

# Your Woods Keep Our Water Clean

## How trees help rivers

- Trees and forests keep water clean and provide essential habitat for animals.
- Trees filter pollutants to prevent them from entering streams and rivers.
- Trees along rivers shade the water, maintaining cool waterways.
- Trees and forests are critical in controlling erosion.
- Forests reduce catastrophic flooding and are important for groundwater recharge.

Developed land with impervious surfaces, such as pavement and buildings, doesn't provide the above benefits.

## So what can you do to help?

# Keep Your Shoreline Planted!

## 5 Actions for Homeowners

1. Use natural landscaping in your yard.
2. Minimize your use of fertilizers and pesticides.
3. Properly dispose of household chemical wastes.
4. Call the Education Center with questions.
5. Plant native trees and shrubs along riverbanks, 100 feet or greater is best!

## 5 Actions for Woodlot Owners

1. Call your county extension forester for help.
2. Use best practices for managing your land.
3. Look for invasive plants and insects.
4. Maintain or plant native trees and shrubs along riverbanks.
5. Call your local land trust for conservation options.

Woodlot owners, contact Greg Jordan, your county extension forester, with your questions.



## Contact these organizations:

**UNH Cooperative Extension–Rockingham County**  
603.679.5616 / greg.jordan@unh.edu / www.nhwoods.org

**Southeast Land Trust**  
603.778.6088 / www.seltnh.org

**UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center**  
877.398.4769 / answers@unh.edu

**Rockingham County Conservation District**  
603.679.2790 / www.rockinghamccd.org

## We Can Help!

Take advantage of free technical assistance and opportunities to benefit your land! Contact the organizations below for assistance.

## Additional Resources

- *Good Forestry in the Granite State*  
[www.goodforestry.org](http://www.goodforestry.org)
- *Soak Up the Rain*, a project of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services  
[www.soaknh.org](http://www.soaknh.org)
- *NHBugs: Damaging Insects and Diseases*  
[www.NHBugs.org](http://www.NHBugs.org)
- *NH State Forest Nursery*, to order native plants  
[www.nhnursery.com](http://www.nhnursery.com)

# Powwow River

*ranks among the most important in the Merrimack River watershed for protecting water quality and wildlife*

# 37,960

*total acres of land*

**48%**

*forested land*

**6%**

*impervious cover*

# 45

*number of known endangered (E) or threatened (T) plant and animal species*

## Animals

*Blanding's turtle (E), Piping plover (E), Ringed boghaunter (E), Spotted turtle (T), Bald eagle (T), Common tern (T), Bridle shiner (T)*

## Important Natural Communities

*Atlantic white cedar swamp, Swamp white oak floodplain forest, Black gum swamp*

# 4,027

*acres of protected land*

## Important in the Merrimack watershed for:

- endangered plants and animals*
- land protection*
- levels of impervious cover*

## Already impaired for pathogens and nitrogen

### About the Merrimack River

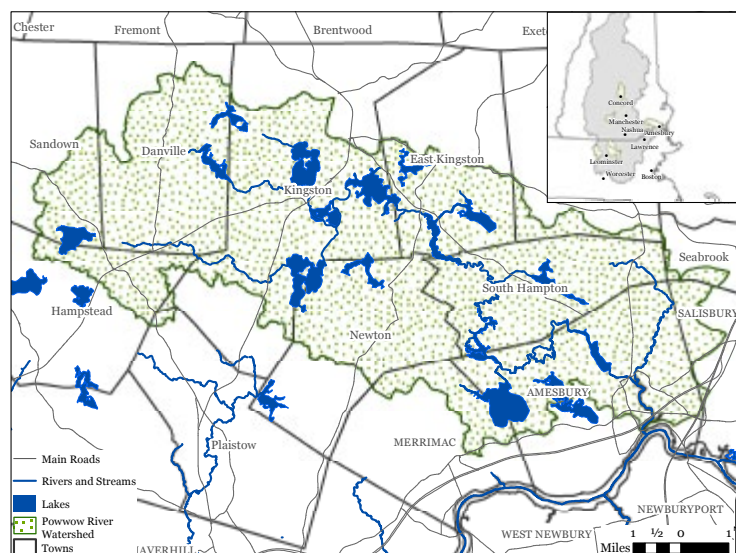
The Merrimack River watershed is 2.1 million acres across New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The watershed is highly developed and is home to 2.6 million people. Less than 20 percent of the land is permanently conserved and the population is expected to continue to grow, making it the most threatened watershed in the nation in terms of projected loss of forest land, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

### About the Powwow River

With a watershed of nearly 38,000 acres, the Powwow River flows through nine New Hampshire towns—Sandown, Danville, Hampstead, Plaistow, Kingston, East Kingston, Newton, South Hampton and Seabrook—before it crosses into Massachusetts. While 10% of the land is protected and the watershed as a whole has minimal impervious surface percentage of 6%, the riverbanks are less protected.

### About the project

This project aims to protect the waters of the Merrimack River by helping homeowners, landowners and communities care for the land along the tributaries of the Merrimack River. It's a collaboration of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, UNH Cooperative Extension, and N.H. Division of Forests and Lands. Funded by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



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