



Brainstorm Notes

Brainstorm Notes from September 20th North Nashua River Subbasins Public Meeting



Open Space

Clinton reservoirs (Lynde, Heywood, etc.) will have permanent protection
Trail system along Fall Brook

Our map is missing many "open space" protected areas in the Fall Brook, Leominster water supply and Clinton reservoir areas (per Ed Himlan)

Recreation

Motorized vehicles in the state forests have increased conflict for hikers – in Groton Town Forest erosion is a problem too. Need to have state designated areas available for motorized recreation or other areas will be damaged (Rutland State Forest + 8 others in MA are the only ones where motorized uses is allowed: non in Nashua basin). Need more enforcement
Target shooting can be a problem in hiking areas too (ie: Cook Conservation Area)
State Public Access Board is interested in making more cartop boat access available. Looking for recommendations.

Water Quality

5-year Review for NPDES permits – more rigid than in the past – WQ will improve as new discharge limits are met

Huge amounts of sediment in Lake Samoset, much due to recent construction on Fall Brook.
Fall Brook: flashy flow regime/ concern with erosion and water quality impacts during flood conditions. Habitat impairment for turtles, etc. Consider inventory of storm drains, culverts, bridges.

Should look at pH in lakes.

Consider Falulah and Baker Brooks separately as former pristine the latter not.

Water Quantity

Water flow problems from beavers (east side at Rt 70 is flooded). Development is also changing the course of the stream – Rt 117 -- from debris clogging the waterways.

Discussion of low flows; effect of impervious surfaces and sewerage. Good hydrologic study of Fitchburg needed.

Habitat

Issue: snags and aquatic habitat. Flooding Relief Qualification. US Army Corps has a team that can clear snags; has an interest in keeping flow consistent, especially in Fitchburg and Leominster. Work on this; create agreement

Fitchburg Riverside Park- tension with US ACOE and environmental protection. Order to remove shoals and vegetative debris. Follow up with US ACE and hydrological study.

Quality of Life

Comment about goal – work with local officials to protect more developable land through subdivision bylaws. 50%: VERY tough to do.