

**Community Involvement- The Key to
Preserving Water Quality
In Plaistow, New Hampshire
Jill Senter & Tim Moore**



Acknowledgements

- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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We want to thank these 2 agencies for all the financial as well as informational support these have provided.

There to Here

- Plaistow
- Getting Started
- Resources
- The Water Plan
- Related Activities
- Challenges
- Summary

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Just a quick overview of what I hope to cover in the next few minutes.

Plaistow

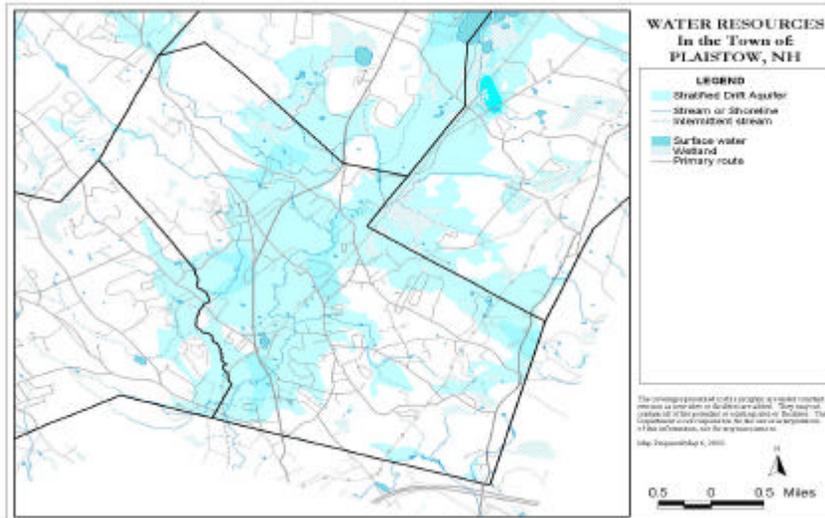


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**** locator map here**

1. Plaistow covers an area of approximately 10.6 square miles. It is located just over the Massachusetts Border, approximately 30 miles north of Boston.
2. Plaistow has approximately 7,800 residents, with a 25,000-30,000 day time service population.
3. Wetlands cover approximately 889 acres.
4. Surface water bodies include one small river (Little River) and a few small streams. The Little River flows south into the Merrimack in Haverhill Ma.- then to the Atlantic.
6. Plaistow has no municipal water or sewer.

Aquifer



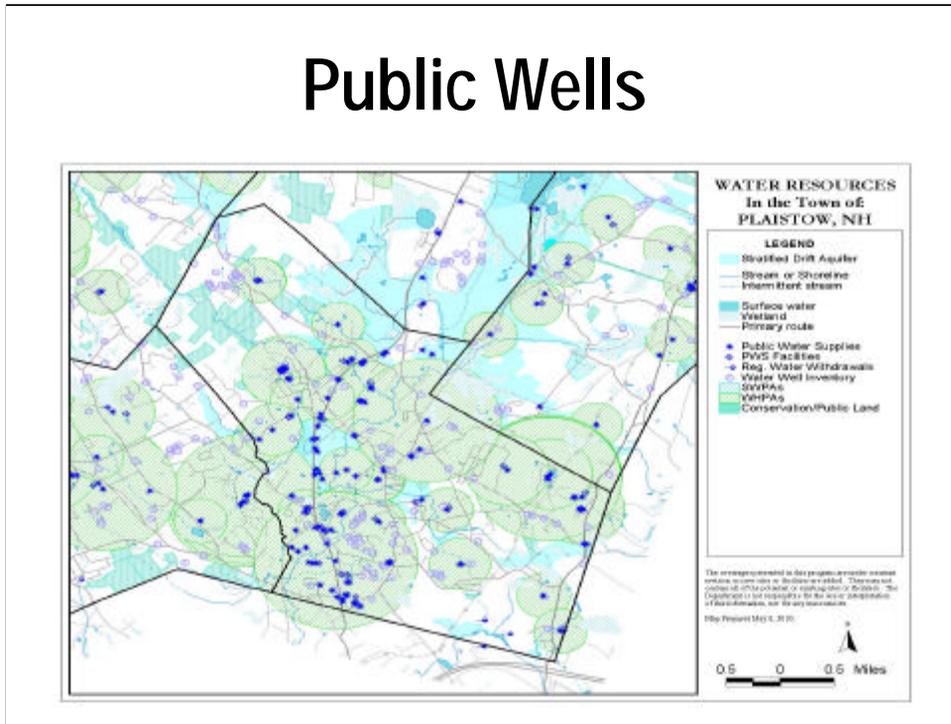
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**** overlay break down of wells map.-3 maps/overlay**

1. Aquifer A Low to Medium Transmissivity aquifer is under approximately 60 percent of the land area. Within the medium transmissivity aquifer is approximately 2 acres under a Junkyard and the Town's landfill (closed by via clay cap).

2. Our Rt. 125 Commercial/Industrial zones are over the Aquifer. Mostly stratified drift, some glacial till. Extent of bedrock sources and quantities are still unknown.

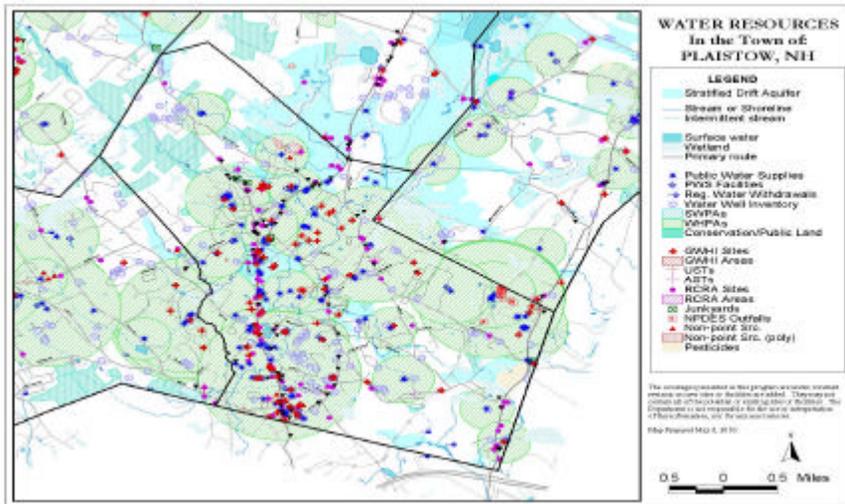
Public Wells



The blue dots represent our public wells. (Remember Plaistow has have no town water system.)

The line going up the middle is what we refer to as RT.125. This is a heavily traveled road because it is one of the most direct ways to most of New Hampshire's summer and winter attractions. This is also the main commercial district, and as you can see it's where most of our public wells are.

Potential Sources of Contamination



Potential contamination sources are shown in shades of red.

1. Once again follow RT.125 up the middle to see the problems. To name a few, we have a few junk yards, a railroad through the middle of town, closed landfill, major throughway, all private septics, a old linking gas station,

and

Right in the middle of a medium destiny residential area which borders Kelly Brook which is one of the main tributary to Little River, there is **Our very own SUPERFUND SITE** Beede waste oil site: Luckily we are not on the waiting list and our clean up in progress.

That should explain Plaistow fairly well.

Getting Started

- Northeast Rural Water Association (NeRWA)
- Identified Need
- Source Water Education public Meetings
- Formed committee

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1. Paul Susca from DES connected our Conservation Committee (Con Com) with North east RWA; the contact then was Miranda Lescaze, Plaistow presently is working with Jennifer Palmiotto.

2. Limited Water Resources

Increase In Demand

Protection Critical.

3. Con Com held a informational meeting with the towns public well owners. Business and residential

4. My advice would be to keep committee small and have diversity.

Resources

- Volunteers from Plaistow
- Plaistow Board of Selectmen
- NeRWA
- NH DES
- EPA
- Pollard School (Gr.1-5)

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Volunteers-- Anyone willing to help Business owners Residents, Public officials

Selectmen-- support

We could not of done any of this it with out these next three agencies

Northeast RWA, DES, EPA --helpful, manpower,informative, inspirational, supportive, contacts,.

– maps, supplies, grants, everything . Increditable help

Finally

Pollard School -- grades 1-5 their involvement has been wonderful which I'll show you more in just a bit.

resources are wonderful

Discover and Use them.

The Water Plan

- Education & Outreach
- Voluntary Inspection Program
- Water Source Protection Signs
- Promote Hazardous Waste Collection

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List sample of Table of contents

1. Inform the Public; Get the Schools involved
2. Develop a voluntary inspections to promote BMPs (Best Management Practice)
3. Post Water Source Protection Signs that will alert people that certain areas are source water and need to be protected (delayed after 9-11-01)
4. Prepare a "What do I do with" Guideline
5. Hold hazardous waste collection days

Education & Outreach

- Notification Letters
- Brochure
- Town Inspectors
- Annual Town Report
- Local Cable Access Channel

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1. Sent letters and educational info to all residences & business with Wellhead Protection Areas
2. Developed a brochure explaining what the water committee was about.
3. Inspection offices help distribute this information
4. Town report pages with helpful water facts and tips
5. Local Cable Channel hosted a 50 minute Water Show, weekly groundwater & drinking water facts

Hazardous Waste Day

- Annual Collection Day
- Working on having a annual day held for just Town Residents.

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1. held in conjunction with neighboring towns

Old Home Day



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Old Home Day is an annual event where we have a carnival type atmosphere. Without the rides.

The committee had a booth and handed out cookies and information

This year we plan on using one of the schools models plus have an interactive game.

The main goal is to spread info

Go where the people in your town are.

Schools / WET



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Pollard school

Drinking & Ground water facts bullets and the brochure were sent home through Pollard School's newsletter "Pollard Express" (grades 1-5)

Water Education for Teachers workshop Funded through a DES grant, covered workshop, teaching materials, 2 age appropriate working models

This picture is grades 1 & 2 w/one of the models teaching about point and non-point source pollution in our watersheds.

Since we belong to a 4 town district we have started plans to have this taught in the other towns grade schools

Long term plan is to carry WET into the middle and then finally the High school

Related Activities

- Stream Monitoring
- Town Ordinances
- EPA Stormwater

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1. Our Con Com for close to 20 years annually has had a on-going stream monitoring program. The budget for this is Approximately \$3,000.

2. The Conservation Law Foundation is working with us on this. They review our complete set of water source ordinances and regulations, get public input, then add or modify them as needed to work more closely with our unique needs. Again this is funded through a grant from DES.

3. Finally EPA stormwater

Storm Drains/ GPS



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No we don't have aliens in Plaistow!

This is ME! Using a borrowed GPS Unit. We received a 50/50 Non-point Source Grant from DES to locate drainage infrastructure devices with GPS and then prepare GIS Map. That's Over 1000 devices town, state, private.

70% of towns have been completed. We haven't started on the State and private ones.

Challenges

- Hazardous Waste Days
- Signs
- Community Involvement
- Press Coverage

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1. Too many people attend when its for Several towns, causing long waiting lines; Plaistow is working with the Highway Department, and possibly just 2 towns.
2. 9-11 caused us some concerns that signs may not be practical, were thinking of using LOW SALT AREA signs instead. And were still working this out with our highway dept. they are not crazy about not being able to just salt in the winter, they don't want to have to stop and start in different areas and change trucks, but we will work this!
3. Keeping Volunteers active in the action part of the plan, This is a problem for all are town committees. Selectmen are trying to address this.
4. We Have very limited press coverage in our efforts. In the future we will be writing our own press releases.

Summary

- Needs & Resources
- Time line
- Review Plan
- Promote Accomplishments
- Be Flexible
- **Keep it Fun**

Happy Volunteers are Productive Ones

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Things to remember.

Needs and Resources: Identify your needs and resources and use them.

Time Line: If you do this you'll feel like your accomplishing things and keep people motivated

Review Plan: This will help keep you in the direction you want to go

Promote accomplishments: Keeps public aware of what's happening! Promotes interest

Be flexible: Don't be afraid to make changes in the plan itself or how to implement it.

Keep it Fun!

Don't sweat the small stuff, bring cookies, keep it light, and humorous

Because... **Happy Volunteers
are Productive Ones**