



Merrimack River Initiative

Watershed Connections

VEMN Guide To Volunteer Watershed Monitoring Options In The Merrimack River Watershed

Final Report

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Prepared by:

The Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Network

with assistance from River Watch Network

C/O Merrimack River Watershed Council

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THE MERRIMACK RIVER INITIATIVE

The Merrimack River Initiative began in 1988 as an agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of New Hampshire, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission to collaborate on water quality issues. This initiated a dialogue to examine issues and problems in the watershed, thereby resulting in a proposal for funding and further work toward expanding the watershed approach. The watershed approach is different from other water resource planning efforts in several ways. First, the approach is "resource based" using the watershed as the management unit rather than looking at a specific portion of a river, as is usually the case. This allows planners to examine the cumulative impact of all activity in the watershed. Second, it strives to be a holistic approach. It considers issues of surface and groundwater quality and quantity along with human use and natural functions in the watershed. Lastly, it builds partnerships. The Initiative brings together public and private groups, state and federal agencies, industry and environmental groups all with a common goal.

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NEIWPC, 255 Ballardvale Street, 2nd Floor, Wilmington, MA 01887
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NH OSP, 2 1/2 Beacon Street, Concord, NH 03301
MRWC, 56 Island Street, P. O. Box 1377, Lawrence, MA 01840
Lakes Region Planning Commission, 103 Main Street, Rte. 3, Meredith, NH 03253
Central NH Regional Planning Commission, 329 Daniel Webster Hwy., Boscawen, NH 03303
Southern NH Planning Commission, University Center, 400 Commercial St., Manchester, NH 03101
Nashua Regional Planning Commission, 115 Main St., P.O. Box 847, Nashua, NH 03061
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