

Piscataquog River Watershed Culvert Prioritization Model:

Aiding Communities in the Selection of Priority Restoration Projects



PROJECT FACT SHEET

Through financial support from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), Milone & MacBroom and SNHPC in FY 16/17 will be working together to develop a decision-making tool to aid communities located in the Piscataquog River Watershed to select priority culvert replacement and stream crossing restorations. This project will build upon and use previous data in the watershed including: culvert inventory, structure geomorphic compatibility, approximate hydraulic capacity, and the level of aquatic organism passage.

A Project Technical Committee of state agencies and key stakeholders will be formed to guide the project, and three pilot communities in the watershed will be selected to assist with the tool development and test the decision-making tool. Concept plans for culvert replacement and restoration will be prepared for the highest priority culvert in each pilot town.

The decision-making tool will have an initial prioritization based on culvert and stream channel information, and will also allow communities the ability to input locally important public safety, transportation, and environmental factors to refine the prioritization of their own infrastructure needs. The tool will aid communities in considering funding choices and grant opportunities when replacing priority culverts before they are damaged or washed out in a storm.



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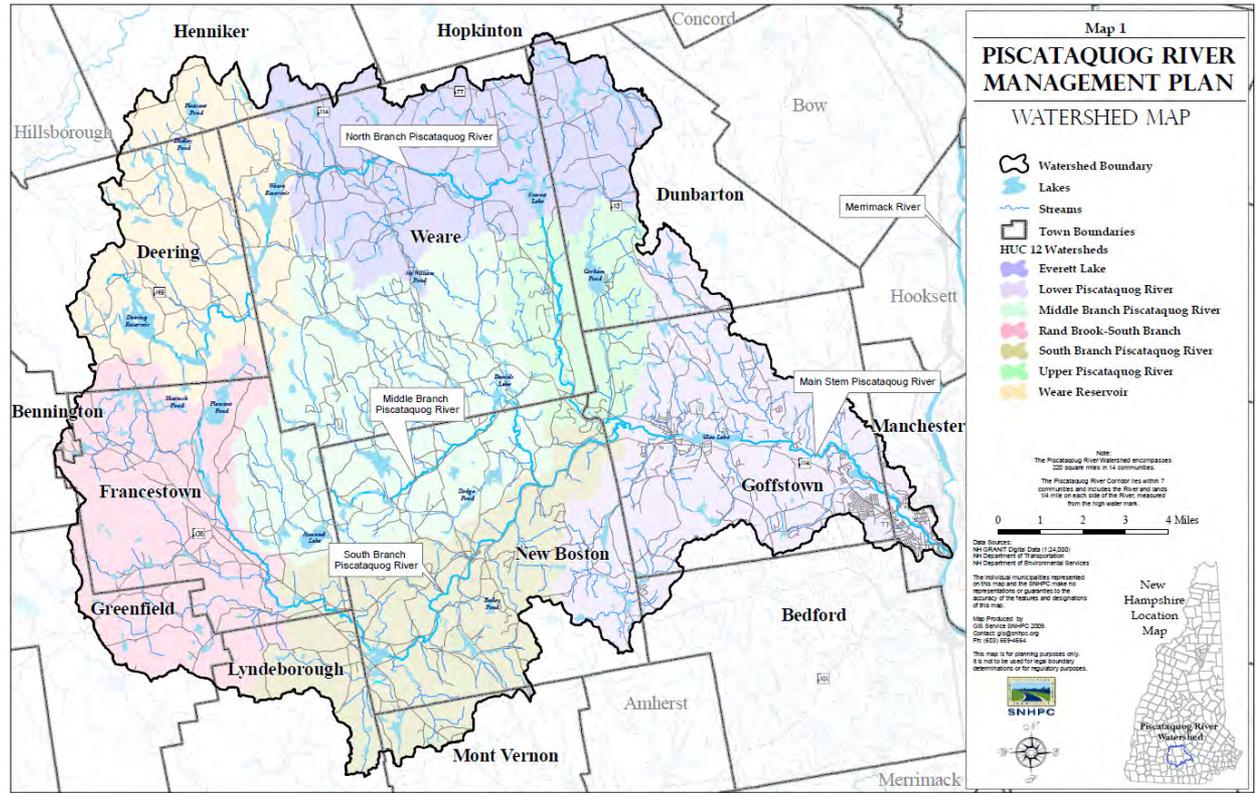


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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Prioritize culverts for future flood resiliency projects.
2. Reduce future risks due to problematic crossings and increase public safety.
3. Create a screening tool that uses existing data and allows local data input.
4. Create a tool that is comprehensive in development, but simple in practice.
5. Improve proactive planning to reduce the need for expensive emergency repairs.
6. Improve ecosystem functions.
7. Train Towns to use the tool and locally plan for culvert replacements.



Project Area Map

EXAMPLE CULVERT REPLACEMENT



Undersized, perched culvert that has limited flood capacity, cannot pass sediment and large wood, during a flood, and has limited aquatic organism passage.



Flood resilient replacement culvert that can pass sediment and large wood during floods, and has good aquatic organism passage.