



The Targeted Watershed Grants program started in 2002 to encourage community-based approaches to protect and restore the nation's watersheds. The program emphasizes that strong partnerships lead to measurable environmental results. The goal is to provide resources and build on the successes of strong public and private partnerships already working hard to improve their waterways. Nominees for the Targeted Watershed Grants program were required to set clear goals that include strong monitoring components. Watershed plans and project proposals were judged on criteria such as: innovation, environmental results, broad support, outreach, and financial integrity.

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Fact Sheet/Spring 2005

# Ipswich River

Photo Courtesy of USGS



## Why Does the River Need Special Attention?

- The Ipswich is classified by the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission as “highly stressed” and was designated by American Rivers as the third most endangered river in the nation.
- Human changes to the hydrologic cycle of the basin, especially the frequency and duration of low-flow events, along with limited aquifer storage in the upper basin, have contributed to extreme summer low-flow and dry channel conditions in the upper watershed in dry years.
- Development has increased impervious surfaces, resulting in increased runoff and associated flooding and erosion, degraded water quality, and limited recharge to aquifers.
- The watershed is a critical source of drinking water for over 333,000 residents and businesses, and has long been an economic and ecological asset for northeastern MA.

## What are the Long Term Goals?

- Implement, demonstrate, and quantify the water savings of innovative conservation techniques.
- Modify existing computer models that predict streamflows and water budgets in the upper Ipswich River Basin and establish the framework for a standardized water trading mechanism.
- Promote a protection of water quality and water flows throughout the watershed.

## Progress/Goals for the Future

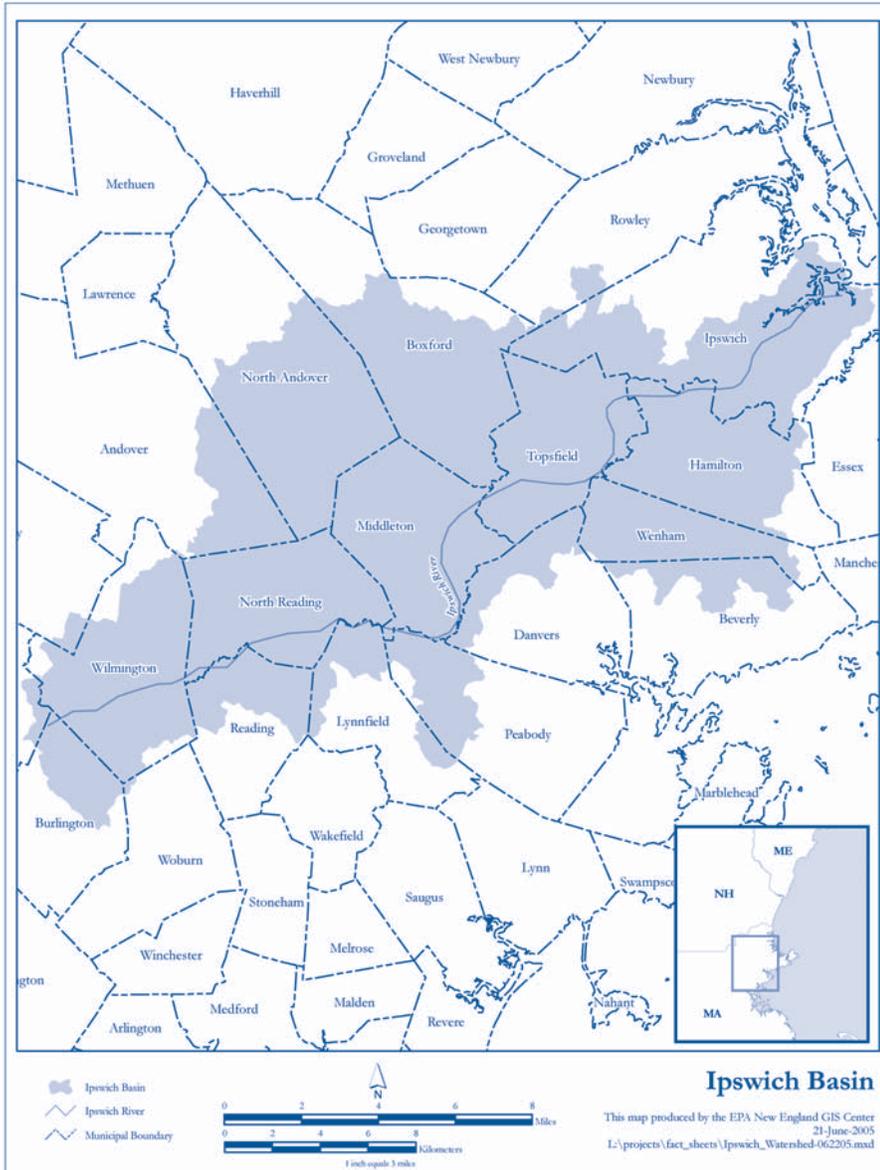
### What Partnership Progress Has Been Made?

- In 2004, The Ipswich River Watershed was one of only fourteen watershed selected nationally to receive funding.
- The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation was awarded \$1,045,185, to work with Ipswich River Watershed Association, US Geological Survey, and the communities of Reading, Wilmington, North Reading, and Topsfield, to implement, demonstrate and quantify the benefits of low impact development (LID) and water conservation techniques.

### What Major Projects are Planned for 2006?

- Low Impact Development (LID) Demonstrations and Assessments: LID Subdivision Demonstration; Green Roof Demonstration; Porous Pavement Demonstration and Sidewalk Renovation; Demonstration of LID Techniques to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution to Silver Lake, Wilmington; Roof Rainwater Harvesting Systems in Wilmington
- Water Conservation Demonstration and Assessments: LID Ballfields in North Reading; Reading Conservation Pilots; Irrigation Controller Switch Demonstrations in Reading, North Reading, Hamilton, Peobody and Middleton; Meter Replacement and Monthly Billing in Topsfield

# Ipswich River



## What Major Projects are Planned for 2006? (continued)

- ▶ **Monitoring and Data Evaluation:**  
US Geological Survey Gage Installation, Monitoring, and Data Evaluation
- ▶ **Outreach Activities:** Municipal and Legislative Workshops and Forums; LID Website; Demonstrations and Site Tours; Presentations at National Meetings; Educational Materials

## Who are the Partners?

EPA New England • Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation • US Geological Survey • Ipswich River Watershed Association • Town of Reading, MA • Town of North Reading, MA • Town of Wilmington, MA • Town of Topsfield, MA

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