

**Blackburn & Union Privileges Superfund Site
Natural Resource Damage Settlement Restoration Planning Update
March 2017**

Since our public meeting last summer, the Natural Resource Trustees (Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) for the Blackburn & Union Privileges Superfund Site have been exploring restoration project ideas submitted by partners, stakeholders and members of the public. We plan to release a Draft Restoration Plan for public review and comment in summer 2017.

Available Funding

- The Trustees have a total of \$1 million for restoration.
- Per a court-issued Consent Decree,
 - \$300,000 must be spent on restoring groundwater resources;
 - \$575,000 must be spent on restoring ecological resources;
 - \$125,000 must be spent on restoring both groundwater and ecological resources.
- The Trustees are permitted to combine these funds or allocate them separately.


Eligibility Criteria

The Trustees are looking for projects that,

- restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources that were injured (wetland/stream habitats and groundwater);
- are close to the Blackburn & Union Site;
- achieve the greatest possible ecological benefit for the cost;
- would not interfere with or be negatively affected by remedial activities occurring in and around the B&U site.

Additionally, the Trustees are looking for projects that meet the following criteria:

- ✚ All restoration projects ***must be located in the Upper Neponset River watershed*** (see map below). We define the Upper Neponset watershed as *that portion of the Neponset River watershed that lies within the boundaries of the following towns: Foxborough, Sharon, Dover, Walpole, Medfield, Stoughton, Randolph, Canton, Norwood, and Westwood.*
- ✚ If a project lies outside of the Upper Neponset River watershed as defined here, but the project benefits the natural resources of the Upper Neponset River watershed, the Trustees may consider that project.
- ✚ ***Ecological restoration projects*** must focus on restoring the types of natural resources that were injured by releases from the Blackburn & Union Superfund Site, namely wetland, stream and river habitats, migratory birds and fish.

 **Groundwater restoration projects must demonstrate a benefit to the Head of the Neponset Sole Source Aquifer and also be located in towns connected to the aquifer (see map below):** Walpole, Dover, Foxborough, Medfield, Norwood, Sharon, and Westwood.

Groundwater restoration projects must demonstrate a linkage to groundwater resources in the Head of the Neponset Sole Source Aquifer and the services that that aquifer provides to ecosystems and humans.

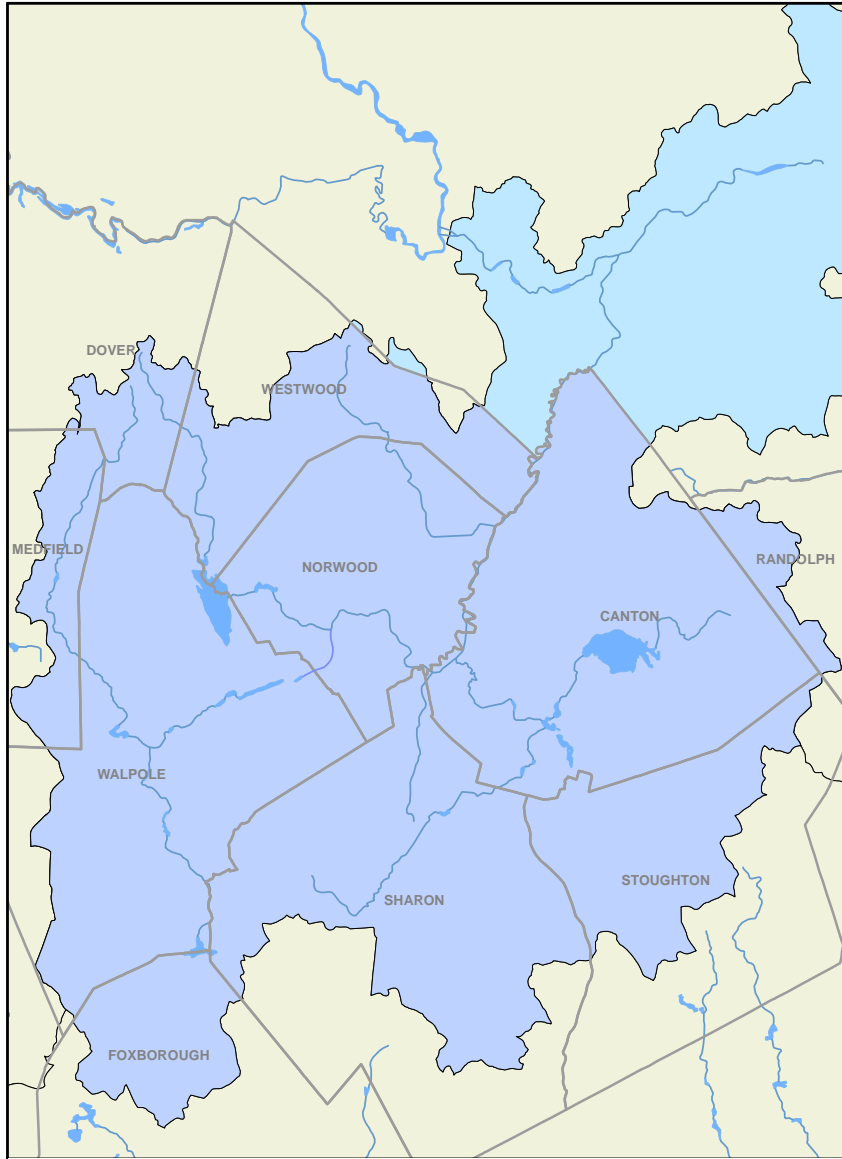
Additionally, groundwater restoration projects must also meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Protect the quality of current and potential drinking water supplies by protecting aquifers, recharge areas, and watersheds, including environmentally sensitive lands and critical habitats.
- Protect the quantity of current and potential drinking water supplies by implementing measures to conserve water, reduce losses of clean water to aquifers, and provide quality recharge to aquifers, including offsets that also mitigate impacts to water-dependent ecosystems.
- Integrate planning and management of current and potential drinking water supplies and wastewater treatment, with an emphasis on the efficient use of land, energy, and water and regional or multi-community benefits.

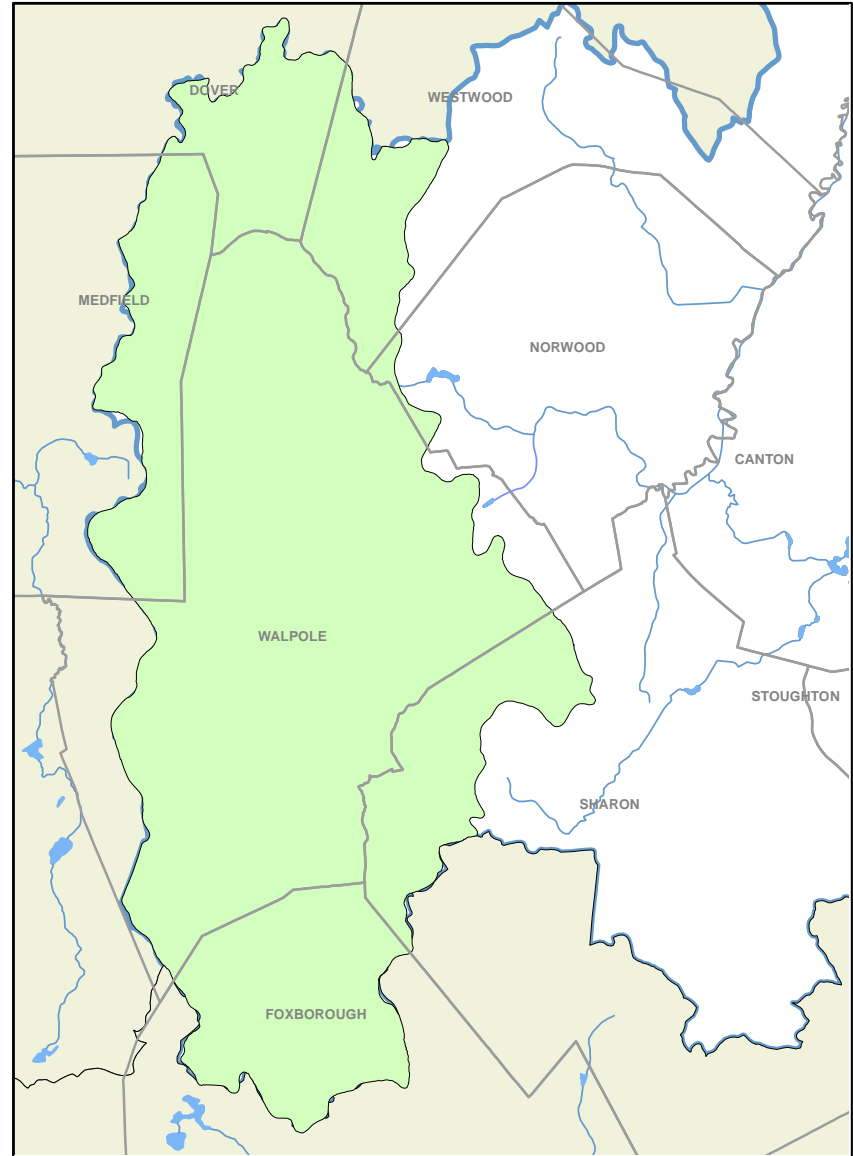


Neponset River as it crosses under Main St. in Walpole, MA

Upper Neponset River Watershed



Head of the Neponset Sole Source Aquifer



Project Ideas Suggested To Date

The Trustees have received a multitude of project ideas over the past six months (see below). We are currently evaluating these projects to assess their restoration value and feasibility.

- Land Acquisition (protect, restore and conserve land – numerous potential locations have been suggested throughout Walpole and the Upper Neponset River watershed)
- Wetland restoration (Sharon Cedar Swamp and Walpole Cedar Swamp)
- Pond Dredging (Memorial Pond, Cobbs Pond, Post Office Pond, Clarks Pond, Lewis Pond)
- Enhancing nearshore wetland habitat in conjunction with Memorial Pond dredging project
- Dam Removal (many potential sites have been suggested, including Mill Pond Dam, White Bridge Dam, Blackburn Dam, Stetson Dam, Plimpton Dam, Pinnacle Dam, Upper Turner's Pond Dam, South Walpole Dam, Cobbs Pond Dam, Gannawatte Farm Pond Dam, Bird Pond dam, Pine Tree Brook Dam, Diamond Pond Dam)
- River cleanups
- Replacing undersized/oversized/perched culverts (re-doing stream and river crossings)
- Stormwater system retrofits (bioretention swales, pocket wetlands etc.)
- Implementing a water conservation program (for example, rebates for installation of low flow toilets and showerheads, lower-use irrigation systems etc.)
- Fish ladders and other fishways
- Recreational trails (canoe or walking/hiking)
- Invasive plant species removal (around ponds)
- Native tree plantings near new sewage treatment plant; other native plantings in other locations
- Timber thinning in the town forest
- Daylighting the Neponset River on the B & U site (river now runs through a culvert)
- Interpretive signage about natural resources
- Environmental education programs involving local schools; citizen science programs



Potential land acquisition, Walpole



Potential cedar swamp restoration project, Walpole

What's Next

The Trustees plan to publish a Draft Restoration Plan in summer 2017 for public comment and review that identifies and describes the projects that will best restore the natural resources that were injured. After considering all comments received, a Final Restoration Plan will be published toward the end of 2017. Once the Final Restoration Plan is published, we will begin working with partners to implement the selected projects.