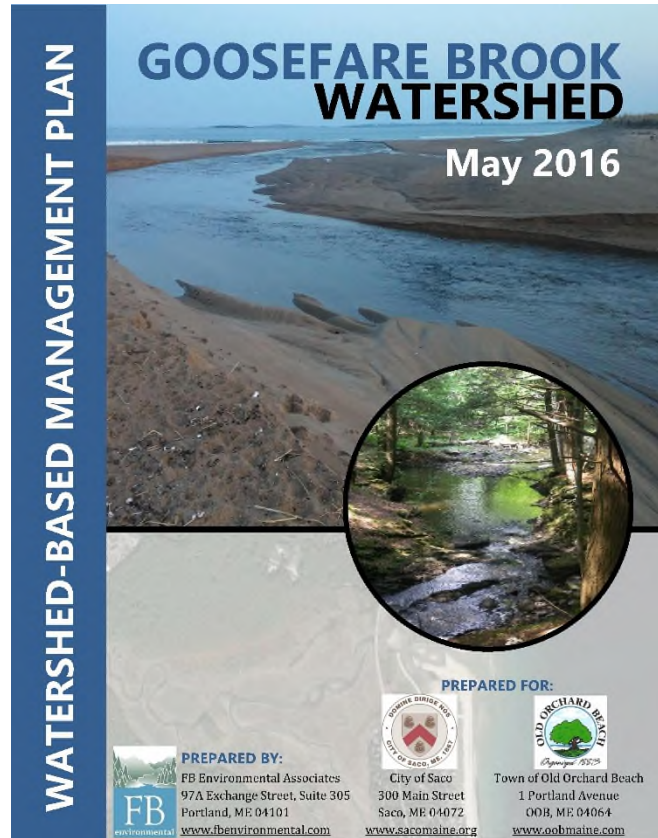


Goosefare Brook Watershed Update

December 2022

Goosefare Brook is designated as a Class B stream; however, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) has determined that Goosefare Brook is not meeting water quality standards and therefore it has been classified as an urban impaired stream. A watershed-based management plan (WBMP) was completed for the Goosefare Brook watershed that was accepted by the Maine DEP and City Council in 2016.

The WBMP presented a 15-year plan to implement restoration work throughout the watershed to improve the water quality status of Goosefare Brook to meet Class B standards. The WBMP implementation plan recommends 58 stormwater retrofit projects and 76 stream restoration projects. In 2016, the WBMP's recommended work plan was estimated to cost \$2.1 million dollars or \$140,000 per year.



Recent Efforts

Since adoption of the WBMP, the following work has been completed:

1. The Goosefare Brook Restoration Committee (GBRC) was formed in 2016. The GBRC serves as a steering committee for the implementation of the WBMP. The GBRC typically meets biannually and includes members from the City of Saco, Town of Old Orchard Beach, Maine DEP, and other stakeholders in the watershed.
2. The City of Saco and Town of Old Orchard Beach have worked in partnership to complete three phases of restoration work from 2016 through 2022. Funding for these phases, in part, was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine DEP in partnership with EPA.

Work completed within the City of Saco included 6 stormwater retrofit projects (treating 2 acres of impervious area), 1 stream channel restoration project, 8 buffer restoration projects, and 5 erosion restoration projects.

The work completed within the City of Saco during the first three phases of implementation cost a total of \$447,276 (319 Grant funding \$285,755 and local in-kind services / match funding \$161,521).

3. The City of Saco created a pilot program to provide financial assistance to private property owners to implement stormwater retrofit projects within the watershed. Thus far, four (4) cost sharing projects have been completed that have resulted in the treatment of nearly 2.6 acres of impervious area. These include stormwater BMPs installed at the following locations:

- 60 Industrial Park Road
(Margaret Murphy School)
- 66 Industrial Park Road
(Bear Holdings, LLC)
- 87 Industrial Park Road
(236 Main Street LLC)
- 524 Main Street
(McDonald's Real Estate)

Total cost \$72,465 (319 Grant funding \$26,495 and local in-kind services / match funding \$45,970).



View of stormwater BMP installed at 524 Main Street

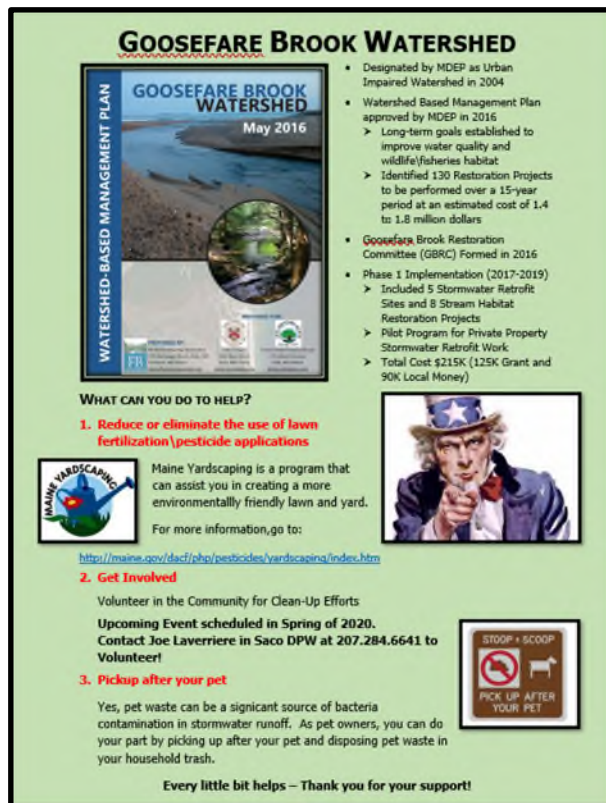
4. The City's ordinances require new developments within the Goosefare Brook watershed to meet Maine DEP's Urban Impaired Stream Standard or submit in-lieu fee payment to the City's Stormwater Compensation Fee Utilization Plan (CFUP). Funds received into the CFUP are used by the City to implement stormwater best management practices (BMPs) throughout the Goosefare Brook watershed. In 2021, the City of Saco amended the CFUP to expand eligible projects to include:
 - Implementation of stormwater BMPs recommended as part of the Goosefare Brook WBMP;
 - Additional stormwater BMPs identified by City staff and approved by Maine DEP; and
 - Implementation of stormwater BMPs through the City's Private Property Stormwater Retrofit Cost Sharing Program.

Upcoming Efforts

1. Maine DEP has issued a Conditional Award to the City of Saco for a fourth phase of 319 Grant funding (2023 through 2024) for the Goosefare Brook watershed. Work planned to be completed during this phase includes 1 stormwater retrofit project (treating 9.1 acres of impervious area), 5 erosion restoration projects and 1 channel stabilization project.

The total budgeted cost for this phase of work is \$268,713 (319 Grant funding \$111,998 and local in-kind services / match funding \$156,715).

- Continuation of the private property stormwater retrofit cost sharing program utilizing funding through the fourth phase of 319 Grant funding and/or CFUP funding.
- As part of the City's MS4 Permit, the City is required to implement three BMPs within the Goosefare Brook watershed. These include:



- Minimize chloride contributions to Goosefare Brook
- Public educational awareness to improve yard waste practices, encourage riparian buffer preservation and proper yardscape practices
- Implement 1 structural stormwater BMP within the watershed

*Example of Previous Public Awareness Efforts in
Pepperell Post Article*

Future Efforts

- Watershed Plan Update**
Watershed Management Plans are required by Maine DEP to be updated every 10 years. The current expiration date for the Goosefare Brook WBMP is May of 2026. A Maine DEP-accepted and active watershed management plan is required to maintain eligibility for 319 Grant Funding after 2026; therefore, the City should plan to commence the update process in 2025. It is anticipated that the update will require between 1 and 2 years to complete.
- Restoration Work**
Continue implementing restoration efforts throughout the watershed in accordance with the recommendations of the 2016 Goosefare Brook WBMP or future WBMP Update.