Devil Duck Lawn Care” PSA, also “Rain Storm” Radio Ad & “Car Wash” Radio Ad.

Additionally, the storm water education program “Think Blue Exeter” is a subcommittee of the Exeter River Study Committee. Information on outreach/education the subcommittee is accomplishing/proposing is presented at various River Study meetings, which are televised.

BMP #4 DISPLAY AT TOWN BUILDING

Permanent educational signs: 1. Rain garden located next to library; 2. Stream buffer at popular Local Park, both locations are adjacent to the Squamscott/Exeter Rivers and highlight how rain garden and stream buffer functions can improve water quality.

ADDITIONS-

Town Web Site –
“Think Blue Exeter” – general stormwater education, water quality in Exeter’s streams & rivers, simple changes to reduce stormwater pollution.
- Homeowners –
  - Reduce Runoff
  - Lawn Care
  - Pet Waste
  - Septic System Maintenance
- Kids – What’s Your Watershed, Games & Puzzles
- “Coming Together for Water Quality” the Town of Exeter and residents of Marshall Farms joined forces to make simple changes to help improve water quality in Brickyard Pond.
- “Drug Take Back Day” – Exeter Police Department participates in National Drug Take Back Day, which allows residents to drop off household and prescription drugs at the police department to prevent improper disposal.
• “Drug Drop-Off Box” – Exeter Police Department – The Exeter Police Department has taken a step further to help protect our waterways by providing a safe, sustainable and secure method to dispose of unwanted and/or expired household and prescription medications by installing a secured container in the lobby of the Police Department.

• “Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day” – Exeter continues to host the once per year collection of household hazardous waste. The collection is coordinated by the Rockingham Planning Commission and includes Exeter and four other communities.

• Announcements for Spring 2013 and Fall 2013 Leaf & Grass Collection.

Newspaper Articles –

• May 17, 2013 – Sources of nonpoint nitrogen pollution in the Great Bay estuary are spread out almost equally between septic systems, fertilizers and atmospheric pollution, according to a new report.


• Feb 02, 2013 – “Pact called ‘proactive‘ bid to cut pollution to rivers” – Exeter, Stratham, Newfields begin Project Wise

• Announcements for Spring 2013 and Fall 2013 Leaf & Grass Collection

• Announcements for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day and Drug Take Back Day

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BMP #5 PUBLIC NOTICE

Completed 1st year

BMP #6 REVIEW NEED FOR STORMWATER COMMITTEE

No additional review for a storm water committee, however, the education program “Think Blue Exeter” is a subcommittee of the Exeter River Study Committee. Information on outreach the subcommittee is accomplishing/proposing is presented at various meetings, which are televised and open to the public. The majority of committee members are local residents.

The Exeter River Study Committee and Exeter Great Dam Working Group has conducted many outreach presentations dealing with possible removal of the Great Dam which would return the lower Exeter River to its natural state improving water quality and native fish populations.

March 2014, Exeter residents voted in favor of removing the Great Dam on the Exeter River at the headwaters of the Squamscott River. Great Dam removal will strengthen the natural ecosystem of the Exeter River by decreasing thermal stratification and improving dissolved oxygen (DO) conditions, creating a substantial net benefit on water quality: The lower Exeter River is included on New Hampshire’s 303(d) list for Aquatic Life Use impairment due to low levels of DO (less than 5 mg/L) and DO saturation (less than 75% saturation). The source of the impairment is likely related to the impounded, sluggish nature of the river upstream of the Great Dam, where nutrients, pathogens, sediments, and pesticides can become trapped. Dam removal will result in improved water quality, benefitting the aquatic life within the river, including fish populations. Water quality benefits should be fully realized within 2-3 years.
BMP #7 STENCIL STORM DRAINS

All catch basins in town were stenciled with the message “Attention – Drains to Local Waterway” by town employees.

ADDITIONS-
Neighborhood volunteers initiated and helped coordinate the Marshall Farms – Brickyard Pond project. Volunteers from the Marshall Farms neighborhood participated in coordinating events, construction of rain gardens, installation of rain barrels and hosted workshops at their residences.

Volunteer River Assessment Program monitoring (8 sites, every other week – June – August)

Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee (ESRLAC) – volunteers representing the twelve communities in the Exeter-Squamscott River watershed; Town of Exeter Selectman, Don Clement is committee chair. ESRLAC celebrated its 17th year of stewardship of the river and watershed in 2013. Highlights include:
- Annual Vernal Pool Workshop – ESRLAC continues to advocate for the protection of critical wildlife habitat like vernal pools
- Annual Fish Ladder Tour – ESRLAC partnered with the Exeter Conservation Commission and NH Fish & Game for the annual tour of the fish ladder located next to the Great Dam in downtown Exeter. As always, this event attracted a large crowd interested in learning about the annual fish migration from the salt water of the Squamscott River to the fresh water of the Exeter River.
- Canoe and Kayak paddle on the Squamscott River - ESRLAC partnered with the Exeter Conservation Commission to lead a canoe and kayak paddle on the Squamscott River.

CAPE (Climate Adaptation Plan for Exeter) -
Large public meetings
Neighborhood and stakeholder focus groups
Meetings with town staff and volunteer boards
Modeling/technical team focused on creating 3 models for Exeter’s river and stormwater systems –
- Water quality, flooding & stormwater aspects of watershed systems
- Delineate stormwater catchments
- Expected completion late 2014

-National Trails Day June 2, 2013 – highlighted the McDonnell Conservation area and the Exeter River
-Boy Scouts cleanup at Brickyard Pond

NEW – “Adopt a Road” program approved by Selectmen; Town will provide; sign, bags and pick up of litter collected

ILlicit DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

BMP #8 SURVEY OUTFALLS

Drainage system and outfalls in the Marshall Farms neighborhood were surveyed as part of the Green Infrastructure Grant Program.

BMP #9 MAP/UPDATE OUTFALLS

Drainage system and outfalls in the Marshall Farms neighborhood were surveyed as part of the Green Infrastructure Grant Program. The runoff entering the two drainage systems in this neighborhood were delineated and mapped by a consultant.
BMP #10 ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT NON-STORMWATER DISCHARGES

Existing Storm Drainage Ordinance prevents illegal discharges to drainage system, with fines. Ordinance will be reviewed and updated as needed after the new 2013 MS4 General Permit for New Hampshire is issued.

BMP #11 CREATE EDUCATION FOR BUSINESSES

“Think Blue Exeter” – General Stormwater Education - No specific education for businesses this year.

BMP #12 HOTLINE

Police Dispatch and Exeter Department of Public Works

BMP #13 SAMPLE SUSPECT OUTFALLS

Sample outfalls as part of Marshall Farms/Green Infrastructure Grant Project - also sampling in Brickyard Pond

BMP #14 TEST SUSPECT OUTFALLS

Samples were taken to lab and results documented as part Marshall Farms/Green Infrastructure Grant Project. Sampling and testing continues.

BMP #15 CORRECT ILICIT DISCHARGES

None at this time

ADDITIONS –

March 2014 – town voted to replace aging sewer lines on Lincoln Street, Winter Street, Daniel Street and Tremont Street.

April 2014 – construction project to replace aging sewer lines on Portsmouth Avenue started October 2013 and continues this spring.

Exeter added additional "Pet Waste Stations" at key locations and requested by residents. In addition to the eleven (11) pet Waste Stations listed on the town website; 6 additional pet waste stations have been located at Town Parking Lot, Train Station, Holland Way, Webster Avenue, Gardner Street, and Linden Street at Dow’s Corner.

CONSTRUCTION SITE RUNOFF CONTROL

BMP #16 UPDATE SITE REGULATION

Completed – will review and update as needed after the new 2013 MS4 General Permit for New Hampshire is issued

BMP #17 SITE PLAN REVIEW FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS GREATER THAN 1 ACRE

All development greater than 1 acre - reviewed by Technical Review Committee

BMP #18 SITE INSPECTIONS

All development greater than 1 acre – construction projects are inspected

BMP #19 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CONSTRUCTION SITE INFORMATION AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Town construction projects are posted on the town website with contact information.

Planning construction projects are posted on the town website with contact information.
POST CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF CONTROL

BMP #20 IMPLEMENT SITE APPROPRIATE NON-STRUCTURAL, STRUCTURAL, INFILTRATION, AND VEGETATIVE PRACTICES

BMPs are in place as per Planning Board approved plans

BMP #21 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT LONG TERM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR BMPs

Maintenance Agreements and Maintenance Plans are implemented during planning and construction process

ADDITIONS –

Exeter hired an intern to GPS locate private stormwater BMPs and added information to Exeter GIS maps.

Exeter hired a consultant to create an asset management method to track public and private stormwater BMPs; People GIS – People Forms

POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MUNICIPAL GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

BMP #22 CREATE POLLUTION PREVENTION & GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

All town employees involved in snow plowing are trained each year on equipment calibration; all Highway Department personnel attended UNH T2 Green SnowPro training course and received NHDES Salt Applicator Certification; individuals from Water and Sewer Department and Highway Department attended “Construction Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections and Compliance Training for New Hampshire MS4 Communities”; DPW Director and some employees of Exeter Department of Public Works attended “Nitrogen in Stormwater: Sources and Solutions Workshop”; Exeter Planning Department Director and Natural Resource Planner attended a rain garden installation workshop.

Exeter DPW Director is a WISE partner; Exeter Planning Director is a CAPE partner.

BMP #23 SWEEP STREETS

All streets swept spring and fall; downtown and other major areas – more than twice a year; parking lots – once per year

BMP #24 INSPECT CATCH BASINS

108 catch basins inspected

BMP #25 CLEAN CATCH BASINS

108 catch basins cleaned
**Project Schedule**

Project WISE will run from September 2013 to August 2014. The project team welcomes feedback at any point by any interested stakeholder.

Opportunities to provide feedback include:

**Fall 2013:** Feedback on the development of an Integrated Plan for stormwater and wastewater in the Squamscott-Exeter Watershed, including information for a multiple benefits analysis of community concerns about social, economic and environmental benefits of integrated water resource planning and the usage of Green Infrastructure.

**Winter 2014:** Input on land-use and pollutant load modeling, interpretations of results, feedback on scenarios for Green and Gray Infrastructure, a draft watershed monitoring framework, and provide an opportunity for you to evaluate and improve draft implementation tracking and planning tools.

**Summer 2014:** Feedback on Green and Gray Infrastructure scenarios in the context of the multiple benefits analysis and costing, the development of the draft Integrated Plan, and provide guidance on how to use the implementation tracking and planning tools.

Feedback may be shared with Robert Roseen, Geosyntec Consultants, 603-686-2488 rroseen@geosyntec.com

**What’s happening?**

Water Integration for the Squamscott-Exeter (WISE) watershed will help Stratham, Newfields, and Exeter meet new, more stringent, wastewater and stormwater permit requirements, improve water quality in the Squamscott River and Great Bay, and support economic viability in the region. The WISE process involves officials from the Towns of Stratham, Newfields, and Exeter working with a team from Geosyntec Consultants, the University of New Hampshire, Rockingham Planning Commission, Consensus Building Institute, and the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to develop the foundation for a Water Integration Plan that meets the needs of the three communities.

Funding for Project WISE is provided by the NERRS Science Collaborative.

As communities respond to new permit requirements for discharging stormwater and wastewater, meeting regulatory requirements requires innovative ways to find effective and affordable means to meet water quality goals.

For more information, visit www.WISENH.net

**Why this project?**

New Hampshire coastal communities have experienced rising populations resulting in an increase in development and wastewater effluent. As communities respond to new federal permit requirements for treating and discharging stormwater and wastewater, meeting regulatory requirements requires innovative ways to find effective and affordable means to meet water quality goals.

The neighboring towns of Stratham, Newfields, and Exeter, New Hampshire, share a history of collaboration. They share a regional school district, management of hazardous waste, and town recreation programs. More recently, representatives from the Towns of Stratham and Exeter have been working together to research and discuss sharing water and wastewater infrastructure and services.

Learn more on back page...
Project WISE Contacts:

Geosyntec:
Robert Roseen, Project Director
603-686-2488
rroseen@geosyntec.com

Town of Stratham:
Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator
603-772-7391
pdeschaine@strathamnh.gov

Town of Newfields:
Clay Mitchell, Town Planner
603-608-2521
planner@newfieldsnh.gov

Town of Exeter:
Jennifer Perry, DPW Director
603-773-6157
perry@exeternh.gov

Project WISE sets the context for future collaborative success in addressing infrastructure and water quality needs in ways that are effective, sustainable and support local decision making. This project will develop an Integrated Plan to evaluate and manage water quality and impacts from extreme weather within and across municipal boundaries. The results will be used to quantify the economic and performance advantages of municipal collaboration and integration of water resource planning. Success of this new approach depends upon leadership by municipalities, trust, technical capacity and innovation, and regulatory flexibility.

How will project WISE work?

In New Hampshire local government is fundamental, and management is at a municipal scale. Watersheds typically cross multiple municipal boundaries, and collaboration is essential to the process of ensuring safe and healthy water with the least financial burden on communities.

To reach the goal of inter-municipally managing stormwater and wastewater, officials from the Towns of Stratham, Newfields, and Exeter will work in close coordination with project consultants throughout the duration of project WISE, answering key questions to enable the development of shared plans.

The Coordinating Team will manage technical components, develop materials, set Project Team agendas, and steer the group discussions to a workable outcome.

To ensure timely input from state and federal regulatory authorities, the Project Team will consult and work with representatives from US EPA Region 1 and NH Department of Environmental Services. Additional stakeholders representing organizations throughout the Great Bay watershed will provide input at key project points.

When a strategy for an Integrated Plan has been agreed upon by the towns, the research team will help develop the plan, which will provide technical resources to be used for permitting efforts.

An executive summary of results will be presented to municipal partners at a community forum. The overview will be designed to be accessible to a range of stakeholders, both in the Great Bay watershed, and in the larger water resource community.
Coming Together for Water Quality

The Town of Exeter and residents of Marshall Farms joined forces in fall of 2013 to make simple changes that together combine to help improve the quality of water entering Brickyard Pond.

The project, funded through a Green Infrastructure for Coastal Communities grant was an important first step toward improving the overall water quality of Brickyard Pond. If you or your neighborhood is interested in any of these small steps to improve Exeter's water quality, contact the Planning Department at (603) 773-6112. Visit our project page to learn more.

For more information on simple changes you can make to have a positive impact on water quality, visit the THINK BLUE EXETER webpage by clicking here.

Click any thumbnail image to view a slideshow.

Planning Menu

Contact

10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03833
Phone: 603-773-6112
Alternate: 603-773-6181 ext. 112
Fax: 603-772-4709
Planning and Building Email
burley@exeter.nh.gov

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00AM - 4:30PM

Full Contact Details...

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events at this time.

View the Planning calendar

http://exeternh.gov/planning/coming-together-water-quality
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR IMPLEMENTATION COMMUNITIES!

The project team selected six proposals for funding. The communities of Exeter, Stratham, Portsmouth, Rochester, Durham and Brentwood will work with us on projects to improve stormwater management. See below for descriptions.

**EXETER TOWN**

Exeter ([http://southeastwatershedalliance.org/green-infrastructure/exeter/](http://southeastwatershedalliance.org/green-infrastructure/exeter/)) will work with residents near Brickyard Pond to develop an education program followed by implementation of several residential stormwater treatment systems such as rain barrels and rain gardens. The project combines education, water treatment and monitoring and engages a wide range of stakeholders.

**PORTSMOUTH CITY**

Portsmouth will work with the Project Team to design a treatment system for a snow dump on Pierce Island. Snow removed from parking lots and roads is stored at the snow dump and as it melts sediment, salt and other pollutants are released. This project will find a solution to a common, but rarely addressed problem.

**STRATHAM TOWN**

The Town of Stratham will work with the project team to strengthen the Towns regulations and planning documents regarding stormwater and water quality protection. The Town of Stratham will work with the project team to strengthen the Towns regulations and planning documents.

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http://southeastwatershedalliance.org/green-infrastructure/
IMPROVING THE BRICKYARD POND RESIDENTIAL WATERSHED

THE PROBLEM: Brickyard Pond, once a community gathering place and natural playground, has deteriorated steadily over the years. As excess fertilizer, soil, oils, salt, and other components of stormwater pollution flow through stormdrains from a neighboring community and enter the pond, it creates a food smorgasbord for unwanted plants and algae. The plants and algae grow in excess, reducing the overall water quality and habitat for fish. THE SOLUTION: Neighbors in the Marshall Farms community expressed their concerns and together with the Town, through support of a Round 1 Green Infrastructure grant, and learned what small changes they could make on their property to work toward improving the ponds condition. Their focus was on making these changes using three Green Infrastructure tools.

LAWN CARE
Through a neighborhood workshop, residents learned about the importance of letting soil conditions, not past habits, dictate what their lawns need for fertilizer. By committing to the Happy Lawns – Blue Waters campaign, residents agreed to opt for slow release, phosphorus free fertilizers unless soil tests indicate otherwise. In addition, they committed to cleaning up after their pets – reducing yet

RAIN BARRELS
Residents were offered the opportunity to purchase Skyjuice rain barrels at a discounted rate to capture rain from their rooftops through their gutter downspouts, storing it for use whenever their houseplants, gardens, or flowerbeds need some watering. Rain barrels not only provide a free water source, they also reduce the amount of stormwater that leaves their property. So how much water can

RAIN GARDENS
A rain garden in its simplest form is a depression in your yard that captures rain water and uses soil, mulch, and plants to capture, absorb, and treat stormwater. They reduce the amount of stormwater coming from your property and help to recharge groundwater. Two neighborhood rain gardens were installed in this community. They were designed by Ironwood Design group LLC with donations and

http://southeastwatershedalliance.org/green-infrastructre/exeter/
another source of excess nutrients. They would also encourage stronger grass root growth by mowing 3” or higher, and leaving the clippings on the lawn to take advantage of the free fertilizer clippings provide as they decompose. For more information on lawn care: CLICK HERE (http://southeastwatershedalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/lawncare_info_sheet.pdf)

(http://exeter.nh.gov/pcc/think-blue-exeter) THINK BLUE EXETER

you save? A half inch rainfall falling on a 1000 square foot roof will provide 300 gallons of rain.

assistance from Rye Beach Landscaping and Churchill’s Gardens. Residents were invited to participate in construction to gain hands on experience that they in turn can apply their newly acquired skills to construct one on their own property. NHDES Homeowner’s Guide for Stormwater Management (http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/documents/rain-garden-fs.pdf) has a template for how to design your own raingarden.

(http://southeastwatershedalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/rainbarrel.jpg) Want to see how much water falls on your roof? Check out this great website! (http://save-the-rain.com/SR2/)

Through the initial stages of this program, a total of 7 rainbarrels and 2 raingardens were installed. The most important thing is that a relationship has been established between residents and the town.

IN THE NEWS

- Neighborhood Builds Two Rain Gardens (http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20131022-NEWS-310220327?cid=sitesearch)
Coming together for clean water

Rain garden project on tap for Sunday

October 18, 2013 2:00 AM

EXETER — Residents of the Marshall Farms Homeowners Association have been busy working toward a cleaner Brickyard Pond.

With grant assistance from Phase I of the Green Infrastructure for N.H. Coastal Watershed Communities Program, the town partnered with the neighborhood to implement small steps that, when completed on a neighborhood scale, have the potential to improve water quality at the pond.

This grant program provides professional support for communities from its many partners including Southeast Watershed Alliance, Rockingham Planning Commission, Geosyntec, UNH Stormwater Center and NOAA. Together these organizations help communities implement tools that help improve water quality through reducing pollution levels in stormwater.

Earlier this summer, Marshall Farms residents hosted a stormwater clinic where they were given an overview on stormwater pollution and some practical tools they can implement to reduce the amount of pollution flowing from their properties into Brickyard Pond.

Tools included: using soil testing to guide fertilizer application based on plant needs thereby reducing the potential for excess nutrients to run off lawns during storm events; signing up for the Happy Lawns Blue Waters, a water-quality-friendly lawncare program; and learning how to install a rain barrel with the option to purchase rain barrels at a discounted rate through Skyjuice.

In addition, interested residents signed up to have their properties evaluated for rain garden installation. Rain gardens reduce runoff by allowing rain water to infiltrate into the soil which reduces the volume and increases the quality of water flowing off those properties.

On Sunday at 10 a.m., the project team, residents and community volunteers will gather again to build rain gardens in the Marshall Farms neighborhood at two of these sites. The garden designs were developed by Ironwood Design Group with site work, rock and rain garden soil provided by Rye Beach Landscaping and plants, either donated or given at a discount from Churchill's Gardens. This event will provide a hands-on demonstration for other residents wanting to learn how to install their own rain garden.

Throughout this project water quality flowing from the neighborhood and into Brickyard Pond is being monitored to document the success of their commitment. As more and more residents in the neighborhood and surrounding community become involved, we should see a visual change in the conditions of Brickyard Pond too.

For more information on this project, to express an interest in conducting a similar project in your neighborhood or to follow the changes in Brickyard Pond, visit the Exeter project page at the Green Infrastructure programs on the Southeast Watershed Alliance's Web site at: southeastwatershedalliance.org.
Residents of the Marshall Farms neighborhood built two rain gardens on Sunday morning. The rain gardens are part of a neighborhood effort to aid the polluted Brickyard Pond.

J.R. Pierce owns the property that used to be a landfill, and he is creating a similar project to deal with the water in the Brickyard Pond. "The pond isn't healthy, and it needs a lot of work," he said. "We were making our way to Exeter before we came to Fitchburg. One of the neighborhood residents asked if we needed help." Exeter Planning Department systems were created in otherwise pristine areas to help clean the water in the Brickyard Pond. Since moving to Exeter about a year ago, Pierce said he has heard stories about Brickyard Pond. Residents of the Marshall Farms neighborhood have decided to take action.

On Sunday, these residents took part in the first rain garden creation event. Several residents gathered with experts for the creation of two specialized rain gardens. The effort started when the Marshall Farms Homeowners Association contacted the town's Conservation Commission and members of the Think Blue Exeter Initiative.

Two groups then designed a program to help educate the public about stormwater in the area. Representatives of these groups then joined forces to create rain gardens in high traffic areas. The rain gardens are designed to help reduce stormwater runoff into the Brickyard Pond and reduce the risk of pollution. These rain gardens are also helping to create additional areas where stormwater is not filtered through the ground and flows directly into the pond. Rain gardens are designed to reduce stormwater runoff into the Brickyard Pond and help reduce pollution. These rain gardens are also helping to create additional areas where stormwater is not filtered through the ground and flows directly into the pond.

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WHY A RAIN GARDEN? By keeping rain-
or stormwater in the natural water cycle a rain garden is a positive response to the growing urban problem of stormwater runoff. The built environment can remove rainfall from the water cycle in ways that disrupts our ecosystem. The Founder's Park Rain garden demonstrates how a rain garden functions to improve water quality and return it to the groundwater.

SURFACES such as roofs and roadways are ‘impervious’ to water— that is do not directly allow for the filtration of water back to the earth. With big rainfall events stormwater runoff can overwhelm municipal sewer systems and cause sewage overflows. Untreated sewage moves into storm sewers and then directly to streams, rivers, lakes and oceans. Today, many communities including the Town of Exeter are facing considerable costs for rebuilding sewage treatment plants due to not only the pressure of new development, but also from the additional volumes of stormwater caused by impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces also contribute to water pollution. Water that moves over impervious surfaces can deliver pollutants from cars, trucks and other sources to our natural water systems and drinking water.

AS A NATURAL VEGETATED FILTER a rain garden can help by “treating” the stormwater it collects. Plants naturally “clean-up” many of the pollutants found in stormwater in their growing process by utilizing nitrates and other substances. Microorganisms in the soil mix “feed” on some pollutants. The sandy soil mix filters out other substances present in the stormwater that cloud water and are known as Total Suspended Solids. These cleansing processes work together to improve the quality of the stormwater and keep it in the natural water cycle.

THE FOUNDER’S PARK RAIN GARDEN captures runoff from Chestnut Street that would otherwise enter into a catch basin and release directly into the Exeter River. Over the course of a year, this small rain garden can help to treat nearly 44,000 gallons of water before returning the water to the groundwater. Important design elements of the garden: Stones check the speed of stormwater as it enters our rain garden to help limit erosion; A sandy soil mix speeds the adsorption of water within a 24-hour time frame which precludes mosquitoes; An overflow pipe to the lawn area prevents flooding of the pathway and parking area in an unusually large storm event; Predominately native pathway and parking area in an unusually large storm event; Predominately native, selected plants are more likely to prevail through the demanding regimen of periodic flooding and drought and invite wildlife such as songbirds and butterflies.

THE FUTURE With time, the plantings will mature and raise the quantities of water and pollutants treated while also increasing the scale and diversity of the garden’s wildlife habitat. Silt may collect on the bottom of the stream bed and refuse may clog the overflow valve requiring occasional removal. Little other maintenance is required.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Sponsor or install a rain garden of your own. For more information on the use of rain gardens in preserving water quality, please refer to Ironwood design group's website: www.ironwood.com. Visit the suppliers that generously donated to our garden for the purchase of compost, native plants and other materials that benefit our natural ecosystem.
Think Blue Exeter

As rain and snowmelt, also known as stormwater, flows across streets, parking lots, and other hard surfaces it collects dirt, debris, and chemicals and carries them directly to our rivers and streams. This polluted runoff is called Stormwater Pollution. Our habits play a major role in this type of pollution.

Visit Think Blue Exeter to learn about ways you can help reduce Stormwater Pollution because...CLEAN WATER

STARTS WITH YOU!!!

What is Stormwater Pollution?

As stormwater (or rain and snow-melt) flows across buildings, streets, parking lots, and other hard surfaces it collects dirt, debris, and chemicals and carries them directly to our rivers and streams. Collectively, these surfaces which do not allow water to percolate are called impervious surfaces. The polluted runoff that flows across them and into our streams is called Stormwater Pollution.

What's the Water Quality Status of Exeter's Streams and Rivers?

As a result of water testing, NH Department of Environmental Services has designated the majority of Exeter's streams and rivers as "impaired" for one or more uses. This means the water contains pollutants which can be harmful to aquatic life, fish consumption, or humans during either direct or indirect contact.

To view how widespread this designation is, click here to view Exeter's "impaired rivers". As you look at this map remember, BLUE means the water course meets standards, RED means it does not. With the majority of Exeter's waterways in red on this map, you may be starting to understand the purpose of the THINK BLUE program.

How Can You Help?

Our habits play a major role in this type of pollution. To find out what simple changes you can make to reduce the amount of pollutants entering our rivers, explore the links below and be sure to check out our "Dusty Ads" at the bottom of the page. You may have seen or heard them on Channel 98 or WEX.

We need more people to THINK BLUE because CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH YOU!!!

Click any thumbnail image to view a slideshow

Supporting Documents
- Stormwater Dudley Park Map
- Dudley Creek Survey Map
- Conservation District Map
- Clean Water Starts Here

Share/Save
Think Blue: Homeowners

Homeowners

The Role We Play

Our every day actions play a major role in the quality of water entering our streams.

When a small group of Exeter residents were polled, more than a quarter of them believed the majority of water from rain or snowmelt on their property soaks into the ground. In fact it is estimated that between 40-70% of the rain that falls on the average lot runs off! This stormwater runoff leaves your property, taking with it chemicals, dirt and debris and in most cases enters our streams and rivers untreated through the storm drain system.

Simple Changes, Drastic Results

Your everyday choices on how you manage your property can have a drastic effect on the quality of our streams and rivers. So what can you do? You can THINK BLUE!

Here are some small changes you can make today.

- Direct roof gutter downspouts onto vegetated areas or into a rain barrel for reuse later
- Plant a raingarden
- Direct water off your driveway and onto vegetated area
- If you plan to make changes to your property remember, the best way to prevent stormwater pollution is to reduce the amount of water that leaves your property. This can be accomplished by reducing the amount of area on your property that is "impervious" or impermeable to water, or by slowing the speed that water flows across your property. OR even better- BOTH!!

Take a tour of a Water Friendly Interactive House for more ideas!

You can also click the links below:

- Reduce Runoff
- Lawn Care
- Pet Waste
- Septic System Maintenance

http://exeter Nh.gov/bcc/think-blue-homeowners
Think Blue: Reduce Runoff

Reduce Runoff

Reducing the amount of water leaving your property is the most direct way of reducing stormwater pollution. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) has put together a very easy to use homeowners guide. It has detailed designs as well as some suggested plant to use and much more!

To view the guide click here.

Three ways you can help reduce runoff on your property

**PLANT A VEGETATED BUFFER**

Plants play two major roles in treating stormwater pollution. Structurally they slow the water down. Plants also have a natural ability to "clean" the water by absorbing some of the excess nutrients, binding soil particles and so on. By planting a diverse vegetated buffer between your home and our water resources you can achieve both of these benefits!

Native buffers can be a beautiful addition to your landscape. To view one, visit the Norris Brook Buffer demonstration site at the north end of Swasey Parkway.

**PLANT A RAIN GARDEN**

A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden that uses soil, mulch, and plants to capture, absorb, and treat stormwater.

This helps to reduce the amount of stormwater coming from your property and to recharge groundwater.

Rain gardens can be as pretty as they are efficient. To view one in person, visit the rain garden on Pleasant Street in Founders Park near the library.

**RAIN BARRELS**

As the name suggests, rain barrels are barrels you connect to your gutter downspouts to collect the water. Then use your collected rainwater to water your garden or landscape.

Supporting Documents

[rain_garden_info.pdf](#)
Think Blue: Lawn Care

Lawn Care

Excess lawn chemicals like fertilizers, weed and bug killers run off lawns when they are overwatered or applied before a rainstorm. These products pollute our water and can be harmful to your family, especially children and pets. You can have a great looking lawn that will keep our water clean and is healthy for your family and pets on by following some of these tips.

Choose the right seeds based on your conditions. Click HERE for UNH Cooperative Extension’s guidelines.

- Set the mower blades at 3" and leave the grass clippings.
- Leaving the clippings on your lawn is a free source of fertilizer! As clippings decompose they release nitrogen, the most common nutrient lawns need to grow.
- Water wisely.
- If needed, water only once or twice per week with a deep soaking (1-1.5 inches) in the cool hours of the morning.
- Use Fertilizer Properly and only when needed.
- A simple soil test will tell you if your lawn needs fertilizer. UNH Cooperative Extension has inexpensive test kits for purchase.
- Never apply fertilizer before it rains and if you water it in, be sure not to over water.
- Fall is the time of year when grass puts energy into growing its root system and is often the best time to fertilize your lawn.
- Be sure you read the fertilizer products and follow the application instructions and use slow release fertilizers.
- Grow a thick lawn to keep weeds out. Remove thatch and overseed with the proper grass seed to help your grass out compete the weeds.
- If necessary, spot treat with weed killers or insect killers. Never apply them to your entire lawn.

By following these simple steps, you can have a beautiful yard and still THINK BLUE!

http://exeter.nh.gov/bcc/think-blue-lawn-care
Think Blue: Pet Waste

Pet Waste

Pet waste (including that associated with farm animals) is more than just a nightmare for our shoes. Just like human sewage, untreated pet fecal matter is harmful to waterways. Rain washes pet waste containing excess nitrogen and disease-causing organisms, such as giardia and salmonella, into rivers and streams via storm drains.

WHAT YOU CAN DO?

When walking your dog, always carry a plastic bag and clean up after your pet. (grocery store bags & old newspaper bags work just fine). Use the bag like a glove, pick up the pet waste, turn the bag inside out and around the waste, tie the bag and dispose in the garbage.

- Don’t place pet waste in storm drains or hose pet waste toward storm drains as they drain directly to local waterways.
- Clean up pet waste from your yard. You can either flush it down the toilet, dispose of it in the trash or bury it provided it away from your garden, drinking water sources, surface waters, or high traffic areas.
- Follow the NH Department of Agriculture’s Best Management Practices for manure management if you have farm animals.

Pet waste disposal systems are available for when you are walking your pet in town. They can be found at:
- Court St near Bow St
- Court St across from Elm
- Court St across from Pine St
- Pine St near Front St
- Lincoln St near school parking lot
- Main St near entrance to school parking lot
- Waterfront Park
- Clemson Pond
- Gilman Park
- Oaklands Town Forest Parking lot
- Linden St at Little River

http://exeter nh.gov/occ/think-blue-pet-waste
Think Blue: Septic System Maintenance

Septic System Maintenance

A septic system is an effective method for treating your household waste but they require proper care and maintenance. Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release bacteria and viruses that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby water bodies. This can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.

Septic System Tips:

- Inspect your septic system every 1 - 3 years.
- Pump your tank as often as necessary (typically every 3 to 5 years).
- The average life expectancy for a septic system is 20 years. Consider replacing your system if it is approaching or over 20 years old.
- Avoid practices that might damage your septic tank and leach field, such as driving over it with a car or planting bushes and trees over top of it.
- Do not use drain cleaners or other toxic chemical products.
- Do not use additives of any kind to your septic system.
- Do not put cooking oil or grease down the drain.
- Do not overload your septic system with solids by using a garbage disposal unless the system was specifically designed for one.
Think Blue: Kids Page

Did you know that you live in a watershed? Yes, that's right. We all live in a watershed. What's a watershed? It's a fancy word describing an area of land that drains or 'sheds' its water to a river or lake from higher to lower elevations. Most of Exeter lies within the Salmon Falls - Piscataqua River larger drainage basin. In Exeter this includes the Piscassic, Exeter, and Squamscott watersheds. A portion of the southeastern corner of town falls within the Coastal drainage basin. This includes the Taylor River - Hampton River subwatershed.

Take this concept and apply it locally. The area you are in is part of a watershed and the water is flowing somewhere. Every raindrop from a storm falls into a watershed. Where does the stormwater from your yard go? It flows to the nearest lake, river or stream, and eventually to the ocean. How about the stormwater from your school, where does it go? Is it in the same watershed as your yard?

What watershed do you live in? Click HERE to find out!

Click HERE to visit the EPA's stormwater pollution page for fun games!

Click HERE for some great stormwater games and puzzles from Salt Lake County stormwater coalition!

http://extermh.gov/hcc/think-blue-kids-page
Welcome to the Police Department

Drug Take Back Day

On April 26th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Exeter Police Department will participate in the National Drug Take Back Day. Captain Stephen Poulin spearheads the take back program for the police department. We would like to thank all who participate in this event. Because residents drop them off to the department these drugs which may have ended up in the hands of potential abusers or our landfills or water supply can be properly disposed of.

At this time, we can not accept needles, sorry for any inconvenience.

Key Links

Drug Drop-Off Box
The Exeter Police Department has taken a step further to help keep harmful, unused medications out of the hands of children as well as out of the environment. Open Source Research shows that every day 2,500 kids abuse prescription drugs for the first time. Seventy percent of people who abuse prescription pain relievers say they got them from friends or relatives.

Code Red Release
PRESS RELEASE
EXETER POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Exeter Police Department is utilizing the CodeRed High-Speed Notification System.

The Town of Exeter has contracted with Emergency Communications Network to license its CodeRED High-speed notification solution. The CodeRED system provides Exeter public safety officials with the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire town.

On April 29, 2013, the Exeter Communication Center will send out an emergency call test message. This message will only reach home and business phones that are part of the 911 database.

http://exeterhnh.gov/police
The Exeter Police Department has taken a step further to help keep harmful, unused medications out of the hands of children as well as out of the environment. Open Source Research shows that every day 2,500 kids abuse prescription drugs for the first time. Seventy percent of people who abuse prescription pain relievers say they got them from friends or relatives.

Currently, many unwanted or expired household and prescription medications are improperly disposed of. The harmful methods being used include flushing the drugs down toilets or putting them into the garbage. Both of these methods have damaging effects on our environment and contaminate our water supply. Therefore, The Exeter Police saw the need for a unit that would provide a source for proper disposal of unwanted or expired household and prescription medications, and placed a secured container in the lobby of the Police Department.

The Exeter Police Department’s MedReturn Drug Collection Unit provides a safe, sustainable and secure method to dispose of unwanted or expired household medicines or prescription medication. There has been a great response from the Exeter community during our Drug Take Back events that have been coordinated with the D.E.A. The Exeter Police is committed to continuing to offer these services as well as now providing a 24hr 7 day a week- no questions asked-disposal option.

# Hazardous Waste in Your Home??

Hazardous Waste is not just an industrial problem. Many household products contain hazardous chemicals. We are all hazardous waste generators!

## 2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**Exeter, Stratham, Newfields, Epping and East Kingston**

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

**Exeter, Stratham:** 8:30 am—10:30 am

**Epping, E. Kingston, Newfields:** 10:00 am—12:30 pm

**Exeter Public Works Garage, Newfields Road (Route 85), Exeter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM THE YARD</th>
<th>FROM THE GARAGE</th>
<th>FROM THE HOUSE</th>
<th>FROM THE WORKBENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides</td>
<td>Motor Oil</td>
<td>Rechargeable Batteries</td>
<td>Rust Remover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect Sprays</td>
<td>Auto Batteries</td>
<td>Drain &amp; Oven Cleaners</td>
<td>Wood Preservatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodent Killers</td>
<td>Antifreeze</td>
<td>Furniture Polish</td>
<td>Paint Thinners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pool Chemicals</td>
<td>Brake Fluid</td>
<td>Metal Polish</td>
<td>Oil Based Paints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Munetic Acid</td>
<td>Wax &amp; Polish</td>
<td>Fluorescent Light bulbs</td>
<td>Solvents</td>
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<td>No-Pest Strips</td>
<td>Engine Degreasers</td>
<td>Photo Chemicals</td>
<td>Degreasers</td>
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<td>Lead sinkers, flashing</td>
<td>Carburetor Cleaner</td>
<td>Mercury Thermometers</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
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<td>Creosote</td>
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**Limit per Household:** 10 GALLONS or Equivalent

**Latex Paint and Alkaline Batteries not Accepted** (not hazardous)

**Note:** Electronic Recycling will not be held at HHW day.

## Important Note:

The following wastes **cannot be accepted:** Gas Cylinders, Explosive Materials, Ammunition, Radioactive Materials, Infectious and Biological Wastes, Prescription Medicines/Syringes, Esters, and Unknown Materials. 

*Please don't bring them!*

## Collection is for Exeter, Stratham, Newfields, Epping and East Kingston Residents Only


*** A donation of $5 per household is requested to help offset costs. ***
Welcome to the Public Works Department

Spring Leaf pick-up
Spring leaf and grass clipping pick up will be May 19 - 23 on your regular pick-up day (12 bag limit per residence).

No Parking - Street Sweeping!
No Parking on Water Street, Front Street to Court Street (downtown area) tomorrow morning (4/22/14) for street sweeping.

Notice of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)
On March 31, 2014 due to continuous rain of 1.05 inches and associated snow melt, the capacity of the sewer collection system was exceeded.

Water Main Flushing!
Flushing of Water Mains - March 31 to May 13
The Exeter Water & Sewer Department will flush water mains during the weeks of March 31 to May 23, 2014. Flushing will be performed at night during the first week, and during the day for the next 5-7 weeks. We will flush from 9 pm to 7 am during the night, and 7:30 am to 2:30 pm during the day.

Contact
Public Works Complex:
13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833
P) 603-773-6167
F) 603-772-1355
Info line: 603-418-0450
Emergency: 603-772-1212
(Phone, weekends or holidays)
Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Like us on Facebook!
Umil Gas Emergencies:
866-900-4110
Transfer Station:
3 Cross Road
Exeter, NH 03833
Hours:
Monday: 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Tuesday: 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Full Contact Details...

Upcoming Events
Spring Leaf pick up
Mon, May 12th (All day) - Fri, May 23rd (All day)
Memorial Day - Closed
Mon, May 26th (All day)
Independence Day - Closed
Fri, Jul 4th (All day)
Columbus Day - Closed
Mon, Oct 13th (All day)
Veteran's Day - Closed
Tue, Nov 11th (All day)
View the Public Works calendar

http://exeternh.gov/publicworks
Spring Clean-up events

Spring cleaning is upon us! Here's a guide of the Spring project list for 2013:

Street Sweeping: The first round of sweeping the main roads is complete, secondary roads in progress. Highway crews are repairing pothole damage and will continue doing the sweeping rounds as needed.

- Street Marking: Crosswalk painting is in progress, long lines, and other markings will be complete mid June (currently out for bid).
- Street Repairs: Patch paving and milling repairs of all town roads are underway. This includes grading road shoulders, clearing culverts, repairing storm drain manholes, and catch basins.
- Street Signs: Repairs and the replacement of street signs and traffic lights are in progress.
- The Transfer Station guidelines have a new addition regarding electronics!
- Be sure to inspect your irrigation system for any damaged water heads! Also, make sure they are watering your lawn and not the sidewalks or driveways! Check out the EPA Water Sense tip sheet below for more information.
- Until is in the process of eliminating all remaining bare steel gas lines to replace with plastic lines. The total linear feet to be replaced is 54,270 and is expected to take approximately six months.
- PEA is replacing their steam line Steam Line on Elliot St starting in April with completion by September 1st. During the day Elliot St will be one way from Court St to Front St returning to two way traffic nights and weekends.

Supporting Documents

- Sprinkler Spruce-up Facts & Tips

Contact

Public Works Complex:
13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833
Phone: 603-772-6157
Fax: 603-772-1366
Information line: 603-418-6450
Emergency: 603-772-1212
(Rights, weekends or holidays)
Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Transfer Station:
9 Cross Road
Exeter, NH 03833
Hours:
Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Thursday: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Full Contact Details...

Upcoming Events

- Memorial Day - Closed 1 day delay for rubbish
  Mon, May 27th (All day)
- Independence Day - Closed 1 day delay for rubbish
  Thu, Jul 4th (All day)
- Labor Day - Closed 1 day delay for rubbish
  Mon, Sep 2nd (All day)
- Columbus Day - Closed
  Mon, Oct 14th (All day)
- Veteran's Day - Closed
  Mon, Nov 11th (All day)

View the Public Works calendar
Pact called 'proactive' bid to cut pollution to rivers

Exeter, Stratham, Newfields begin Project Wise

By Aaron Sanborn
asanborn@seacoastonline.com
February 02, 2014 2:00 AM

EXETER — Three communities are coming together in hopes of improving water quality in the Squamscott and Exeter rivers.

Exeter, Stratham and Newfields are part of a new initiative, Project Wise (Water Integration for Squamscott-Exeter). It involves officials from the towns working with a team from Geosyntec Consultants in Portsmouth, the University of New Hampshire, Rockingham Planning Commission, Consensus Building Institute and Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to develop a water integration plan for the three communities.

A water integration plan could have multiple benefits for the communities, according to Robert Roseen of Geosyntec Consultants, who said it could help all three collaborate to reduce pollution into the watersheds. "Integrated planning has rarely been done around the country," Roseen said.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is requiring Exeter to reduce the nitrogen its wastewater treatment plant releases into the Squamscott River, which is part of the Great Bay estuary, as part of the treatment process. Newfields will soon face the same requirement. The three communities are also facing stricter EPA stormwater management permits.

Alison Watts, a research assistant professor with the UNH Stormwater Center, said the goal of Project Wise is to create a plan that will help the three communities reduce the amount of pollution they release into the Squamscott and Exeter rivers. The plan will mostly pertain to how the communities can work together to reduce nonpoint nitrogen pollution, such as septic systems, fertilizer, pet and livestock waste and stormwater runoff.

"Whatever plan we come up with is not binding. We're just giving the communities the tools they need to plan and they can choose what's best for them," Watts said. "We think these communities are smart to work together and consider this option."

As part of the consent agreement it signed with the EPA, Exeter is initially required to reduce the nitrogen its wastewater treatment plant releases into the river to a limit of 8 milligrams per liter, and then it would have time to do more testing before being required to get down to 3 milligrams per liter, which is considered the limit of technology by current treatment standards.

Roseen said if Exeter can reduce nonpoint pollution into the estuary, it can further delay getting to 3 milligrams per liter and save money. "We can help them monitor that progress," he said.

In the case of Stratham, while the town doesn't have a wastewater treatment plant, it is subject to new stormwater pollution permits. Stratham is also looking to potentially partner with Exeter or Portsmouth, to bring sewer services to its Route 108 business district.

"Stratham is very forward thinking," Roseen said. "They recognize that by being in front of this, they can be masters of their own destiny."

Even if Exeter and Stratham partner with Portsmouth for wastewater treatment, as is being discussed, the communities still have to abide by EPA permits, which would require a reduction of nonpoint pollution sources into the estuary.

Watts said the agencies have met with the three communities multiple times and so far the collaboration has been good. She said the project's first major step is to create a watershed model that helps the communities better understand where nonpoint pollution is coming from. Such a model will demonstrate impacts that sediments, metals and impervious surfaces have on the rivers.

"It will help us determine what areas are immediately amenable to reducing nitrogen loads," Watts said.
By Aaron Sanborn
asanborn@seacoastonline.com
May 17, 2013 2:00 AM

PORTSMOUTH — Sources of nonpoint nitrogen pollution in the Great Bay estuary are spread out almost equally between septic systems, fertilizers and atmospheric pollution, according to a new report.

The N.H. Department of Environmental Services unveiled its draft report, Great Bay Nitrogen Non-Point Source Study, during a two-hour presentation Thursday at the agency's Portsmouth field office. Release of the report was highly anticipated given the long fight between local communities and the federal Environmental Protection Agency over more stringent regulation of Seacoast wastewater treatment plants.

Nonpoint sources have been identified as contributing to 68 percent of the bay's nitrogen load, with the remaining 32 percent coming from sewer plants along the Great Bay estuary that release nitrogen into the waterways during the treatment process.

Until the release of Thursday's report, no study had been done on the breakdown of the estuary's nitrogen pollution sources. Ted Diers, watershed management bureau administrator for DES, described the pollution sources as being hidden within a "black box" until now.

"We knew it was there, but we didn't know what was inside," he said. "My hope for the study is that it generates much discussion and planning for a future that includes a Great Bay with less nitrogen input."

The report indicates 33 percent of nonpoint nitrogen pollution in the estuary comes from atmospheric deposition, while human waste from septic systems and chemical fertilizer each contributed 27 percent. Animal waste was cited for 13 percent.

Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen comes largely from pollution, such as reactive nitrogen from fossil fuel combustion for power generation and automobiles. Nitrogen from atmospheric deposition enters the watershed in the form of air pollution that settles onto land surfaces. The report determined 62 percent of the nitrogen pollution from atmospheric deposition comes from out-of-state sources.

For chemical fertilizers, the report found fertilizers on crops and residential lawns contributed equally to the Great Bay's pollution at 48 percent each, with the other 4 percent of fertilizer pollution coming from managed turf, such as golf courses and athletic fields. Diers said several fertilizer companies have agreed to remove phosphorus from their fertilizers, and there is state legislation supported by the House and Senate that also seeks to limit phosphorus in fertilizers.

"It means a reduction (of pollution to the bay) but we don't know how much at this point," he said.

There was some variance in nonpoint contributors among all of the waterways that make up the estuary, but, for the most part, the contributors in the individual waterways were consistent with the overall results of the study, Diers said. As expected, highly populated areas such as Dover, Portsmouth and Rochester contributed the most nonpoint pollution to the estuary. Diers said a combination of development and a steady mixture of both septic and sewer systems contributed to this finding.

The report also notes that nonpoint nitrogen pollution gets into the estuary in a number of different ways, with storm water accounting for 25 percent of nonpoint pollution.

While the draft report provided communities with new data, it does not recommend specific policies for remediation.

Stratham Town Administrator Paul Deschaine said the report is a lot to digest.

"I didn't see any great surprises in it," he said. "But it's good to have more documentation to validate some of our normal presumptions."

Deschaine said the next step should be to discuss strategies for cutting down on the pollution and the potential
costs associated with those strategies.

Exeter Public Works Director Jennifer Perry agreed, saying the report is a good starting point for those discussions.

"We can start to get a sense of what we can focus on and reasonable efforts we can make," she said.

Diers stressed the report is just a draft and is open for public comment until June 17. Once a final report is prepared, the next steps could include discussions on remediation strategies and costs.

"We hope this helps to frame the start of the discussion. But at the end of the day, there are two things people will probably consider, and that's money and money," he said.

Increased nitrogen in the estuary has been blamed for the loss of eelgrass, a critical habitat for fish and other marine species.

Nitrogen pollution from wastewater treatment facilities along the Great Bay estuary have dominated discussion to date in efforts to clean up the bay, largely because of high cost estimates to upgrade and build new sewer plants to meet new EPA mandates to reduce nitrogen emissions.

Exeter and Newmarket have committed to EPA permits that give them a certain amount of time to build new wastewater treatment plants and up to 15 years to reduce to 3 milligrams per liter the amount of nitrogen they release into the estuary during the treatment process. While those towns accepted the EPA permits, Portsmouth, Dover and Rochester are advocating for a less-stringent nitrogen-release limit of 8 milligrams per liter, and they have filed litigation against the EPA challenging the science behind the permits.

To view the full DES report and supporting documents, visit www.des.state.nh.us/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/great-bay-estuary.htm.
Report of the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee

The Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee (ESRLAC) is comprised of volunteers representing the twelve communities in the Exeter-Squamscott River watershed: Chester, Raymond, Fremont, Sandown, Danville, Kingston, East Kingston, Brentwood, Kensington, Exeter, Stratham and Newfields. The Exeter-Squamscott River is one river with two names, reflecting the fresh and salt water portions of this major tributary to Great Bay.

ESRLAC celebrated its 17th year of stewardship of the river and its watershed in 2013. The year was marked by ongoing discussions with municipalities and state and federal agencies about water quality in the river and its impact on water quality in Great Bay. Water quality in the river is impacted by land use in all communities in the watershed.

Highlights From 2013 include:

- Annual Vernal Pool Workshop - ESRLAC partnered with the Kingston Conservation Commission in May to hold the 12th Annual Vernal Pool Workshop. Children and adults waded into woodland pools to identify salamanders, turtles and clusters of frog eggs. Development of forestland threatens vernal pools in every watershed community and ESRLAC continues to advocate for the protection of critical wildlife habitat like vernal pools.

- Annual Fish Ladder Tour - ESRLAC partnered with the Exeter Conservation Commission and NH Fish and Game in late May for the annual tour of the fish ladder located next to the Great Dam in downtown Exeter. As always, this event attracted a large crowd interested in learning how NH Fish and Game manages the fish ladder to enable annual fish migration from the salt water of the Squamscott River to the fresh water of the Exeter River.

- Canoe and Kayak Paddle on the Squamscott River - ESRLAC partnered with the Exeter Conservation Commission in October to lead a canoe and kayak paddle on the Squamscott River.

ESRLAC seeks representation from all communities in the watershed. Please call the Rockingham Planning Commission at 603 778 0885 for more information.
Great Turnout for our Squamscott River Paddle on October 19th

As part of Exeter's 375th Anniversary, the Exeter Squamscott Local Advisory Committee and Exeter Conservation Commission hosted a group paddle along the Squamscott River.

Lead by Carlos Gundersen from the Exeter Conservation Commission a group of about 15 individuals paddled from downtown Exeter to the oxbow just north of Route 101 on this gorgeous fall day.

Along the way we talked about water quality of our rivers and Great Bay and the impact of stormwater pollution on water quality, the future upgrades needed to the wastewater treatment facility, salt marsh ecology and invasive plants and enjoyed the beauty and wildlife along the way.

A huge thank you to all involved for making it a fun way to spend this gorgeous Saturday!

If you want to be informed about any future events, like the Conservation Commissions facebook page or check back on the Commissions webpage regularly!
Fish Ladder Tour

Saturday, May 25th, 2013
10 am
Rain or shine!

Meet Next To
11 Water Street Restaurant
In Downtown Exeter
2014 Fish Ladder Tour

Please join NH Fish and Game, members of the Exeter Conservation Commission and the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee on May 17th at 10 am for an exciting family friendly event about our spring migratory fish species.

NH Fish and Game staff will explain the purpose of the ladder, describe the fish that use the ladder during the annual spring migration from salt water in the Squamscott River to fresh water in the Exeter River and even pull some fish out of the ladder for close viewing. There is always lots of giggles and squealing when the ancient sea lamprey is shown!

Migratory fish such as smelt, alewife, blueback herring, American shad, American eel and sea lamprey all use the fish ladder as a way to move upstream past the dam. The event is rain or shine and participants will meet next to the 11 Water Street Restaurant on Water Street in downtown Exeter.
### 2013 Exeter River Watershed VRAP Data

Measurements not meeting New Hampshire surface water quality standards
Measurements not meeting NHDES quality assurance/quality control standards

\(^a\) Specific conductance > 835 µS/cm indicate exceedance of chronic chloride standard of 230 mg/L
\(^b\) Chronic water quality standard
\(^c\) Calculated using 1/2 of the 0.050 mg/L detection limit of Nitrate + Nitrite (0.025 mg/L)

#### 15-EXT, Exeter River, Haigh Road, Exeter

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#### 15-EXT, Exeter River, Haigh Road, Exeter

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### 13-EXT, Exeter River, Kingston Road (Route 111) Bridge, Exeter

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Portsmouth Avenue Sewer Replacement Project and Detour

Update (4/15/14): We have been fortunate for the first week of construction to be able to maintain 2-way traffic. Unfortunately, the 1-way detour will begin tomorrow (4/16/14) between High St and Green Hill Rd. Please arrange your routes accordingly!

Update (3/21/14): Construction of the water and sewer utilities in Portsmouth Avenue is scheduled to restart on April 7 and continue to approximately July 1, 2014.

There will be 2 construction crews working simultaneously this year. The first will be in the area of High St to Green Hill Rd, installing sewer services during the day. This area will have a one-way detour, similar to last fall (see PDF below, for your use). The second crew will be installing sewer main and services beginning at the north end of Exeter Commons (near Margaretta) and continuing south to Green Hill Rd. This section of the road is wide enough to maintain 2-way traffic during construction.

Update (12/9/13): The construction has stopped for the winter. Thank you all for your cooperation and patience throughout this project! It is greatly appreciated! The contractor will be back after March 15, 2014 at the earliest, but this is weather dependent. More details about the schedule will be made available in the spring.

On Monday, November 4th the Public Works Department will commence construction on the replacement of one of the Town's most significant sewer lines running from the intersection of High Street and Portsmouth Avenue out to the Provident Bank on Portsmouth Avenue.

To accommodate this project, traffic will be detoured beginning on Wednesday, November 6th and continuing through December 19th. Traffic will be one-way inbound from Green Hill Road to the intersection of High Street and Portsmouth Avenue. Outbound traffic will be detoured away from Portsmouth Avenue out to Holland Way. Two-way traffic will remain from Green Hill Road out to the remainder of Portsmouth Avenue. The detour will last from approximately 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day while construction is happening. A map of the detour is below. Please review the map and plan your routes accordingly.

Questions or concerns regarding the project can be directed to the Jen Matos, Assistant Engineer at the Public Works Department at 773-6157.
Welcome to the Planning Department

FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps & Study
FEMA-Updated Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Updated Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report for Rockingham County, New Hampshire

CAPE: Climate Adaptation Plan for Exeter
CAPE: Background
The climate in which we live has always changed over time, requiring us to adjust or adapt to these changes.

Coming Together for Water Quality
The Town of Exeter and residents of Marshall Farms joined forces in fall of 2013 to make simple changes that together combine to help improve the quality of water entering Brickyard Pond.

Baggage Building Project Information
Project Overview: The project comprises of purchasing and renovating the existing 700 square foot stone building that once served as the train station baggage building.

Land Use Regulations
Information on Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations as well as Zoning Ordinances are available for download.
CLEANING CATCH BASINS