

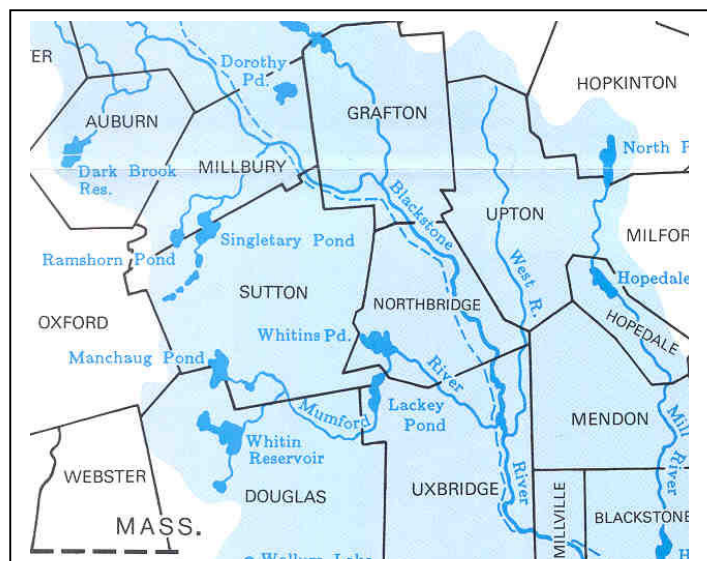


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The Year in Review – 2009

- ❖ Collaborated with the Blackstone River Coalition (BRC) in the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. Twenty-seven volunteers monitor 27 sites in Blackstone, Douglas, Hopedale, Mendon, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. See the results on at www.zaptheblackstone.org/whatwedoing/water_quality/wqm.shtml.
- ❖ Provided watershed education to students at Bancroft School (Worcester), Northbridge High, and Assumption School (Millbury).
- ❖ Conducted a riverbank survey along the Quinsigamond River to identify areas of concern. In 2010 BRWA will discuss findings and proposed actions with town administrators, selectmen, boards of health, conservation commissions, and DPW managers.
- ❖ Mobilized 50 volunteers on Make a Difference Day who collected 57 bags of trash, a car door, a mattress, a 50-gallon drum, and many tires along the Blackstone, Mill, and Mumford Rivers and Lake Nipmuc in Blackstone, Douglas, Hopedale, Mendon and Northbridge.
- ❖ Encouraged local businesses and towns to be a part of BRC's *In Business for the Blackstone* program and adopt environmentally sound "housekeeping" practices to minimize the threat of polluted stormwater runoff.
- ❖ Hosted the 33rd Annual Canoe/Kayak Race which attracted 84 boats and 115 people from MA, RI, CT, and NH.
- ❖ Introduced members to the Blackstone Canal by inviting BRWA members to use the canoes at River Bend Farm Visitor Center at no charge.
- ❖ Drafted a 3-year plan to prioritize and guide the BRWA's future activities and strengthen the value and effectiveness of the organization.

Learn more about how
you can get involved at
www.thebrwa.org.



FUTURE PREDICTIONS

The mission of the Blackstone River Watershed Association (BRWA) is to enhance and preserve the Blackstone River system and its watershed. To support this commitment, the BRWA conducts a variety of activities that promote the protection and enjoyment of our natural resources.

The BRWA has created a Three Year Action Plan to provide a road map that prioritizes and guides activities for the coming years. Global climate change, land development, and excessive water consumption increasingly threaten the health of our waterways. These pressures raise the urgency for the BRWA to leverage its strengths and focus its resources on providing education, recreational opportunities, and advocacy that result in watershed protection activities.

The targeted deliverables for the years 2010-2012 support three primary goals:

- Educate members, supporters, watershed residents on watershed protection strategies;
- Engage the public in watershed stewardship activities; and
- Improve the water quality and esthetics of the Blackstone River Watershed’s water bodies.

The organization’s success is strongly influenced by the participation of volunteers. Review the objectives the BRWA has targeted for the next three years, find an area of interest, and contact the team leader to let them you want to get involved!

Educate supporters, residents on watershed protection strategies	Leader
Publish monthly newsletter with watershed news, calendar, links to items of interest, tips, feature stories.	Mike msperry59@comcast.net
Update website content, expand focus on activities, incorporate newsletters	Maggie maggie.plasse@earthlink.net
Conduct three educational activities per year to share the watershed model with youth	Tammy brcoalition@yahoo.com
Host three Saturday “Coffee and Conservation” events at River Bend (members free)	Dona donaneely1@comcast.net
Establish a communication channel with each Con Com. Meet as needed	Jim james.plasse@earthlink.net
Engage the public in watershed stewardship activities	Leader
At least five “Member Paddle” events, an annual educational hike.	Rosemary roseisarose@hotmail.com
Partner with towns for annual Clean Up activities to honor Earth Day	Michelle mwalsh@patriotnetworks.com
Improve the water quality and esthetics of area’s water bodies	Leader
Continue to address areas of concern and action items identified by Stream Team survey efforts	Michelle mwalsh@patriotnetworks.com
Organize annual event to eradicate an invasive species plant in one/two areas	Tamara tmjbears@hotmail.com
Sponsor a Stream Team every other year; implement solutions to address “hot spots” identified thru water quality monitoring	Tammy brcoalition@yahoo.com