

# Taunton River Watershed Management Plan

## Taunton, Massachusetts

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts contracted Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) to develop a long-term vision and strategy for the management and restoration of the Taunton River Watershed ecological resources in support of the hydrologic, environmental and economic sustainability of the region.

Phase I of this Study, completed in 2008, included as a primary assessment tool, the development of preliminary water budgets for more than 100 small sub-basins within the watershed. This tool evaluated shifts of water due to water withdrawals, wastewater management, impervious cover, and other changes in land use, and provided an understanding of which areas of the watershed are “in balance” and which are experiencing a net gain or loss of water, and to what degree, in comparison to natural conditions. In addition, habitat and development data were also evaluated within each sub-basin to assist in prioritizing preservation and restoration efforts. Throughout Phase I, HW also undertook a broad public participation program and worked closely with our Steering Committee. The product of Phase I was a final report that identified key Smart Growth techniques to help improve the design and of future growth in the watershed.

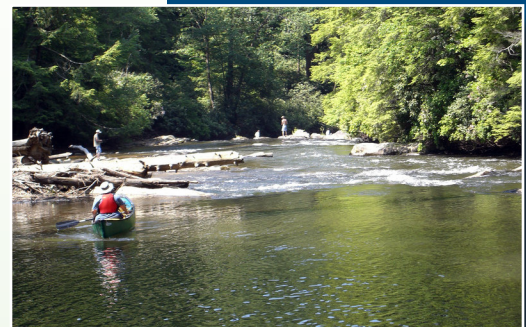
The Steering Committee selected HW to proceed with Phase II of the project, involving the development of management recommendations and on-the-ground demonstration projects to illustrate innovative low impact development, stormwater management and wastewater management approaches in the watershed to achieve restoration goals. We are working with local municipal officials and other interested stakeholders to develop demonstration projects throughout the watershed, and will be developing “permit ready” project designs in order to promote positive examples throughout the watershed. We are also working with two municipalities, Lakeville and Norton, to revise and update existing regulatory code to allow for and promote the recommended approaches based on current science.

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