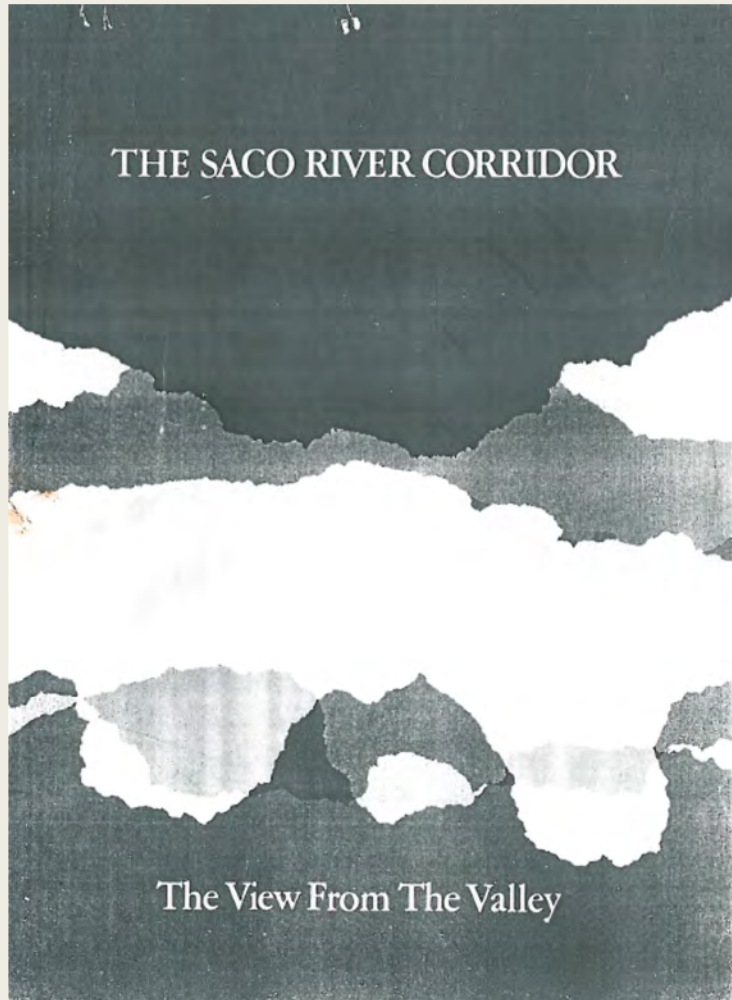


THE HISTORY OF THE SACO RIVER CORRIDOR COMMISSION

How Citizens of our own Communities work
to preserve Land and Water Quality.



The establishment of the Saco River Environmental Advisory Committee, 1971



SACO RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 286
Cornish, Maine 04020

"to co-ordinate the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the immediate and long range protection and development of the resources of the Saco River Corridor"

SHERWOOD LIBBY, CHAIRMAN
JANCIE WHITMARSH, VICE CHAIRMAN
BERRY BOILARD, VICE CHAIRMAN
ARY MERRILL, TREASURER
REHARY MANNING, SECRETARY
RL LAWS, EXECUTIVE PLANNING DIRECTOR

April 30, 1973

To the Governor, 106th Legislature and People of Maine:

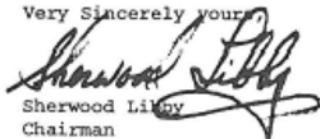
The Saco River Environmental Advisory Committee is pleased to submit this report of its findings, and plan for action. The 105th Legislature created this Committee and directed it to develop a plan for the future of the Saco River Corridor. Many town representatives on the Committee own river-front lands, and have owned these lands for many years. We are deeply troubled by today's course of events and we have been determined to find a method by which the Saco, Ossipee, and Little Ossipee Rivers can remain the asset to our area that we have enjoyed as we have lived and worked here in the valley.

With our planning director, we have spent many hours examining the resources of the river, and we have sought the advice and participation of fellow citizens and landowners so that our proposal would be the best possible solution to the crisis that we and the river face.

We have discovered that existing state and local regulations do not promote a comprehensive view of the cumulative effect of individual actions along the river, and we have sought to examine and develop proposals for the river corridor as a whole. We recognize and will be the first to defend the rights of landowners and municipalities, and we understand the need of a downstream owner or town for protection from the possibility of detrimental actions by those upstream.

We love our river, and fear for it. We hope our children, and grandchildren can reap the same benefits from the river we have enjoyed. We are comfortable remembering the past, we have recognized we must face the challenge of the future. This report tells you our findings, and our conclusions. We believe we have answered the challenge. We believe in our river, and its future, and hope you will join us in our effort to save this important resource.

Very Sincerely yours,


Sherwood Libby
Chairman

The Establishment of the Saco River Corridor Commission, 1973

MANCHESTER (N. H.) UNION LEADER — Friday, August 7, 1970



ALMOST HIDDEN CULVERT disgorges polluted water into the beautiful and popular Saco River in the area of Conway Village. Pollution sources such as this will be cleaned up when Conway installs its long-awaited disposal system. (Photo by Jay Hanlon)

Pockets in Conway Area To Be Erased

Saco River Polluted

By JAY HANLON
 CONWAY — There are pockets of pollution in the Saco River, state and local officials disclosed this week.
 But they added, the 46-mile long New Hampshire portion of this popular North Country river will be cleaned up in about a year when Conway installs its long-planned sewage disposal system.
 "Then it will be one of the cleanest rivers in the state,"

crossing into Maine at Fryeburg.
 In New Hampshire, the water supplies were taken by members of the American Association of University Women in conjunction with the Save Our Saco (S.O.S.) organization. The samples were processed by Healy's chemists in Concord.
 The samples show the heaviest concentrations of pollution to be at the point where the Switz

River joins the Saco and where the Saco flows under the Route 16 bridge. Both locations are in Conway village.
 Test Results Released
 The count at both locations were 24,691 coliforms per 100 milliliter, according to test information released by James G. Simonds of the S.O.S. organization.
 The Save Our Saco organization, a two-state venture, re-



Saco River Corridor Commission



P.O. Box 283
 Main Street, Cornish, Maine 04020-0283
 Telephone: (207) 625-8123

Through a Survey conducted of landowners along the river in 1972, an unusual amount of replies of 51% indicated widespread concern for the future of the river.

When asked...

- **“Do you think there should be land use controls to prevent overcrowding and to protect the various public and private interests?”**
 - **88% of people, an overwhelming majority, responded yes they believe extra controls are necessary.**

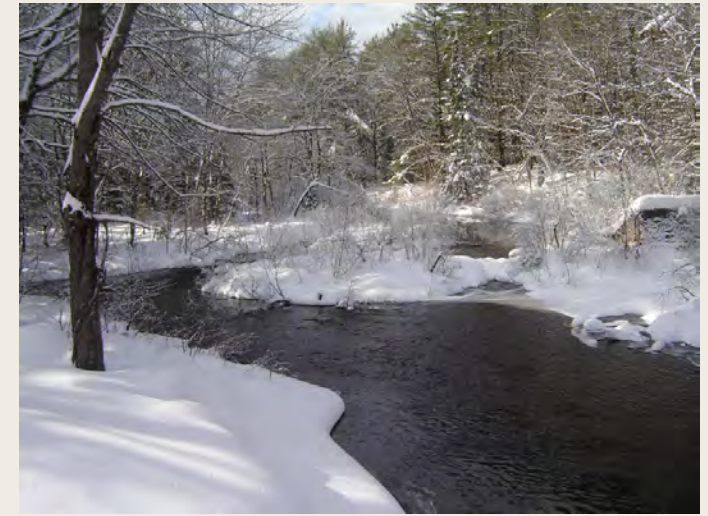
The next question “for consistency, fairness and efficiency, who should administer land controls, if any?” brought the following responses:

- **21% suggested a state agency, 34% a regional agency, and 36% a local agency and 9% made various combinations of the choices**

Regulatory

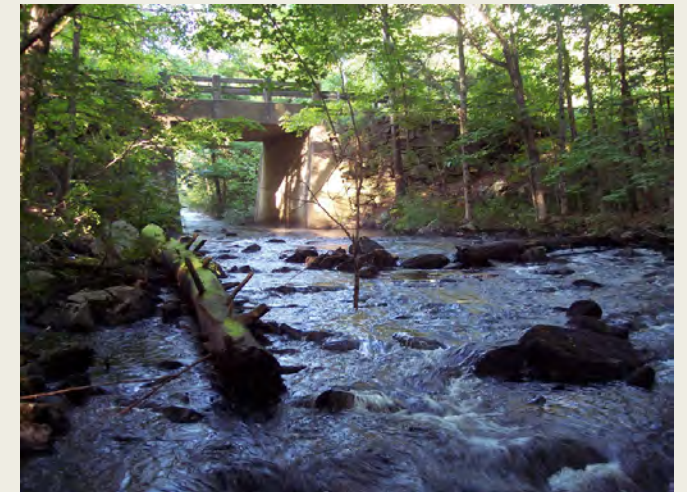


2000		2002	
Waterboro	29	Waterboro	28
Saco	30	Saco	25
Biddeford	18	Limerick	22
2001		2003	
Biddeford & Limerick	17 (each)	Waterboro	29
Saco & Waterboro	14 (each)	Limerick & Biddeford	25 (each)
Parsonsfield	6	Saco	11



§951 purpose

- The legislature finds that the Saco, Ossipee and Little Ossipee Rivers are largely unspoiled by intensive or poorly planned commercial, industrial or residential development; that existing water quality on the inland portions of these rivers is extremely high; that these rivers and their associated wetlands constitute an important present and future source of drinking water; that they support large and diverse aquatic populations; and that they are heavily used for fishing, swimming, canoeing, camping and other forms of outdoor recreation.



- “The Legislature finds that the wetlands associated with these rivers constitute important water storage areas; that they moderate the flow of these rivers in time of flood and drought; that they replenish the groundwater; and that they provide nutrients and essential habitat for numerous species of fish, migratory birds and other forms of wildlife.”

- “In view of the dangers of intensive and poorly planned development, it is the purpose of this chapter to preserve existing water quality, prevent the diminution of water supplies, to control erosion, to protect fish and wildlife populations, to prevent undue extremes of flood and drought, to limit the loss of life and damage to property from periodic floods; to preserve the scenic, rural and unspoiled character of the lands adjacent to these rivers; to prevent obstructions to navigation; to prevent overcrowding; to avoid the mixture of incompatible uses; to protect those areas of exceptional scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific and educational importance; and to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by creating the Saco River Corridor, established in section 953, and by regulating the use of land and water within this area.”

Program elements of the Saco River Corridor Commission



SRCC jurisdiction:

Within 500 feet of the Saco, Ossipee and Little Ossipee Rivers and up 1,000 feet from these rivers in areas of the 100 year floodplain.

ME DEP Ch.1000 Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Jurisdiction:

All land areas within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the:

- normal high-water line of any great pond or river;
- upland edge of a coastal wetland, including all areas affected by tidal action, and
- upland edge of defined freshwater wetlands; and all land areas within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of certain streams.





“Communities Working Together To Protect Our Rivers”

APPLICATION FOR A SRCC PERMIT – SUBMIT THIS FORM AND REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS AT
 P.O. BOX 283, 81 MAPLE STREET ~ CORNISH, MAINE 04020-0283
 TELEPHONE (207) 625-8123 ~ FAX (207) 625-7050 ~ E-MAIL: srcc@srcc-maine.org

APPLICANT AND AGENT INFORMATION			
1. Name of Applicant		4. Name of Agent (if applicable)	
2. Applicant's Mailing Address		5. Agent's Mailing Address	
3. Applicant's Daytime Telephone # and email address		6. Agent's Daytime Telephone # and email address	
7. Statement of Authorization	I hereby authorize the above named person to act in my behalf as my agent in the procession of this application. <i>Signature of Applicant:</i>		

PROJECT LOCATION		
8. Location of Project		9. Municipality
10. Detailed Driving Directions to Site		
<i>Attach map if necessary</i>		

LOT INFORMATION				
11. Size of Lot(s)	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> square feet, or _____ <input type="checkbox"/> acres			
12. Lot Frontage	_____ feet <input type="checkbox"/> on the water <input type="checkbox"/> on the side closest to and most nearly parallel to the water <input type="checkbox"/> Saco River <input type="checkbox"/> Ossipee River <input type="checkbox"/> Little Ossipee River <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Arrowhead <input type="checkbox"/> Balch Lake			
13. Slope Conditions in Area of Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat (0-3% slope) <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling (3-8% slope) <input type="checkbox"/> Hilly (8-15% slope) <input type="checkbox"/> Steep (15+% slope)			
14. Describe any Wetland areas on the lot				
15. Right, Title or Interest (must be attached)	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase Option <input type="checkbox"/> Under Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)			
<i>Name and Address of Current Owner if Different from Applicant</i>	<i>Name and Address:</i>			
16. Deed Reference Numbers	Book #	Page #	17. Town Map and Lot Numbers	Map # Lot #
18. Date of Purchase Agreement				



Chapter 103: STANDARDS TO ADDRESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

SUMMARY: All projects approved must show no unreasonable a) degradation of water and water quality, b) harmful alteration of wetlands, c) increase in erosion or sedimentation, d) danger of increased flood damage, e) obstruction of flood flow, f) damage to fish and wildlife habitat, g) despoliation of the scenic, rural and open space character of the corridor, h) overcrowding, i) excessive noise, j) obstruction to navigation, and k) interference with the educational, scenic, scientific, historic or archeological values of those areas designated and approved for inclusions within the Resource Protection District.

1. **Scope.**

In any application for a permit or variance, the Commission must give consideration to the requirements for granting permits/variances as enumerated in 38 M.R.S.A. Section 957-D.1 .A.-K.; 959-A.1 .A.-K.; and 963.1.C.(1)-(11). Where any of the factors is legitimately at issue, the following minimum standards shall apply.

2. **Standards to Address the Environmental Factors.**

A. To show no unreasonable degradation of air and water quality, the applicant shall demonstrate that:

- (1) The proposed use either requires no State Air Emissions License or that one has or will be obtained;
- (2) The proposed development activities will not create unpleasant odors detectable at any lot line or create any smoke or dust which is incompatible with the character of the area in which the use is to be located;
- (3))The proposed use, both during construction and after completion, will not result in water quality degradation as the result of increased surface water runoff, erosion, or sedimentation. The applicant shall demonstrate that buffer strips or other measures to control surface runoff from the site are adequate to ensure that



Performance Standards adopted by the commission:

- A. Performance Standards for Multi-Unit Residential Dwellings, Including Condominium and Cluster Development;
- B. Performance Standards for Campgrounds;
- C. Performance Standards Governing Sand, Gravel, or Topsoil excavation and other Mineral Exploration and Extraction Activities within the Saco River Corridor;
- D. Performance Standards Governing Expansions of Existing Nonconforming Uses, Including Structures;
- E. Performance Standards for Parking Areas within the Saco River Corridor;
- F. Performance Standards for the Construction and Establishment of Roads in Limited Residential and Resource Protection Districts of the Corridor.
- G. Standards to Address the Environmental Factors including the following: prevention of the degradation of air and water quality; prevention of the unreasonable, harmful alteration of wetlands; prevention of an increase in erosion or sedimentation; prevention of unreasonable dangers of increased flood damage; prevention of obstruction of flood flow; despoliation of the scenic, rural and open space character of the Corridor; to prevent overcrowding and excessive noise; prevention of obstructions to navigation and the prevention of interference with the educational, scenic, scientific, historic or archeological values of those areas in the Resource Protection District of the Corridor.

The Priorities of the SRCC's Regulatory Program are as follows:

- To ensure that the reservoir drinking water quality that currently exists in the Saco River Basin is preserved in perpetuity.
- The Saco River Corridor will remain visually scenic and with a rural character that supports the tourist economy of the region and maintains high quality natural resource values.
- The Saco River Basin Corridor town population will have the information they need to make informed decisions concerning land use within the Corridor.
- The Saco River Corridor Commission will strive to conserve and protect the unique characteristics of the Saco River Basin.

The Aggregate System

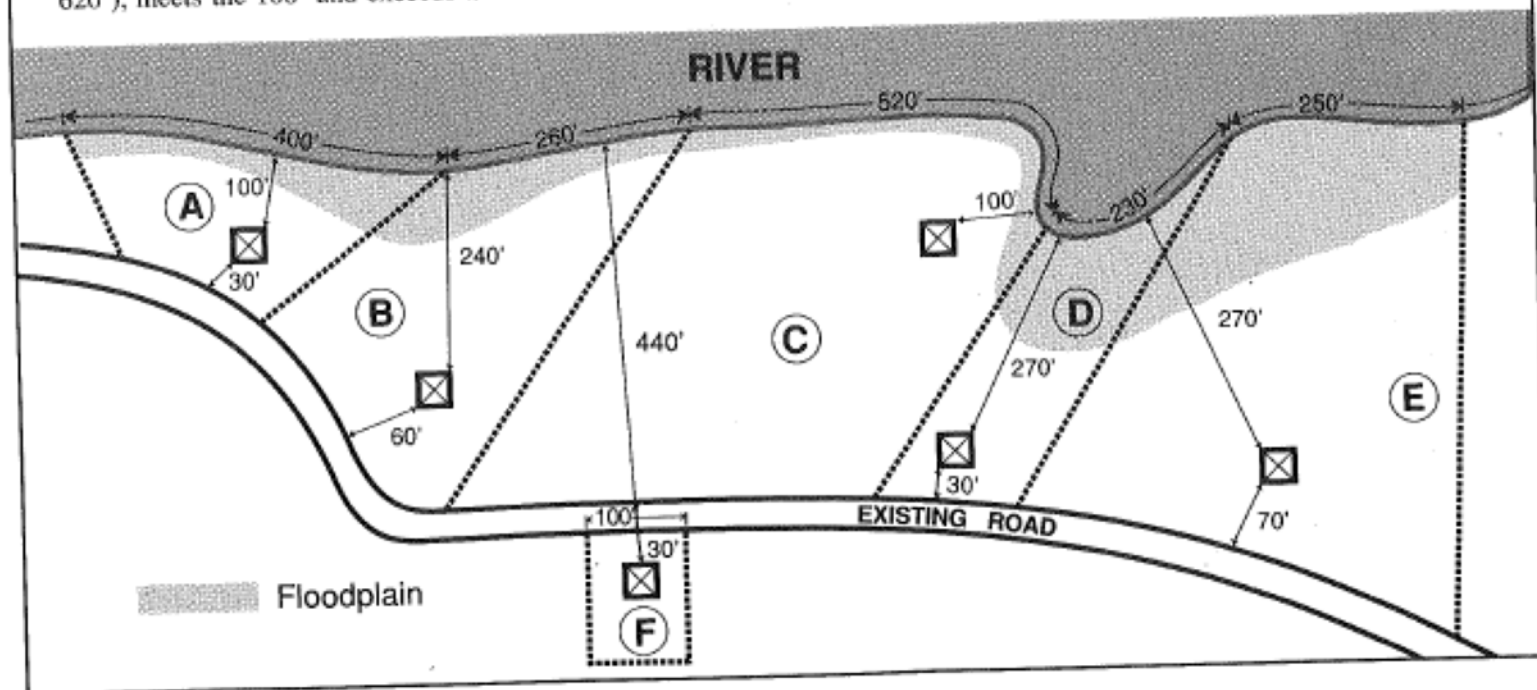
The most important standard in the Act, known as the "aggregate system," applies only to single family residences and accessory structures (such as garages) in the Limited Residential District. Under this standard the lot on which a residence is to be built must have at least 100 feet of frontage on the river and the combined river frontage and setback from the river of any building must be no less than 500 feet. In addition, the buildings may not be located in the 100 year floodplain. The diagram below shows the aggregate system:

Lot A meets the "aggregate" (400 feet frontage + 100 feet setback = 500 feet) and just meets the 100 foot setback from water and 30 foot setback from roads requirement. Lot B meets the aggregate (260' + 240' = 500') and exceeds the 100' and 30' setbacks; Lot C exceeds the aggregate (520' + 100' = 620'), meets the 100' and exceeds the 30' setbacks; Lot D

meets the aggregate (230' + 270' = 500'), exceeds the 100' and meets the 30' setbacks; and Lot E exceeds the aggregate (250' + 270' = 520') as well as the 100' and 30' setback requirements. The Act also covers situations such as Lot F, a lot on the opposite side of an existing road. In this instance, one measures frontage along the road plus setback from the river, so Lot F exceeds the aggregate (440' + 100' = 540'), exceeds the 100' and meets the 30' setback requirements.

In each instance the buildings are not in the 100 year floodplain. The setback is measured from the closest point of the river, regardless of the lot lines.

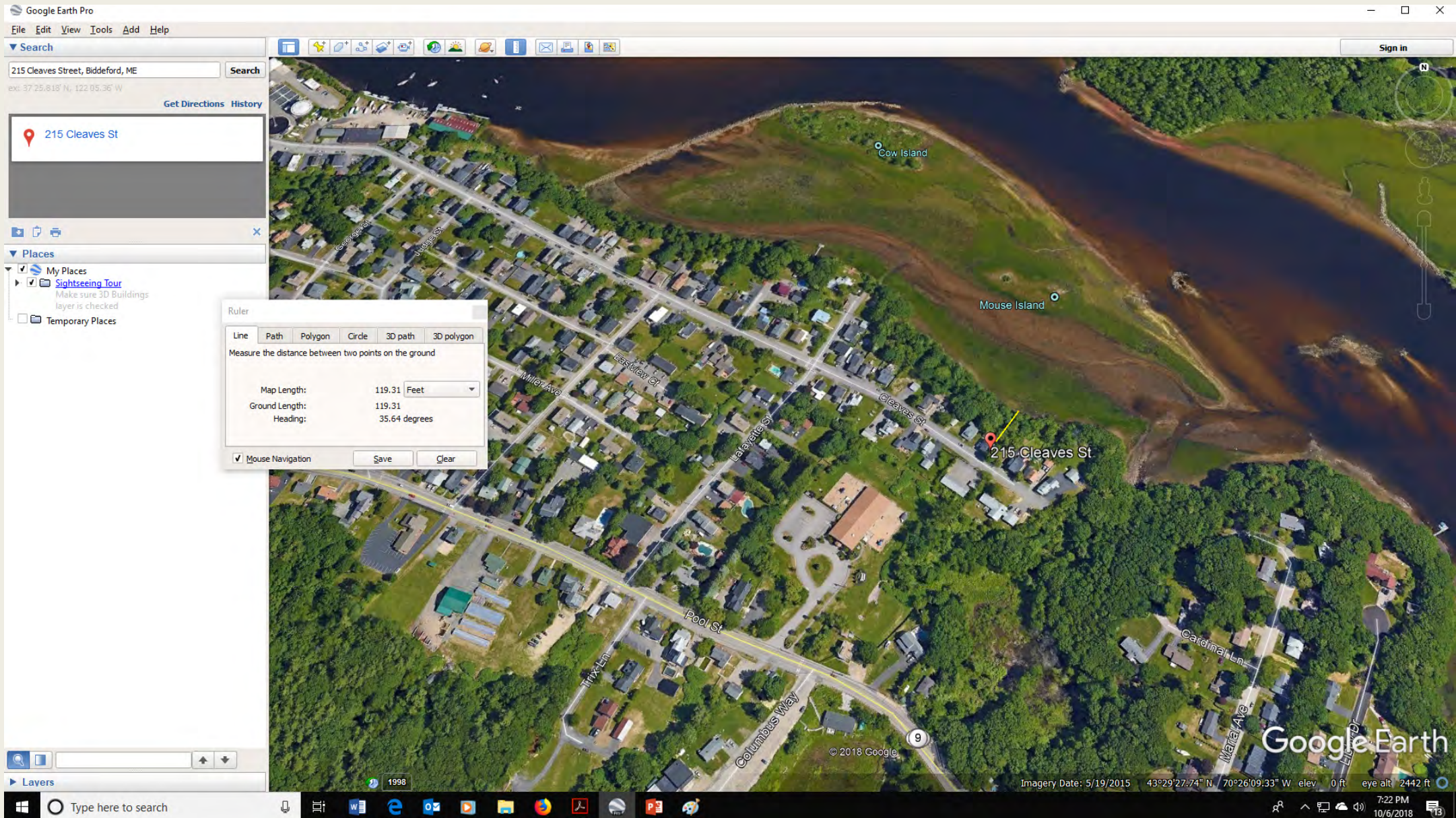
In some cases, where these standards cannot be met, the Saco River Corridor Act provides certain protections for lot owners. These protections are described on the last page of this pamphlet.



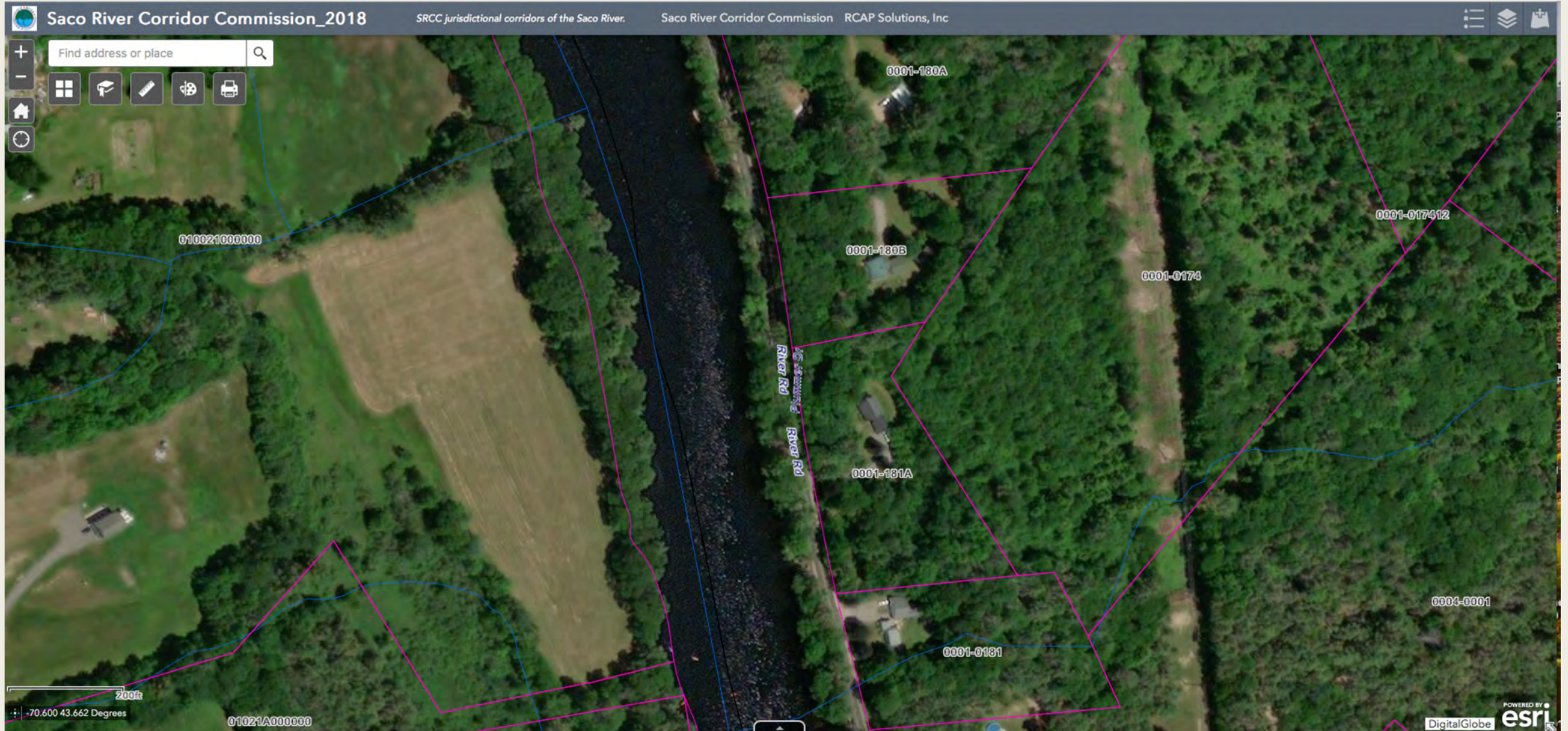
An example of an approximate 100 foot setback from the shoreline:
Hills Beach Area, Biddeford Maine



Another example of an approximate 100 foot setback from the shoreline: General Development District, Biddeford Maine



An example of the SRCC's, 500 foot aggregate limit system at work.





THE SACO RIVER CORRIDOR*



100 YEAR
FLOOD PLAIN
WITHIN THE
CORRIDOR



The Saco River Corridor Act

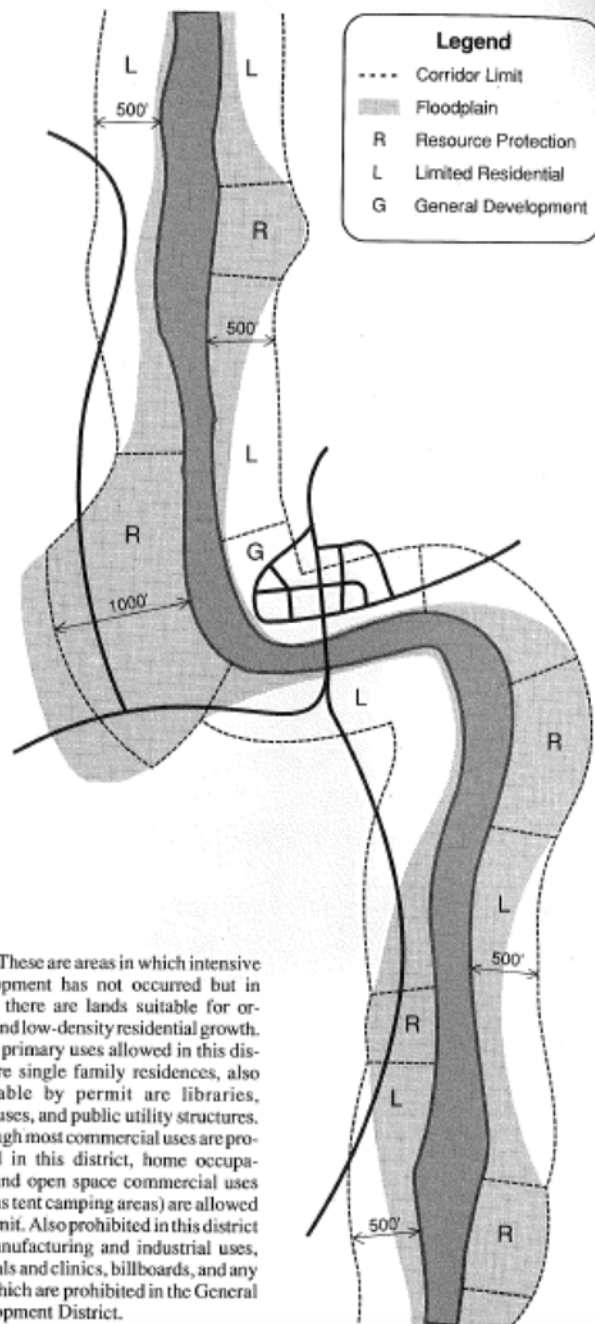
The legislative act which created the Saco River Corridor and the Commission (*An Act to Establish the Saco River Corridor, P.&S.L. 1973*, and now incorporated into Public Law as Title 38, M.R.S.A. Section 951 et seq.) has as its main purpose the protection and preservation of land and water quality within the Corridor. In order to meet this purpose the Act provided a permit procedure and established three land use districts, the Resource Protection District, the General Development District and the Limited Residential District. In each of the three different districts, the Act specified those types of uses which are 1) allowed without a permit, 2) allowed by permit only or 3) prohibited altogether.

The Resource Protection District includes those areas where the whole width of the Corridor is within the 100 year floodplain. It also includes wetlands and lands, either public or private, which after meeting specific criteria, are found to be important as fish and wildlife habitats or for their educational, scientific, historic, archaeological, or open space value. Agriculture and forestry are the primary uses allowed within this district. Residential and other non-conforming uses which existed before the Act came into effect may continue, but new residential, commercial, and industrial uses are prohibited.

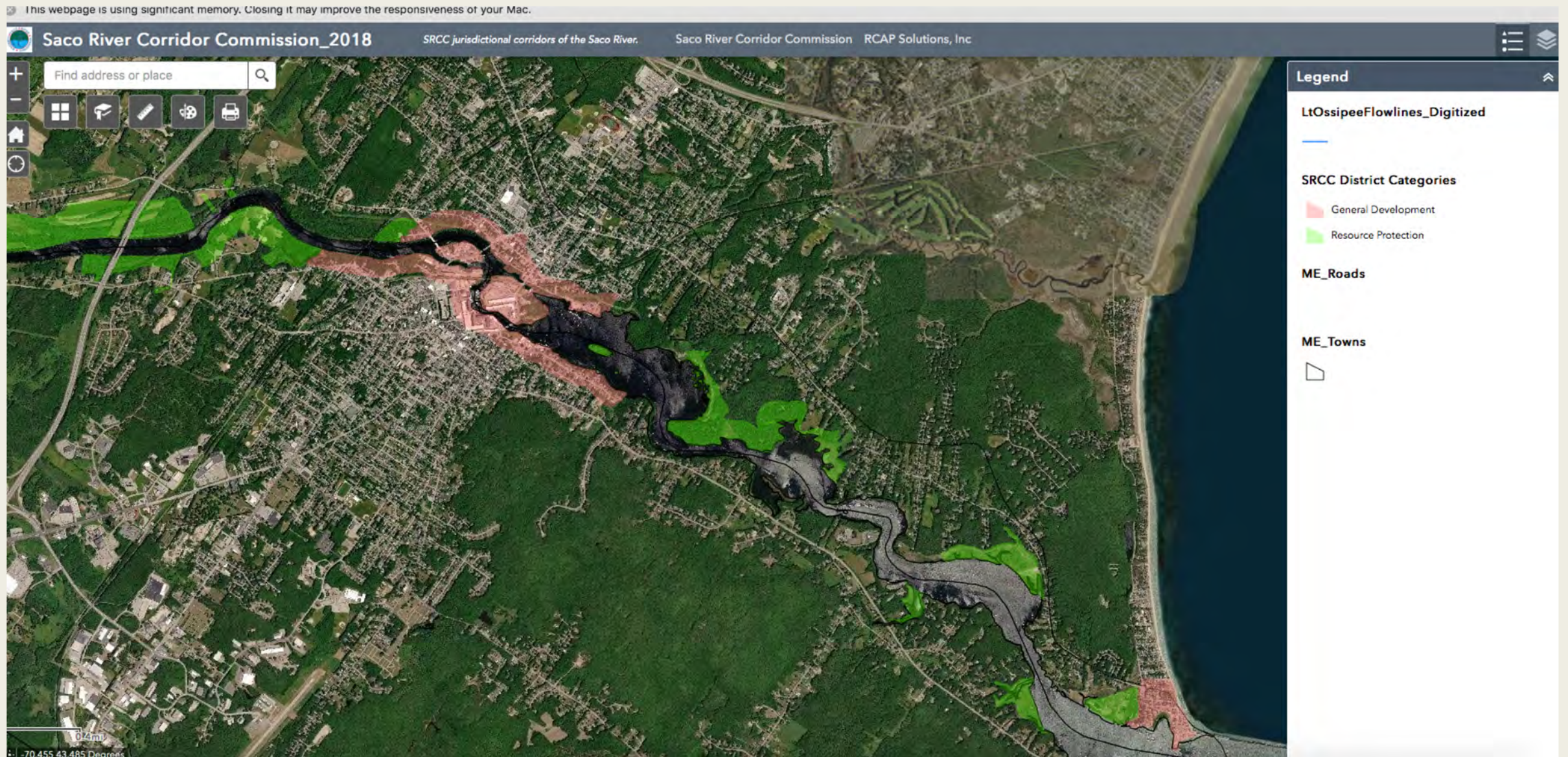
The General Development District includes those areas which were already intensively developed before the Saco River Corridor Act became effective. Most uses are allowed in this district without a permit, although permits are needed for manufacturing and industrial uses; for sand, gravel, and topsoil removal; and for alteration of wetlands. Auto graveyards, junkyards, smelting operations and dumps are prohibited.

The Limited Residential District includes all areas within the corridor which are not included in the Resource Protection or General Development Dis-

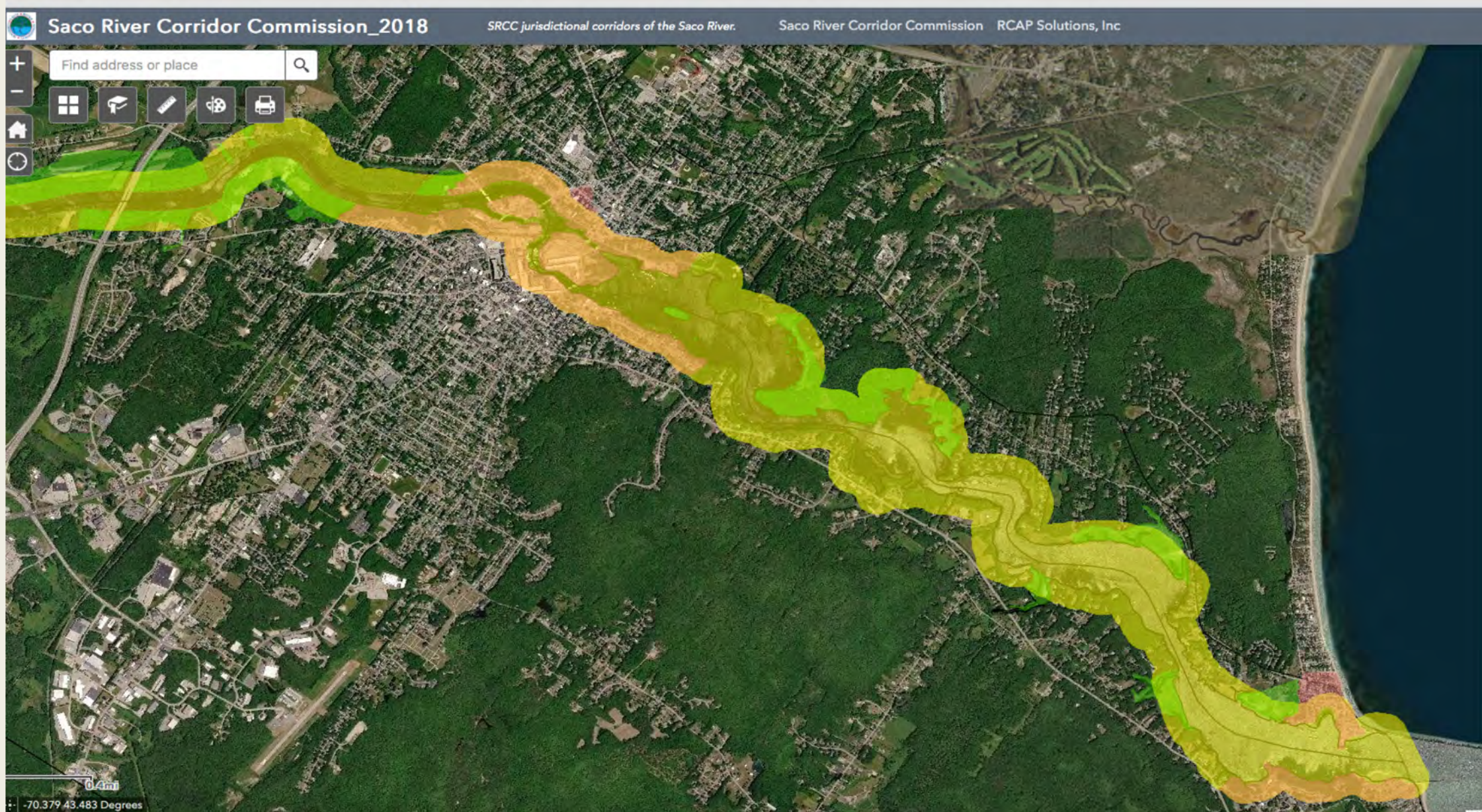
tricts. These are areas in which intensive development has not occurred but in which there are lands suitable for orderly and low-density residential growth. While primary uses allowed in this district are single family residences, also allowable by permit are libraries, firehouses, and public utility structures. Although most commercial uses are prohibited in this district, home occupations and open space commercial uses (such as tent camping areas) are allowed by permit. Also prohibited in this district are manufacturing and industrial uses, hospitals and clinics, billboards, and any uses which are prohibited in the General Development District.



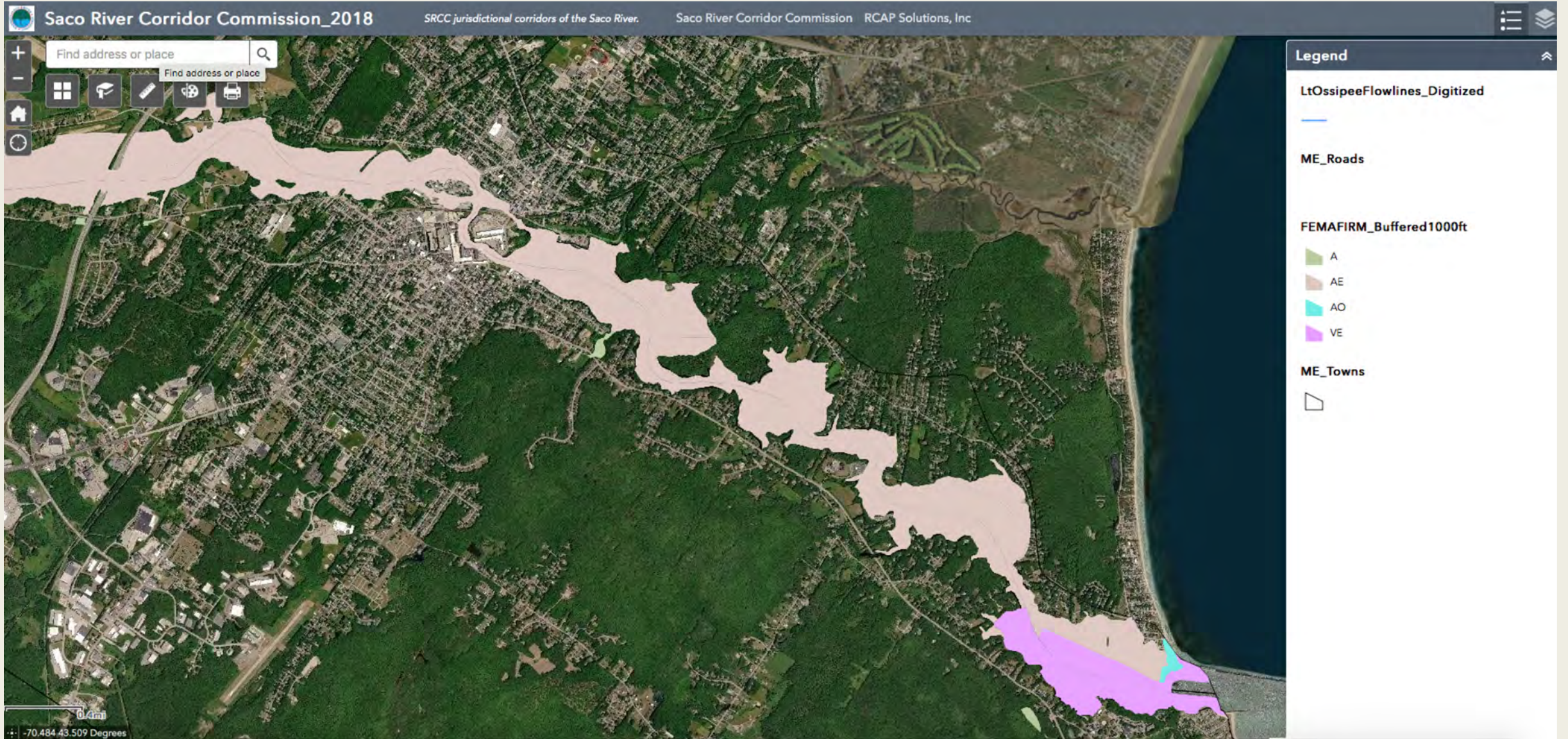
The Resource Protection District, General Development District and Limited Residential District.



The 500 foot buffer with SRCC District layers visible.



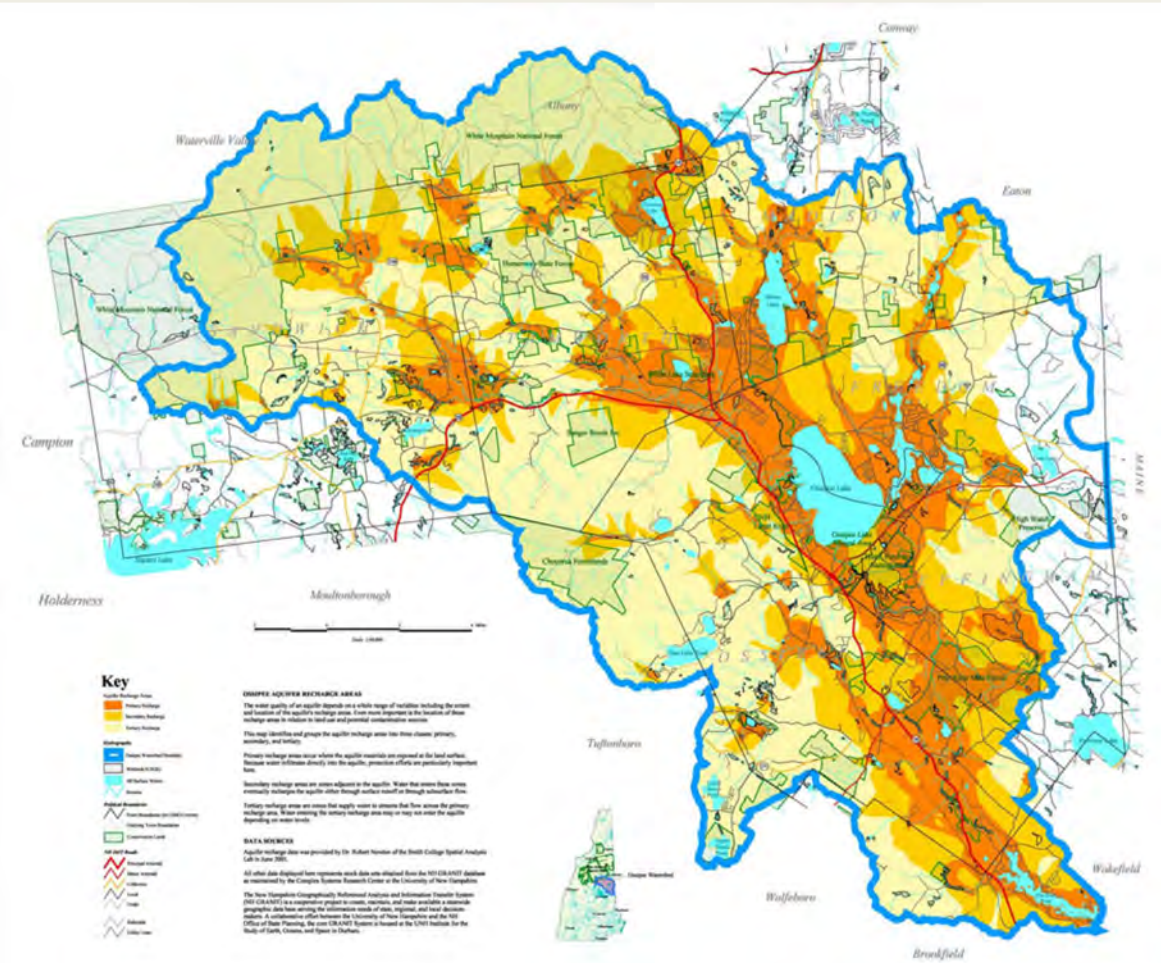
FEMA Flood Map Layer.



SRCC 500 foot buffer, 1,000 foot buffer and FEMA flood map layers.



SRCC Joint Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and QAPP with Green Mountain Conservation Group out of New Hampshire.



Ossipee Watershed Aquifer Recharge Areas

Map Prepared by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests for the Green Mountain Conservation Group - July 2001.
 Funded by the USDA Forest Service Watershed and Clean Water Action Grants Program and coordinated by UNH Cooperative Extension.



Join Green Mountain Conservation Group and Saco River Corridor Commission as a 2019 RIVERS Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer.

Info Session
 April 3, 6 to 7 p.m.

Learn about the program and how to get involved with RIVERS – a summer biweekly tributary sampling program in the Saco/Ossipee Watershed. Prospective volunteers are welcomed even if they cannot commit for the whole monitoring season (May to October). No experience is necessary and light refreshments will be provided.

Volunteer Training Sessions
 April 24 or April 27, 10 a.m. to noon

Learn/refresh your water quality skills, practice using monitoring equipment, and meet other volunteers. We strongly encourage all volunteers to attend a training session. Light refreshments will be provided.



2019 RIVERS
 Water Quality
 Monitoring Program

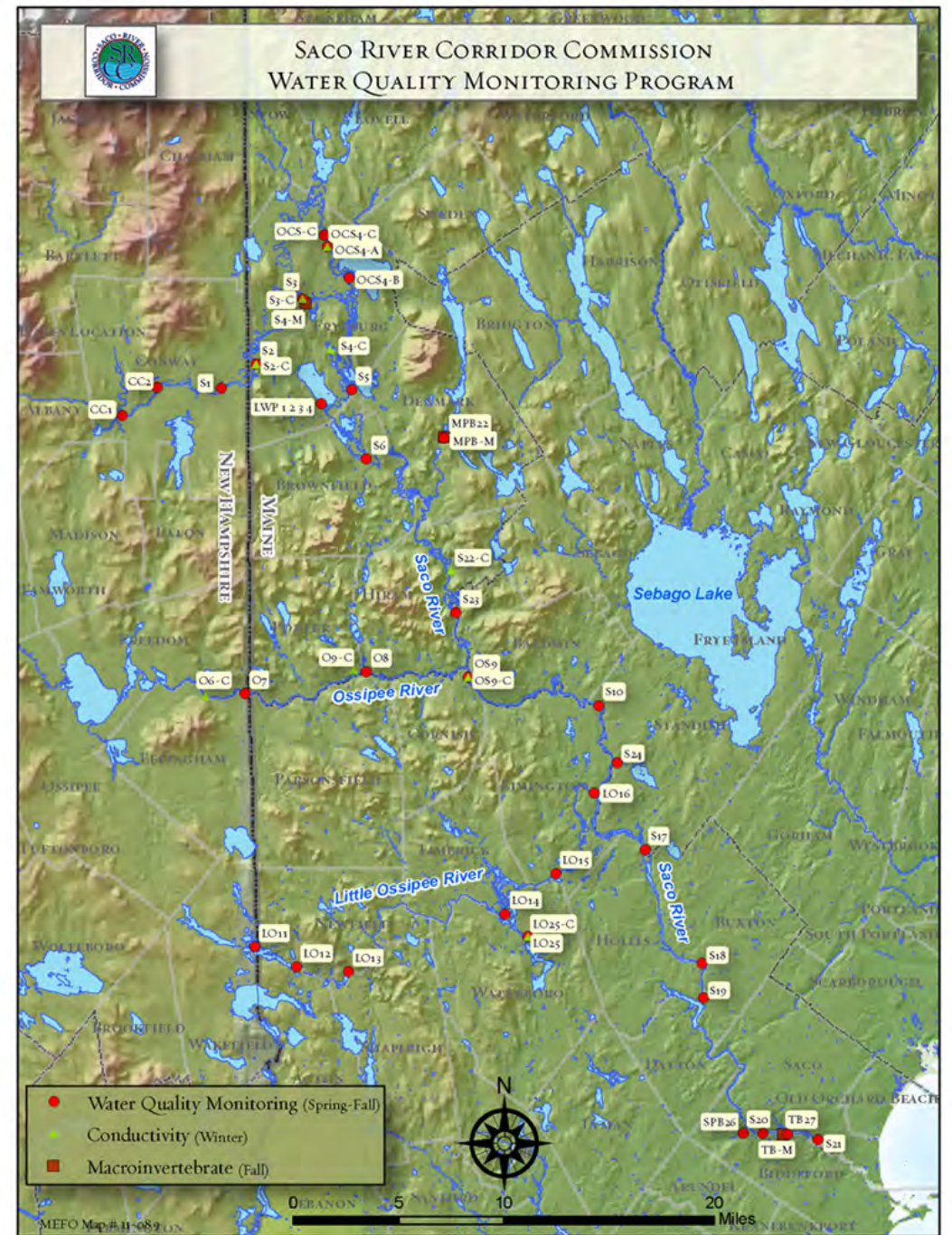
Info Session:
 Wednesday, April 3
 6 to 7 p.m.
 Blue Heron House

Training Sessions:
 Wednesday, April 24
 or Saturday, April 27
 10 a.m. to noon
 Blue Heron House

Blue Heron House
 236 Huntress Bridge Rd.
 Effingham, NH

“Water” you waiting for?
 Become a RIVERS volunteer!
 For more information contact
 Jill at water@gmcg.org
 or visit gmcg.org.

SRCC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program



Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Priorities of the WQM Program:

- 1) Generally characterize water quality and gather baseline data;
- 2) Understand general condition of water in each designated area of the river;
- 3) Test to determine if degraded water quality exists;
- 4) Decide what further testing/actions or further investigation is needed to diagnose and solve problems;
- 5) Broaden the understanding of water quality in the community through outreach and education.



Permit Review of "The Waters" mixed use development project at Factory Island East, 2018.



The Waters” at Factory Island East: 1st proposed project plan submitted to the SRCC in May, 2018



APPLICANT:
JMB PARTNERS, LLC
24 NORTH AVE.
SACO, ME 04072

OWNER:
JMB PARTNERS, LLC
24 NORTH AVE.
SACO, ME 04072

THE WATERS
FACTORY ISLAND EAST

SITE PLAN

CABELLA BOOKER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
11 COLLEGE STREET STE 100
PORTLAND, ME 04108
APRIL 24, 2018

“The Waters” at Factory Island East: 2nd revised project plan submitted July 23, 2018



The Reaction: LR 2204 - Legislation to scale back the Jurisdictional authority of the SRCC in the Downtown Areas of Saco and Biddeford. January, 2019

Biddeford proposes changes to the Saco River Corridor Act

journaltribune.com/articles/front-page/biddeford-proposes-changes-to-the-saco-river-corridor-act/

| February 15, 2019

February 15, 2019



Biddeford wants changes made so that riverfront property in the downtown areas of Saco and Biddeford is regulated differently by the Saco River Corridor Commission than other areas along the Saco River. LIZ GOTTHELF/Journal Tribune

SACO — The Biddeford city manager would like to see changes made so that riverfront property in the downtown areas of Saco and Biddeford is regulated differently by the Saco River Corridor Commission than other areas along the Saco River.

Permit delayed for \$40 million development along Saco River



CBS 13 | BDN

A sign provides a hint of what developers hope will be a six-acre multi-use project along the Saco River, which could include a boutique hotel, condominiums, retail space and a marina. The project was delayed Wednesday after it failed to get approval for permits from the Saco River Commission.

Not the first time to the Rodeo: Legislative Action to scale back or eliminate SRCC Jurisdictional Authority: 1995 and 2013

Supporters of river panel turn out in force

JOURNAL TRIBUNE

MAR 16 1995

By JACK BEAUDOIN
Journal Tribune Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — Like a spring freshet, Saco River Corridor Commission supporters unleashed a torrent of testimony Wednesday to counter two bills that would restrict the commission's jurisdiction along the river from the New Hampshire border to the Atlantic Ocean.

The show of force appeared to gain concessions from the sponsor of one bill, but may have ultimately

hurt the Commission's standing before an important legislative committee.

Following the hearing, some members of the Natural Resources Committee charged that the SRCC members "interfered with the democratic process" by dominating the hearing with repetitive arguments and testimony which did not address the specifics of each bill.

"I have never heard so much testimony and gotten so ... little out of it," Rep. Richard A. Gould said.

"It was pathetic."

Hearings on the two bills — LD 445 and LD 588 — were expected to last only half the morning. Instead, the Natural Resources committee was on the receiving end of about seven hours of testimony which, with the exception of only two witnesses, urged support for the SRCC's current geographic authority.

LD 445 would ensure that the river commission's standards are at least as stringent as those of the

MAINE 117th LEGISLATURE HELP = Ed. Board

Editorial 2/20/1995

The legislative threat to the Saco River

Don't they read the papers? There's too much news for comfort these days about threats to the groundwater supplies on which we all depend. Arsenic in well water along the Saco River Valley, Mercury, other heavy metals and dioxins in a number of rivers, lakes and ponds.

This week, the scare of the week was mercury. State health officials warned that because of mercury found in fish in 150 lakes and ponds, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under the age of 8 should not eat fish.

In other words, we continue to poison the well.

And yet, when it comes to providing even basic protection for the Saco River watershed, the Maine Legislature can't get it done. In order to balance the budget, the Legislature failed to come up with \$15,000 to pay the state's share of the cost to run the Saco River Corridor Commission. The commission is a state-mediated organization whose role in protecting water quality should be strengthened rather than diminished. But the commission continues to operate on a beggar's grant. Executive Director William Vail has resigned. Vail says

it was a choice between him and his assistant and "she knew how to type."

The beggar's portion includes funding from about half of the 22 fisheries communities, a generous \$10,000 allocation from York County, Cumberland County joins the state on the "take-or-leave-of-these-seniors" list.

If the Saco River is not monitored, is not nurtured, is not protected, is not preserved, a large number of York County residents could be left with a compromised water supply.

What's to be done? It would be nice to think that the state could monitor, but the Legislature has gone home. Vail says that the financial picture would improve if York County could spend the subsidies for paying its share of the annual budget. We urge Vail to make a formal proposal, and the County Commission to scrape up the funds.

Beyond that, residents of York County ought to hang a sign on the water spigot reminding them to pay closer attention and make more solid the next time funding for the commission is at issue. Better than that is a sign on the spigot that says "unsafe to drink CHILDREN

Portland Press Herald

Bruce J. Grosset, President
Louis A. Urebeck, Editor and Vice President

George Nevill, Editorial Page Editor
Warren E. Winsor, Managing Editor/Specials
Dennis Gorman, Managing Editor/Reporting

ACCOUNTABILITY DUE

Poisoned drinking water poisons Saco River too

How did a "witch's brew" come to be in Limerick anyway?

A "witch's brew of contamination" has poisoned the drinking water supply of the York County town of Limerick. The assessment, by Steve Lory of the Maine Rural Water Association, is about right, with more than 25 hazardous chemicals having been washed into the water system as the result of a fire there last month.

The system currently is being flushed with more water pumped from a nearby lake. All of the water, though — now laced with the toxic brew it has washed from the system — is draining back into the Little Outpost River, one of the main tributaries of the broad Saco River. An estimated 50 million gallons of water were pumped on the fire that destroyed the historic Limerick Mill building on June 10. Untold amounts have been pumped into the water system over the past week in the attempt to flush the poison out. The Saco River system that water

now is contaminating, however, has no such means of quite flushing. Only the river's natural recuperative powers will remove the menace, and that will take a long time. Meanwhile, the riverine fauna and flora will pay the price.

The Maine National Guard has been involved in drinking water to the residents of Limerick. The U.S. Rural Development Administration also has approximately \$500,000 in emergency aid to the town.

The question now must be, however, how the highly toxic chemicals came to be stored in such a vulnerable site in the first place. Apparently no one knew the mill operations included the use of such chemicals, some of them capable of causing "burning and itching," according to state health officials. Others are carcinogenic. Even before the fire, arsenic had been discovered in some of the town's well water. Our sympathies go to the residents of Limerick, caught in a public health dilemma not of their making. All who are concerned for the health of both people and the environment should join them in demanding strict accountability.

The Hillsford Mill West Main Street York County PA

Maine's rivers safe for swimming

Saco is 'outstanding;' runoff ban proposed

By WOODY WATKINS
Staff Writer

Proposed water quality standards outlined in an ambitious river reclassification project for Maine's rivers are aimed at protecting as many waterways as possible for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and swimming. "DRINK KING?"

Among York County rivers, the Saco River would be most affected by the higher standards, which reflect the improved water quality in nearly all of Maine's waterbodies, according to David Courtenanch, director of environmental evaluation and lake studies for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The Mousam River in Sanford would remain classified as one of the lower-quality rivers in the state but still would be considered adequate to support fish and other aquatic life.

"The quality of water in our rivers is not even remotely comparable to what we had in 1965," said Courtenanch. That was when the last major overhaul of river quality classifications took place. "People can safely swim or fish almost anywhere in the state," he said.

They been doing the wrong for 40 years, especially on the Mousam because of the relative low quality of it, he explained. The new classes represent the quality the rivers are in or in the case of some tributaries

goals to reach. The changes haven't been adopted yet and people are encouraged to comment on them through the end of September. The changes may be revised to reflect public opinion before being presented for ratification by the Legislature. "This is probably our single biggest project over the past six years," Courtenanch said. Major changes are suggested for the Saco River because of its inclusion in the Maine Rivers Act, passed by the Legislature in 1994. That law recognized rivers used for recreation and set standards for their quality.

Dams and discharge of stormwater or other run-off into rivers would be banned along several sections upstream from the Hillsford-Saco area. No dams or permitted discharges currently exist in those areas.

The section flowing through the cities would be upgraded from its current level, which now allows some harmful runoff into the river, to allow only discharge that does not cause detrimental changes in the aquatic community," according to a DEP release explaining the reclassification project.

STANDARDS RAISED
The complicated set of changes in RIVERS Continued on Page 10

Classification of York County rivers FALL-1989

- MOUSAM RIVER**
Main Stem:
 ■ From the outlet of Mousam Lake to 1/2 mile above Mill Street in Springville — Class B (no change)
 ■ From 2 1/2 mile above Mill Street in Springville to its confluence with Estes Lake — Class C (no change)
 ■ From the outlet of Estes Lake to tide-water — Class B
 ■ Mousam River tributaries — Class B, up from Class C

YORK COUNTY
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Dam on the Mousam River in Kannebunk as seen from Route 1 near Lafayette Center. PHOTO BY JOHN METZGER

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