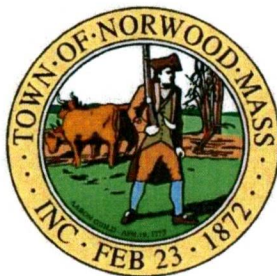


## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN  
CATHERINE WALSH, VICE CHAIR  
CARLY ROCKLEN, TREASURER  
JOHN GEAR  
PETER BAMBER  
KELSEY QUINLAN  
OLIVIA HAGLUND



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/ CONSERVATION AGENT

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.  
LYNN MARCHAND

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### Norwood Conservation Commission

#### Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021

7:30 P.M.

**Present:** Stephen Washburn, Carly Rocklen, John Gear, Peter Bamber, Kelsey Quinlan, and Olivia Haglund (not yet appointed)

**Also Present:** Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent

The September 21, 2022 meeting was held remotely using GoToMeeting software and in person in Room 24 of Norwood Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Washburn at 7:30 p.m. followed by a roll call.

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### Public Hearings:

**1. 140 Morgan Drive Notice of Intent DEP No. 251-05XX N2022-16**

Applicant: Home Market Foods

Representative: Susanne Pisano of GeoInsight

Project Description: Addition of an industrial wastewater treatment tank and 2 building additions along with a wetland restoration area related to a previous hazardous material release clean-up

Mr. Washburn noted that they did not yet have a DEP file number.

Mr. William Sexton, from GeoInsight, displayed site plans on the screen and detailed the proposed project which would include a new 242,600 gallon wastewater equalization tank to equalize and settle non-hazardous wastewater from the onsite operations. Also proposed was the construction of two building additions; a 3,500 square foot building to house the wastewater addition equipment & treatment chemicals and a 1,800 square foot refrigeration upgrade for the refrigeration system in the warehouse storage. He noted a parking lot adjustment on the south side of the site and said the stormwater from the extra impervious surface would be managed through a series of additional catch basins, an infiltration gallery, and regrading of the parking lot in the eastern area of the site to direct additional stormwater to that area so it would go through the catch basins, the pretreatment system, and into the infiltration basin rather than just straight to the catch basins.

Mr. Sexton described the wetlands restoration and noted that it was part of a hazardous waste clean-up. He said a contractor who was cleaning the catch basins had a hydraulic oil hose fail on his truck which resulted in a release to the asphalt and to the wetland area through the catch basins and through the overland flow. Some soil and impacted sediment were removed from the wetlands area which was replaced with rip rap. Too much rip rap was placed in the outfall area and Conservation required restoration as part of the NOI. Mr. Sexton said they identified a 2,000 square foot area for the restoration, on the eastern portion of the property that was delineated in 2019, which would increase the amount of wetlands on the site. He said they are primarily proposing plantings that already exist on the site; cattails, marsh fern, and marsh marigold as well as a 50-50 organic sand and a leaf soil compost mix (hydro soils) for the replacement of the existing soils.

Questions were asked and comments made regarding a revised planting plan, if the cattails were native (yes), planting design for best success, delineation documentation, bordering land subject to flooding, area of flood plain filling, compensatory storage, cut fill table/flood mitigation, and the wetland creation site vs. the restoration site and a request for a wetland replication plan.

Ms. Jones said that during the two site visits, they were unable to access the proposed wetland restoration site due to thorns and poison ivy. She described the areas as a disturbed forested area and noted that access would be a challenge without machinery entering into the woods/without cutting trees. Discussion was had regarding an alternative area for replication and regarding the cut in the 25" no-disturb area. Mr. Sexton stated that currently it is a wooded area with brushy ground cover with not a lot of large trees and that it would need to be cleared for the infiltration basin.

Ms. Jones requested a plan, before the next hearing, showing the full limit of work around the whole site as well as a revised restoration plan.

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue the public hearing to October 5th at a time to be determined.**

**Mr. Bamber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.**

#### **Wetlands Issues and Updates:**

##### **1. Certificate of Compliance Request: 420-442 Walpole St. Dep File No. 251-0517 N2020-06**

Ms. Jones stated that the 420-442 Walpole Street property was the Big Y and noted that when the Commission approved the project, they had requested that the applicant propose some green infrastructure for stormwater. The applicant was reluctant as they did not want to have to go back before the Planning Board (which had already approved the existing design.) She noted that the proponents included salt tolerant plantings and the signage indicating that they were "infiltration/drainage islands", however, they were designed in a way that did not infiltrate the stormwater into the island but rather directly into the drain. Discussion was had regarding a solution. Commissioners suggested that they refer it back to the applicant to correct since they agreed to the compromise.

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue to October 5th and that they have an engineering solution.**

**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.**

#### **Conservation Commission Business:**

##### **1. NepRWA presentation on Neponset River Report Card**

Mr. Sean McCanty orated a presentation titled Water Quality Problems and Solutions in Norwood. (See attached presentation.)

Mr. McCanty outlined sample collection, chain of custody, and the testing process. Mr. Washburn said an active collaboration would be helpful and suggested proceeding in concert with DPW. Ms. Jones said she would provide the Commission with what Norwood currently utilizes and what additional resources are available. Ms. Jones discussed potentially advancing a green stormwater system and utilizing a climate hazard mitigation grant for MAPC



to advance those designs at the Cleveland School and the Savage Center (Emergency Shelter) which are located in watersheds of concern.

## **2. Land Management/potential volunteer days**

Ms. Jones discussed three potential volunteers days at the Orchard, Ellis Dam, and the Pollinator Garden.

Ms. Jones and Mr. Washburn said they could volunteer on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> or Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at the Orchard; more trees, nitrogen enhancing shrubs, mulch/wood chips.

Mr. Gear said he could volunteer on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Ellis Dam; vegetation trimming/cleanup.

Ms. Rocklen said she could volunteer to assist with the Pollinator Garden at Alevizos at a date to be determined possibly Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>; TLC.

Ms. Jones said she could send out the volunteer day information to social media as well as the Trails Committee.

## **3. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update**

Ms. Jones informed the Commission that the bank/corporate volunteer day was cancelled due to a miscommunication.

She noted that DPW offered to provide \$3K-\$4k in funds towards new plantings this fall, that she would be shopping for them as soon as tomorrow, and said that only 1 tree had been lost.

Mr. Washburn praised the very successful effort at the Orchard.

Ms. Jones estimated the price range to be from \$250-\$500 for larger trees. A drip-line irrigation system was suggested as it was taking many hours for volunteers to manually water the orchard. Commissioners agreed that the Conservation Commission would financially match DPW's contribution and move forward with the plants purchase and to also look into the irrigation system. Members discussed submitting a CPC application next fall for an Orchard initiative.

## **4. CPC report -passed over**

## **5. Agent update Conservation Planner and Agent, Ms. Jones:**

- welcomed the newest Commissioner, Olivia Haglund.

- updated the Commissioners stating that she had finished the Cooper Park Request for Qualifications to further the engineering design and permitting. She said that it was currently being reviewed by Purchasing.

- announced that Norwood along with other Neponset watershed towns were awarded an MVP grant this year for doing a watershed-wide flooding study. That application was headed up by NepRWA and Dedham.

- informed the Commissioners that she was invited to work on a grant with MAPC, the regional planning organization. They are working on a green infrastructure BMP stormwater siting tool that incorporates technical specifications like pollutant loading, soil types, etc. along with data about equity such as proximity to environmental justice neighborhoods and proximity to green spaces. She said she will be working with MAPC to help test the tool for Norwood.

- stated that the Meadow St. walk was a great success with about 25 people in attendance. She noted the creation of a loop connecting two existing trails and gave a shout-out to the Trails Committee; particularly Joe Barrett, Lee Leach, and Ernie Paciorkowski for their hard work there and Vic Babel for doing the planning.

- announced that the date of the MACC fall conference was Oct 15<sup>th</sup>.

- informed the Commissioners that the NepRWA cleanup on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> would be near the Bade Canoe Launch at the back lot of the 4 points Sheraton/under the Route 1 bridge. She also said that the ribbon cutting for Pezwick Park was on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 and that the Edible Plant walk took place on September 19<sup>th</sup> at Mylod Field. Ms. Rocklen discussed the walk and educational information provided.

Ms. Jones thanked Ms. Quinlan and Ms. Walsh for volunteering with her on Norwood Day.

## **6. Board Business**

Discussion was had regarding timing of approvals for projects reviewed by both the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. The final consensus was that the Conservation will approve an application after it has been reviewed/approved by the Planning Board.

## **7. Minutes: 8/17/2022**

Edits:

- Change Ashburn tree to American Ash Tree
- Replace Granda with Ilex (Crenata)
- Change Ms. Kelsey to Ms. Quinlan

**Motion: Ms. Rocklen made a motion to approve with edits. Mr. Gear seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed, 3-0-2 by roll call vote.**

**Mr. Bamber and Ms. Quinlan abstained as they were absent from the 8/17/2022 meeting.**

## **Adjournment:**

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

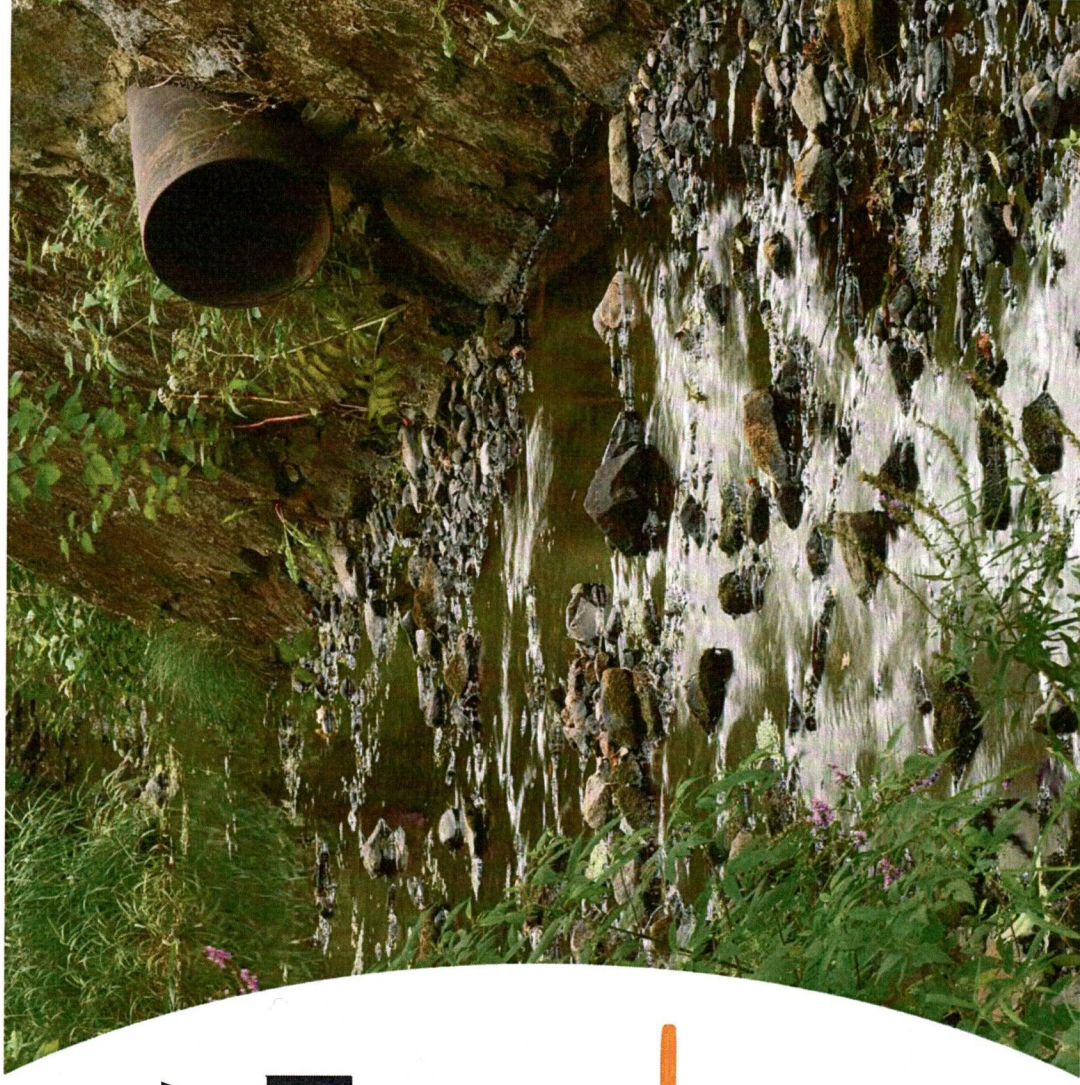
Next meeting: October 5, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Location: Hybrid, GoToMeeting and Rm. 24/Town Hall.

***Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand***



# Water Quality Problems and Solutions in Norwood

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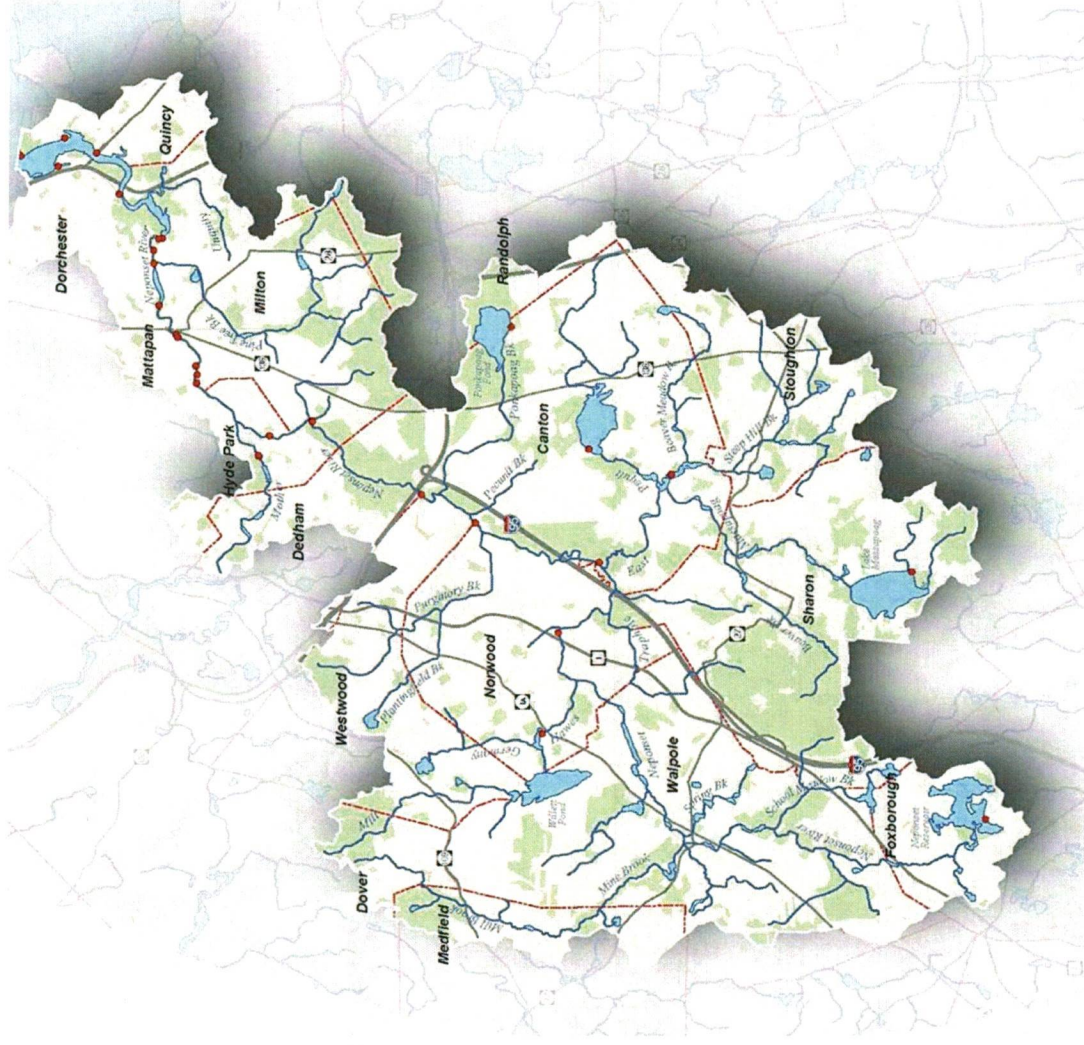




# The Neponset River Watershed

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- What is a watershed?
- 14 Towns and Cities
- 330,000 people live within the watershed
- 120,000 people get their drinking water from the watershed





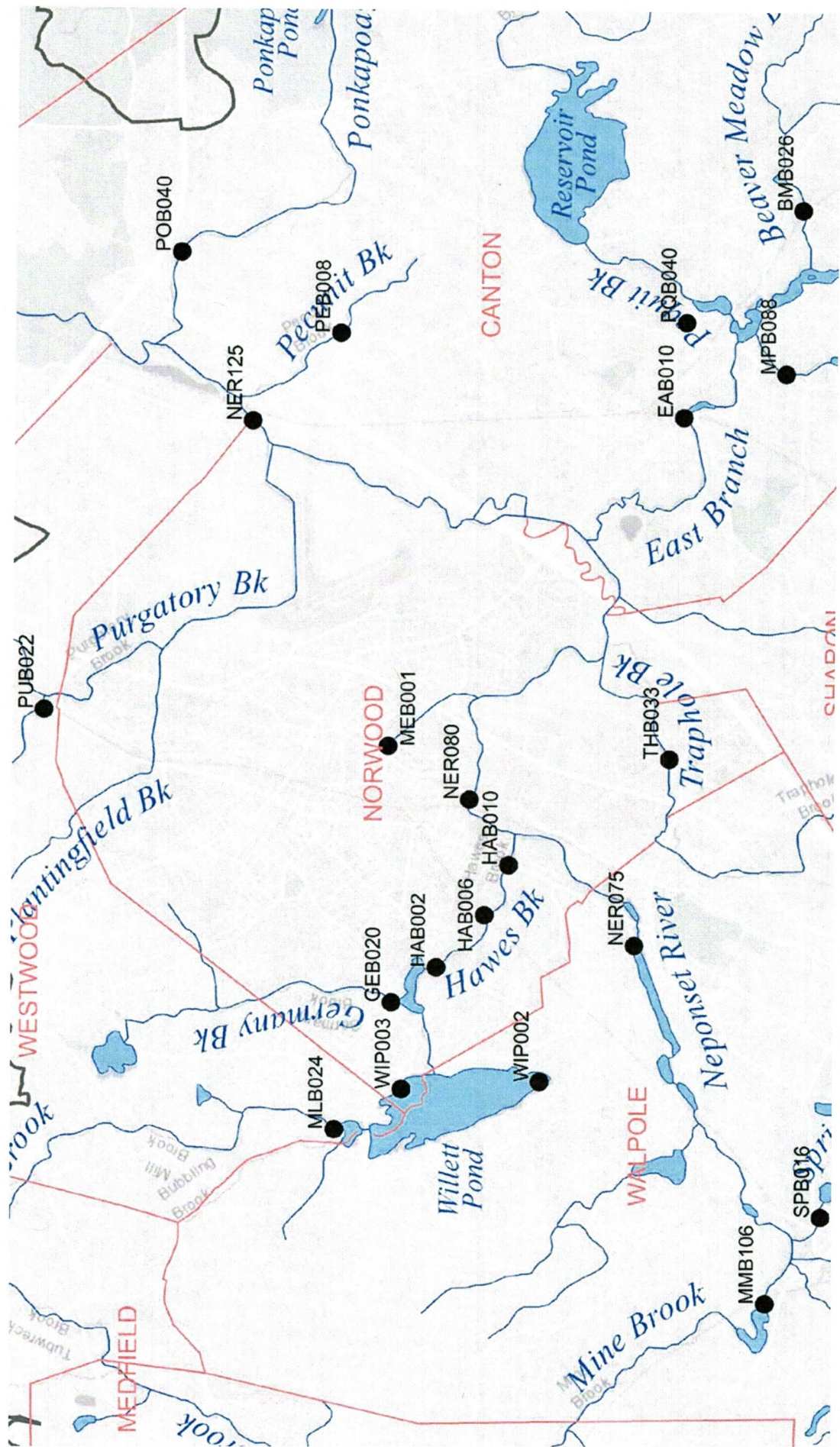
# Citizen Water Monitoring Network (CWMN)

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- Why monitor water quality?
  - Track changes over time
  - Identify where to focus resources
- 41 Sample Sites
- Taken once monthly (May-October)
- Over 60 Volunteers involved









# *E. coli* Bacteria

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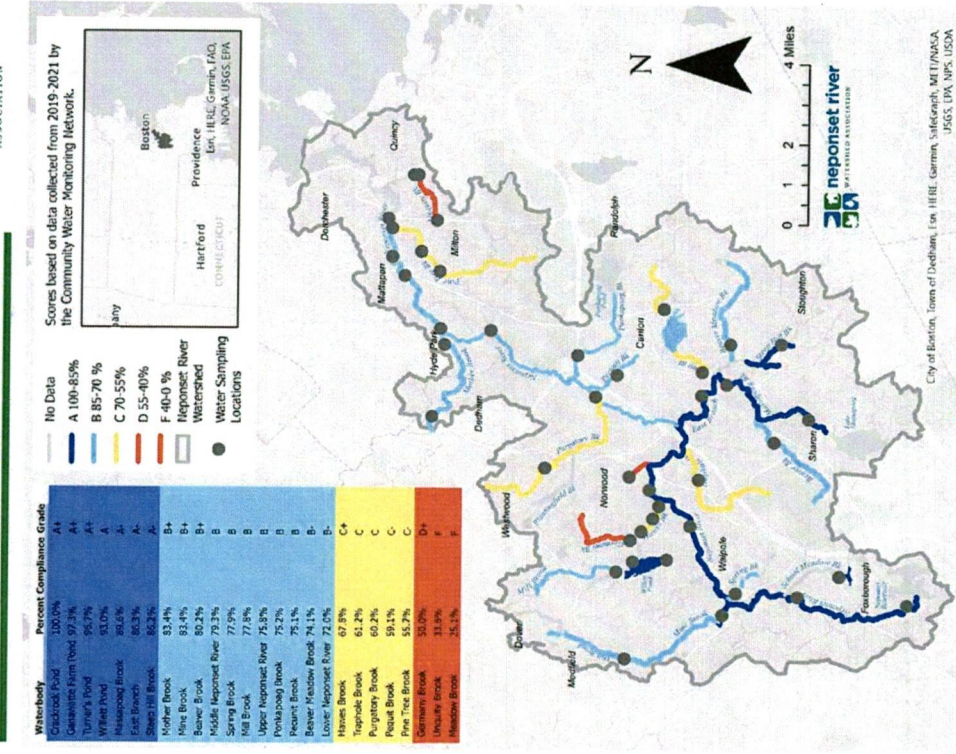
- Indicator of fecal contamination
  - Associated with other pathogens
- Human health risk
- Pollution
  - Sewer system problems
  - Stormwater runoff



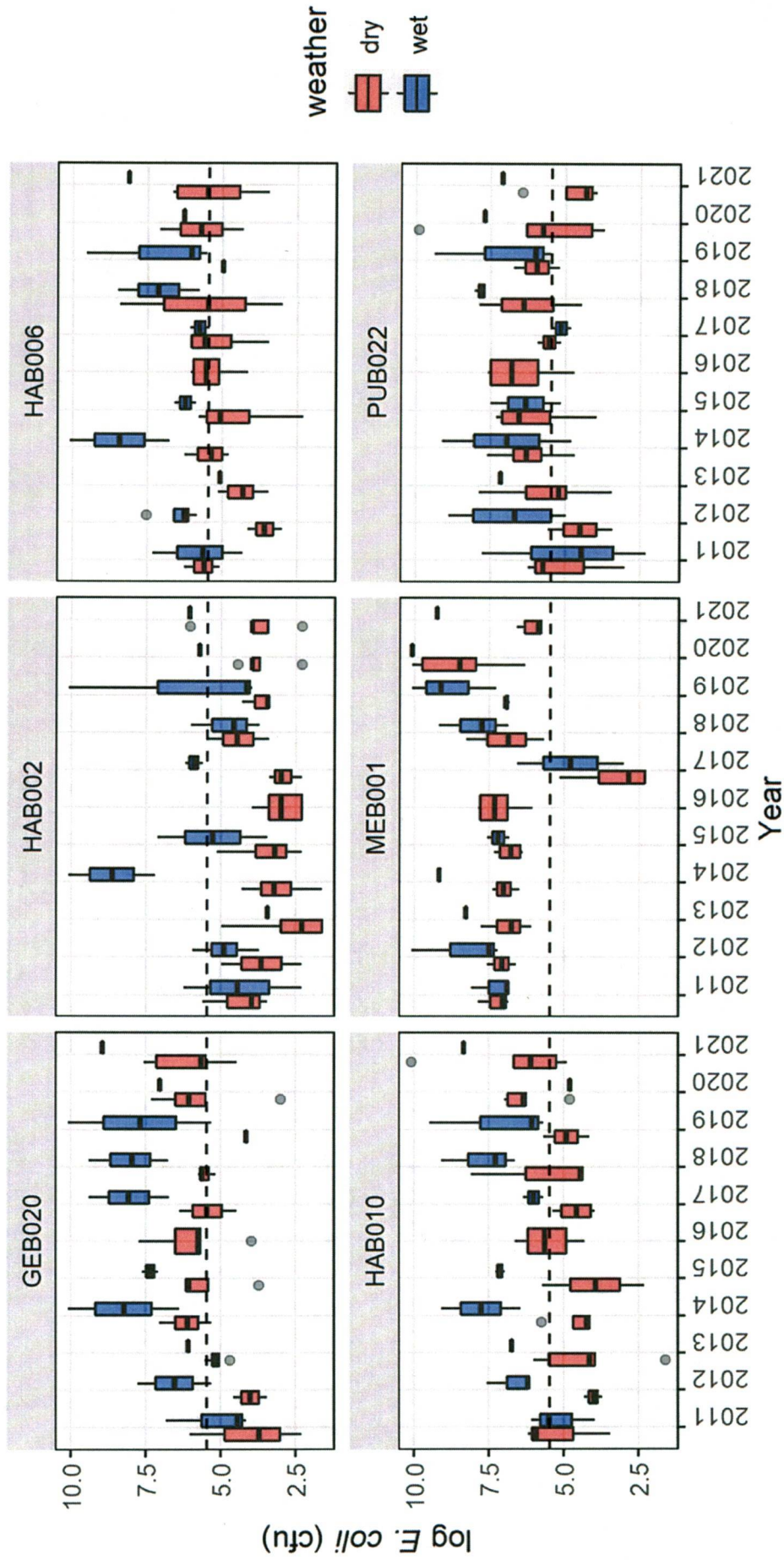
# 2021 E. Coli Report Card

- How often does the waterbody meet swimming and boating standards over the last 3 years?
- Germany Brook: 50% (Swimmable 26% of the time)
- Meadow Brook: 25% (Never Swimmable)
- Hawes Brook: 67.8% (Swimmable 55% of the time)
- Purgatory Brook: 60.2% (Swimmable 41% of the time)

## 2021 NEPONSET RIVER REPORT CARD GRADES







Cutoff criteria: 235 CFU/100mL in a single sample

# Germany Brook – *E. coli*

Year	Maximum	Minimum	Geometric Mean	Monthly Violations	Samples
2011	932	10	97	2	6
2012	2380	31	194	1	4
2013	435	108	206	2	5
2014	24200	197	929	5	6
2015	2010	41	454	5	6
2016	2250	52	375	5	6
2017	12000	86	652	3	5
2018	12000	175	867	5	6
2019	24200	63	670	1	3
2020	1500	20	367	5	6
2021	7700	86	696	5	6

Cutoff criteria: 235 CFU/100mL in a single sample, 126 CFU for season geometric mean



# Meadow Brook – *E. coli*

Year	Maximum	Minimum	Geometric Mean	Monthly Violations	Samples
2011	3260	907	1417	6	6
2012	24200	723	2412	5	5
2013	3870	435	1201	6	6
2014	10500	657	2223	6	6
2015	1940	581	1034	6	6
2016	2600	428	1352	6	6
2017	717	10	44	1	6
2018	9800	292	1689	6	6
2019	24200	906	2619	6	6
2020	24200	546	6522	6	6
2021	10500	318	732	6	6

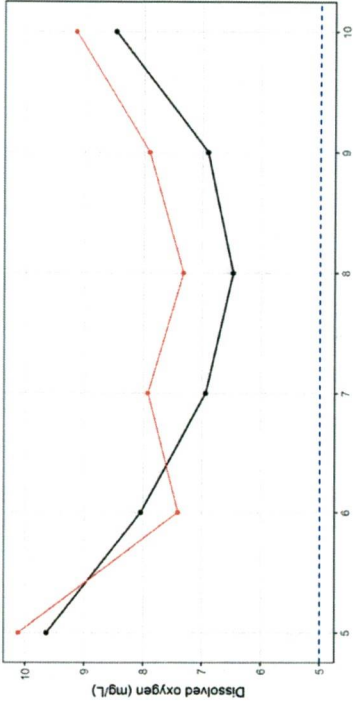
Cutoff criteria: 235 CFU/100mL in a single sample, 126 CFU for season geometric mean

# Purgatory Brook – *E. coli*

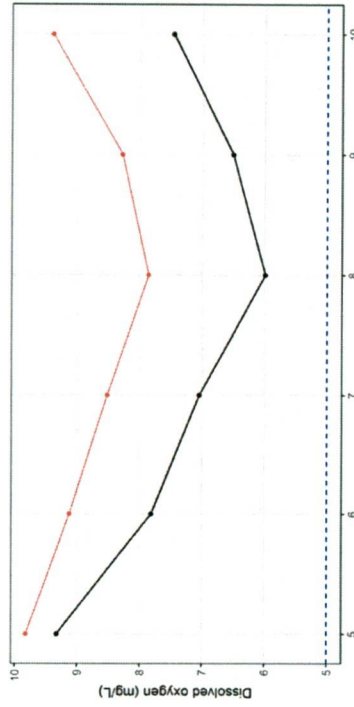
Year	Maximum	Minimum	Geometric Mean	Monthly Violations	Samples
2011	2360	10	136	3	6
2012	7270	30	419	4	6
2013	2610	31	338	3	6
2014	9210	108	644	4	6
2015	1780	52	474	4	6
2016	1990	109	690	5	6
2017	379	122	211	2	4
2018	3080	86	1133	5	6
2019	12000	179	711	4	5
2020	19900	41	519	4	6
2021	1230	52	173	2	6

Cutoff criteria: 235 CFU/100mL in a single sample, 126 CFU for season geometric mean



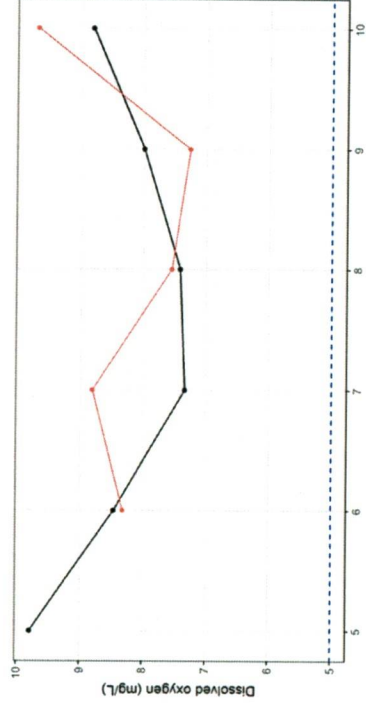


Germany Brook



Meadow Brook

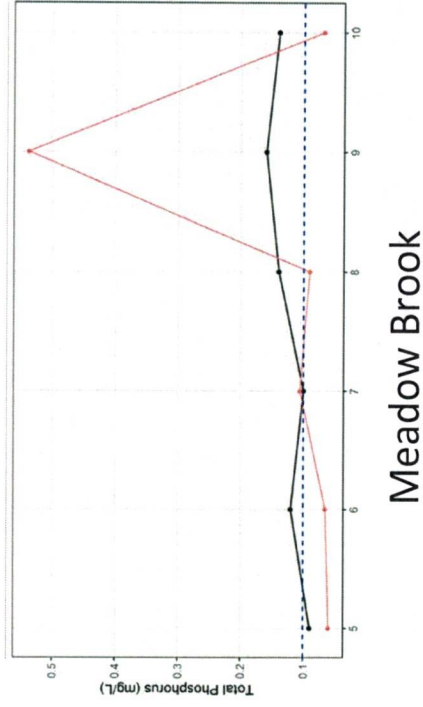
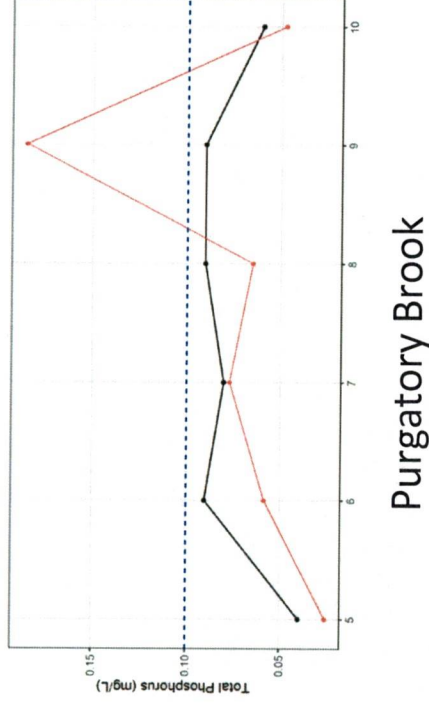
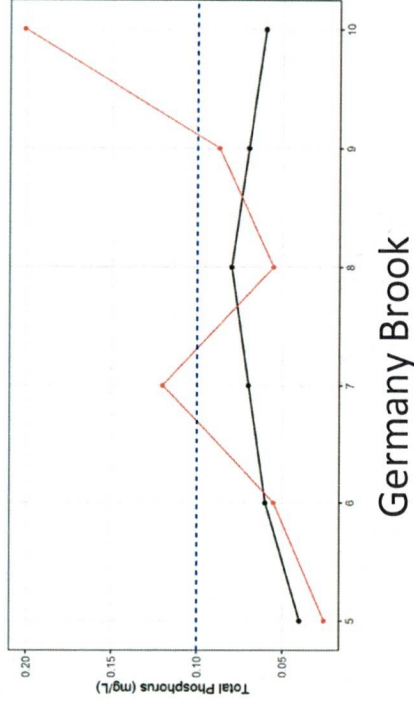
# Dissolved Oxygen



Purgatory Brook

Cutoff criteria: 5 mg/L for warm waters (DEP). DFG criteria for Purgatory and Germany Brook of 6 mg/L for coldwater fish

# Total Phosphorus



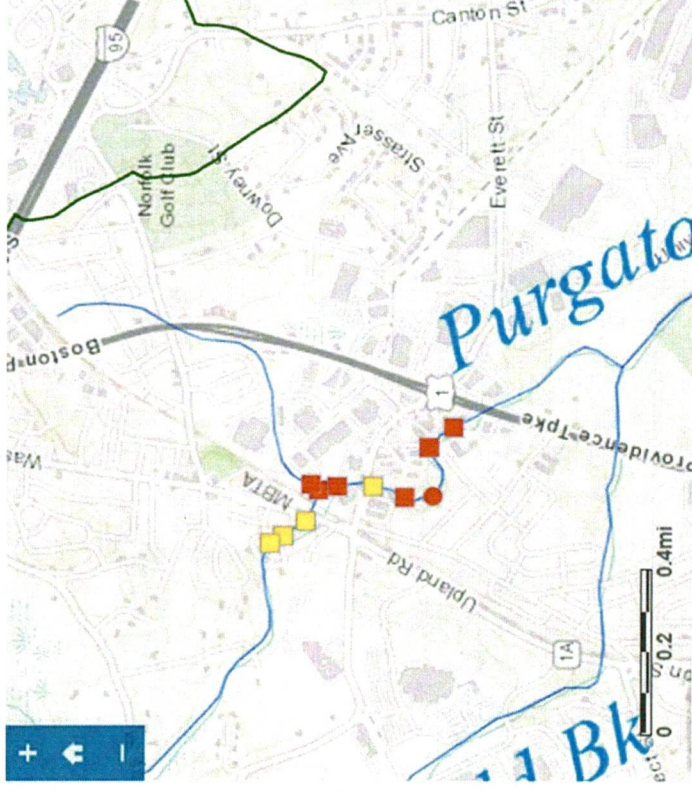
Cutoff criteria: 0.1 mg/L for flowing water, 0.05mg/L for water entering a lake or reservoir (data also requires evidence of aquatic life impairment)



# Hotspot Results – 2017 and 2018



Germany Brook



Purgatory Brook

<https://www.neponset.org/projects/hot-spot-program/>

# Community Solutions

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- Best Management Practices (BMP)
  - Filter pollutants from stormwater
- Illicit discharges (sewage)
  - Issues with persistently high *E. coli*
- Hotspot monitoring
  - Determine/confirm issue areas

