

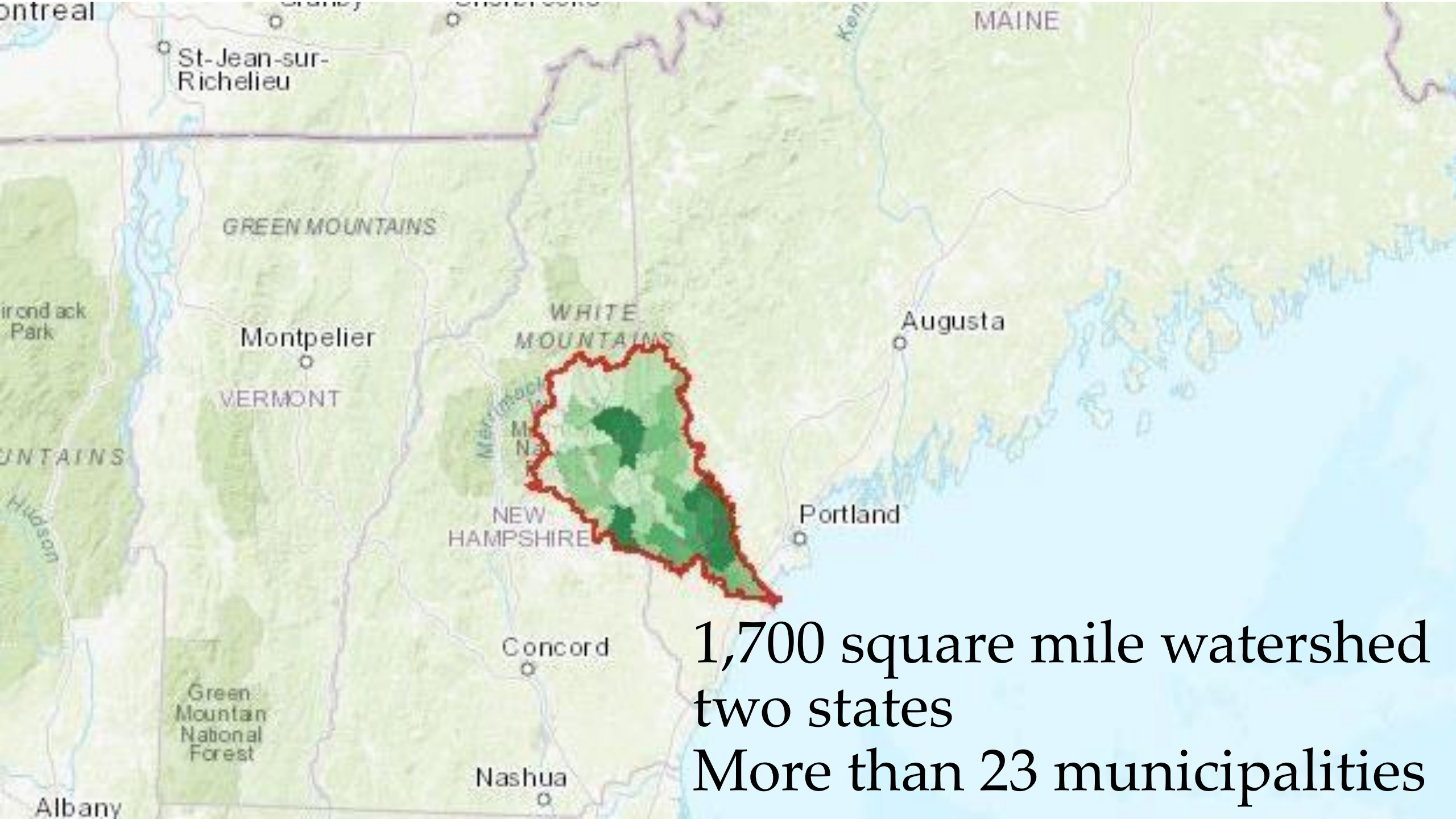


Saco Watershed Collaborative Managing by Network: Case Study

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1,700 square mile watershed
two states
More than 23 municipalities

Headwaters: White Mountains National Forest





136 miles

Saco Estuary





“Living Laboratory”



Ecological Hotspot



Drinking Water Source



“Working Class Watershed”



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Guide for Ecosystem Management

Collaborative Learning Guide

Guide for Ecosystem
Management

Dr. Christine B. Feurt



Collaborative Learning

1. *Integrative and Community-based Ecosystem Management*
2. Knowledge is created *together*
3. Engages non-scientists and local knowledge
4. Knowledge → *action*

The “Social Contract” of Collaborative Learning

1. Safe space to share ideas
2. Respect expertise in the room
3. Learn by doing with self-reflection
4. Iterative process
5. Mindful of adult learning principles

Engage the Kaleidoscope of Expertise

Regulations,
Ordinances &
Enforcement

Land
Conservation

Planning &
Land Use
Management

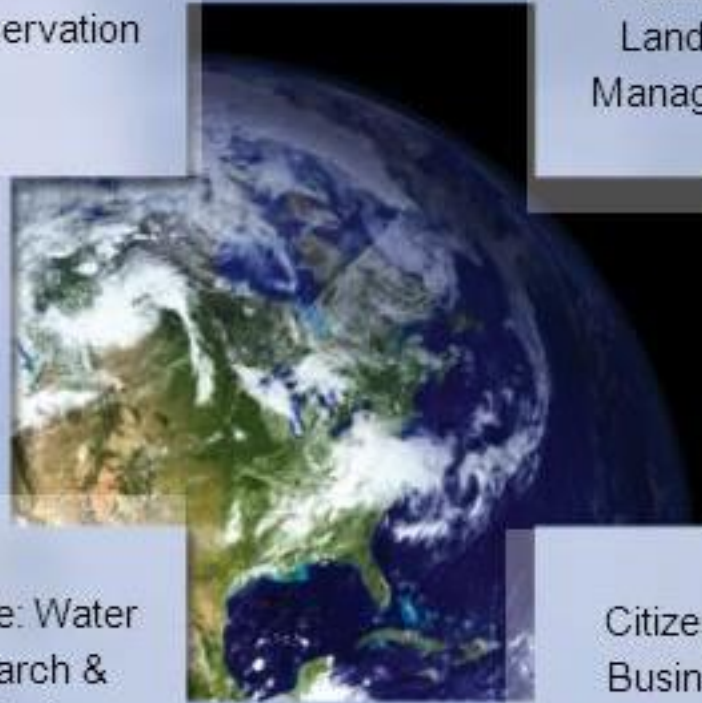
Drinking/Source
Water Protection

Engineering
Public Works
and Wastewater

Science: Water
Research &
Monitoring

Citizen &
Business
Watershed
Stewardship

Education &
Community
Outreach



Saco Watershed Collaborative 2016-2019

Recognizing the Stewardship Network

December 2016:

1. Who are you?
2. What do you do?
3. What are your values and perceptions of the Saco Watershed?
4. How can being a part of a Collaborative help you achieve your organization's goals?



From the 2016 Workshop: Identified Five Action Priorities

Sustain the Saco Watershed through:

1. Land conservation
2. Best Management Practices
3. Protection of aquifers and waterways from pollution
4. Restoring degraded waters
5. Engaging and inspiring governments and citizens

Building Partnerships across the Saco Watershed

2016-2019:

1. Field trips to understand work being done in the watershed
2. Quarterly Meetings
3. Monthly Conference Calls
4. Development of the Action Plan “a living document”
5. Annual Conference
6. Professional, peer to peer and community outreach
7. Partners can share information and knowledge with their networks
8. Preliminary Collaborative Assessment by the University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS)

Membership of the Saco Watershed Collaborative (2016-2019)

- Attaining Sustainable Solutions
- Belstar Orchards
- Biddeford Conservation Commission
- Brookfield Renewable Energy
- City of Biddeford
- City of Saco
- Cole Harrison Insurance
- EPA – Region One
- FB Environmental
- Fiddlehead Environmental
- Friends of Sebago Lake
- Furman, Gregory, Deptula
- Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells Water District
- Laura Calandrella
- Lovewell Pond Association
- ME CDC Drinking Water Program
- ME Geological Survey
- ME Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Maine Geological Survey
- ME House of Representatives
- ME Natural Areas Program
- Maine Water Company
- NH Dept. of Environmental Services
- North Conway Water Precinct
- Poland Spring
- Power Engineers
- Residents of Saco Watershed
- Rumery's Boat Yard
- Saco River Corridor Commission
- Saco River Recreational Council
- Saco Valley Land Trust
- Senator Angus King's Office
- Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
- Southern ME Planning and Development Commission
- The Ecology School
- Trout Unlimited – Sebago Chapter
- University of Michigan
- University of New England
- University of Southern Maine
- Upper Saco Valley Land Trust
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
- York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project
- York County Soil and Water Conservation District

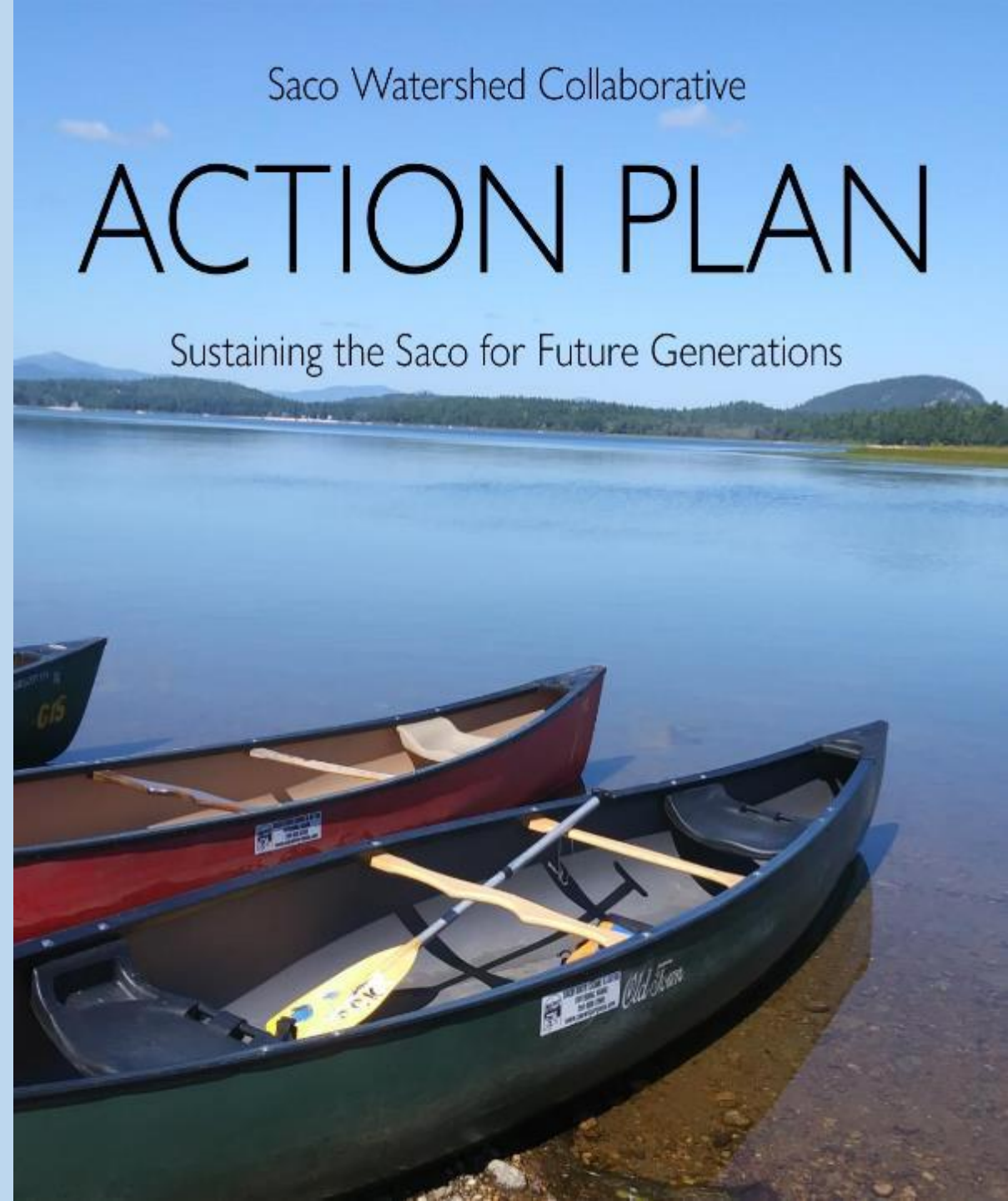
Development of the Action Plan in 2017:

1. *Engage and inspire* governments, organizations and citizens to take action to sustain water in the Watershed.
2. *Protect water quality* through pollution prevention and restoration of degraded waters.
3. *Support* land conservation and stewardship.
4. *Promote and enforce* low impact development (LID) strategies, stormwater and wastewater best management practices, and land use development that protect water.

Saco Watershed Collaborative

ACTION PLAN

Sustaining the Saco for Future Generations





We really like field trips...

Field Trips

- Discover the Headwaters Success Stories (North Conway, NH)
- Maine Water Company: Drinking Water Facility Tour (Saco, ME)
- Highland Farms (Fryeburg, ME)
- Poland Springs (Fryeburg and Denmark, ME)
- Saco Estuary Boat Tour (Saco, ME)
- River Bend Farm (Saco, ME)
- Silver Maple Forest Floodplain (Fryeburg, ME)
- Saco River Canoe and Kayak Paddle (Fryeburg, ME)
- White Mountains National Forest (Jackson and Conway, NH)
- Massabesic Experimental Forest (Lyman, ME)

A scenic landscape featuring a mountain peak in the background, a road in the middle ground, and a lake in the foreground. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The mountain has patches of green and yellow foliage. The road is paved and has a yellow line. The lake is dark and calm. In the foreground, there are some people and a sign, but they are out of focus.

University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

- 18-month interdisciplinary projects funded by U. Mich.
- Need for more watershed collaboration
- 20 selected
- 70 to 75 global proposals
- Advisor: Julia Wondolleck
- 4 Masters students

UM Project Goal

To inform ongoing discussions about ways to enhance communication and collaboration in the Saco River Watershed by providing an independent and nonpartisan assessment of current issues, activities, and aspirations for the watershed.

University of Michigan SEAS Project Objectives

Identify:

1. Major issues confronting a watershed.
2. Individuals and parties in a watershed.
3. Values and visions, perspectives and level of interest in developing a Collaborative.
4. Transferable lessons from other collaboratives that might apply to the Saco Watershed Collaborative.



Method

1. Literature Review on collaboration
2. 52 Interviews with watershed residents
Values, aspirations, issues, purpose, and structure
3. Developed case profile of existing watershed collaboratives

What do People Value in the Saco Watershed?

1. Recreation (58%)
2. Clean water (42%)
3. Biophysical attributes (42%)
4. Aesthetic qualities (38%)
5. High quality water for drinking and irrigation (33%)

University of Michigan SEAS Recommended Priorities for Collaboration

1. Improve overall **communication** in the Watershed.
2. Bolster network and information-sharing
3. Coalition and capacity-building
4. Public education
5. Advising local & state governments
6. Advocating for policies/legislation
7. Ecosystem-based decision making
8. Coordinate conservation efforts
9. Addressing issues that span multiple jurisdictions



Challenges to the Collaboration

1. Scale: 1,700 square miles
2. Scope: Avoid being a “mile wide and an inch deep”
3. Time and staff availability
4. Different Perceptions, Values and Opinions
5. Representation by different stakeholder groups
6. Compiling and synthesizing available data

Successes of the Saco Watershed Collaborative



1. Leadership
2. Science-based collaborative approach: Collaborative Learning
3. Collective impact approach
4. Consistent partner engagement
5. Consistent student engagement and involvement
6. Communication and coordination

Upcoming Events

- Field Trips
 - May
 - June
 - July
 - August
 - September
- Quarterly Meetings
 - March
 - June
 - September
- Annual Meeting in December



Photo Credit: Andy Tolman

Connecting with the Saco Watershed Collaborative

- Basecamp: Access by invite
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Saco Watershed Story Map](#)
- [Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission: Saco River Drinking Water Resiliency Project](#)
- [Saco Watershed Collaborative](#)
- [Saco Watershed Collaborative Action Plan](#)
- University of Michigan SEAS Preliminary Assessment
- Coming hopefully soon....UNE platform

Additional Contacts

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Program Managers

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