

Nonpoint Source Pollution Strategies

Septic Systems

Failing septic systems are a major threat to water quality. Identification of substandard and failing septic systems along with maintenance of properly functioning septic systems are goals of each community.

Current Strategies	Recommended Strategies	Rationale & Information
<u>Meredith</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Resource Overlay District creates setbacks from wetlands, streams, lakes, and ponds ▪ State septic/subdivision approval – routinely conditions of Planning Board approval ▪ Permits required for septic installs/repairs ▪ Checks for wetland setback compliance ▪ Town inspects repairs/State inspects new systems ▪ State operational approval required. ▪ Keep \$25K in reserve for hardship cases, lien property for payback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inspection Program for systems within 250' of surface waterbodies ▪ Septic System Use & Maintenance Education Program ▪ Tie replacement or repair of septic systems to the building permit process. ▪ Establish a finance program to replace failing/substandard septic systems for cases of economic hardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognized as a potentially major & severe public health problem. ▪ Lack of specific data ▪ Lack of a comprehensive approach ▪ Waukegan Watershed Management Plan
<u>Gilford</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No town inspection of built or rebuilt systems ▪ Town inspection when public health issue – failure or other problem ▪ State approval and inspection of new systems tied into Certificate of Occupancy by town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educate homeowners on use & maintenance of septic systems. ▪ Implement a town wide septic system maintenance ordinance ▪ Establish a finance program for replacement of failed septic systems in cases of economic hardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognized as a potentially major & severe public health problem. Massachusetts study estimates 40% of NPS comes from septic ▪ Lack of specific data. ▪ Lack of a comprehensive approach ▪ Source Water Protection Plan
<u>Laconia</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase setback of septic systems from wetlands when porous material or restrictive layers are down gradient. ▪ Increase lot size to 1 acre when municipal water is available. ▪ Increase lot size to 2 acres when neither municipal water nor sewer is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extend Sewer Service ▪ Educate staff about septic systems ▪ Educate Laconia residents ▪ Tie septic inspections into building permit process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consistent with NH Shoreland Protection Act. ▪ Relies on State of NH Rules and Regulations ▪ Lack of specific data ▪ Zoning Regulations