Stream Segment: WB-1
Stream: Depot Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Headwaters above Beech Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Simmons Rd
Survey Participant(s): Robert Brodeur

PROBLEMS:  ASSETS:  PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-2
Stream: Depot Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Simmons Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Frost Rd

Survey Participant(s): Robert Brodeur

PROBLEMS:                        ASSETS:                        PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-3
Stream: Depot Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Frost Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Rte 8

Survey Participant(s): Reda Vilner

PROBLEMS:            ASSETS:            PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-4
Stream: Depot Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Rte 8
Surveyed Segment ends: Cross Place Rd

Survey Participant(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-5
Stream: Depot Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Cross Place Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Johnson Hill Rd

Survey Participant(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-6
Stream: Depot Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Johnson Hill Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Lower Sargent Rd

Survey Participant(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-7
Stream: Depot Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Lower Sargent Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: High St

Survey Participant(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-8
Stream: Shaker Mill Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Headwaters above Watson Rd/Stanley Road
Surveyed Segment ends: Stanley Rd

Survey Participant(s): Bill Babcock, Meredyth Babcock, Cavanaugh Wolski, Emerson Wolski, Dalyan Babcock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PROIRITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Only rusty 50 gallon drums</td>
<td>1) Dragonfly Riffle Tail –</td>
<td>1) Round currogated culvert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which had been there for some</td>
<td>already protected in this area</td>
<td>is perched above stream by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time, no smell detected</td>
<td></td>
<td>about 5-7 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
At the start of this section of Shaker Mill Brook it appears to be a series of abandoned beaver ponds. It had snakes, thousands of Newt and frog eggs and a number of wonderful open wetlands for birds and dragonflies.

At the headwaters there had been some recent logging on the west side of the brook. There was a small buffer left about 100-200 feet. We found some black plastic (which we carried out) and old metal barrels and rusted containers that looked as if they had been there for some time. No smell was evident; some rust around the site. Many flowers adorn the stream and macro-invertebrates were abundant. There is an old rock wall that partially dams up the stream near the end at Stanley Road. The culvert which makes a great photo is not fish friendly.

SCENIC FEATURES:
Open wetland areas and boggy fields.

BIOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Beavers, Newts, frogs, birds, dragonflies, salamanders, macro-invertebrates, and snakes. Large wetland areas provide exceptional habitat.
**WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007**

*Shoreline Survey Findings*

**Stream Segment:** WB-9  
**Stream:** Shaker Mill Brook  
**Surveyed Segment begins:** Stanley Rd  
**Surveyed Segment ends:** Washington Mtn Rd

**Survey Participant(s):** Bill Babcock, June Babcock, Nick Pow, Meredyth Babcock, Dalyn Babcock, Cavanaugh Wolski, Emerson Wolski

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1) Camp -- before canyon -- with beer cans, etc. | 1) Beaver dams, deer crossings, moose tracks | 1) Camp -- trash;  
2) Approx. 245 acres are for sale, near Brooker Hill Road & adjacent to October Mtn State Forest. It would be great to protect this land if the money to do so could be found. |

**OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:**
Several brooks entered where there are ravines. There is very beautiful mixed forest with clear, beautiful creek. Also, small and huge beaver dams, deer and moose crossing in the creek.

There was very little sign of humans except for many lumber roads criss-crossing and the campsite (probably deer hunters). Some tools, beer cans, plastic tarp, etc. were seen there.

**SCENIC FEATURES:**
One-quarter of a mile in there was a small beaver dam and one-third of the way was a huge beaver dam.

**GEOLOGICAL FEATURES:**
Canyon/ravine area

**BIOLOGICAL FEATURES:**
Several deer and moose crossing areas. Prolific frogs and newt eggs.
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-10
Stream: Shaker Mill Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Washington Mtn Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Lovers Lane Rd

Survey Participant(s): Meredyth Babcock, June Babcock, Bill Babcock, Dalyn Babcock, Emerson Wolski, Cavanaugh Wolski

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Invasive -- knotweed both sides near the &quot;end&quot;;</td>
<td>1) Clear, clean (mostly) life-filled brook</td>
<td>1) Removal of knotweed;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Metallic junk: old car, snow machine, wire, rusty pipe, and rusty wet area</td>
<td></td>
<td>2) Removal of metallic junk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
This is a lovely wild brook with riffles, a waterfall, and pool. We saw much life which indicated a clean live environment.

Unfortunately, there is a considerable metallic junk in many places, i.e. junked car, rusted wire mess, old snowmobile, and near the “start” a rusty culvert-type pipe segment. There were some rusty wet areas near the “start.”

The road (Washington Mountain Road) just north of the “start” is now closed. It has subsided and caused the road to dip dangerously. Possibly the rusty pipe, rusty wet area we observed are connected to this problem.

A cleanup of the metallic junk would be great although it is mostly on private property.
SCENIC FEATURES:
This section is lovely. Clear, fast moving, full of life – this is a pretty brook. There is a beautiful ledge and waterfall and resulting pool. The children enjoyed swimming, catching frogs, looking for stream life, and trying to fish.

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Ledge, waterfall and resulting pool.

RECREATIONAL FEATURES:
Walking the riffles, looking for stream life, fish and birds are enjoyable here. The sides of the brook had some “posted” signs, old junk, and private homes.

BIOLOGICAL FEATURES:
7-inch Trout, 1-inch Creek Chub?, green & bull frogs, blue heron, wood anemone, bluets, false hellebore plants, cadisfly nymphs, and other aquatic insects including mayflies, stoneflies, and water striders. Invasive knotweed was on both stream sides in one area.
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-11
Stream: Shaker Mill Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Lovers Lane Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Confluence w/ Depot Brook

Survey Participant(s): Barb, Bill, Sierra, & Kai Toomey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Brooker Hill Road eroded above base of waterfall (will be fixed soon)</td>
<td>1) Good fish &amp; wildlife habitat -- well shaded, holes and dens along river bank); 2) Potential recreation with better access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
The section of Shaker Mill Brook from Lovers Lane to Route 8 is very scenic with a long, shallow waterfall/cascade and several deep pools, 2 of which might be suitable for swimming, except access through private property. The banks through the waterfall section have very steep sides. The entire stretch of river is shaded and seems food for fish. The section from just above Route 8 to the confluence with Depot Brook has houses along the banks. There are 2 sections with concrete walls along the south side. The entire stretch is rocky stream bed and is well-shaded. Water quality seems high. There is a small amount of trash – broken glass, 1-2 cans, a little rusted metal, but not much.

SCENIC & GEOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Shaker Mill Ravine: Long waterfalls with 2 deep pools and many smaller pools surrounded by hemlocks. Beautiful rocky gorge.

RECREATIONAL FEATURES:
Deep pools may be good swimming, but access is difficult – either through private property or down very steep banks.

BIOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Lots of good fish habitat – well-shaded. Lots of holes good for animal dens.
Stream Segment: WB-12
Stream: Watson Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Headwaters
Surveyed Segment ends: Watson Rd

Survey Participant(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-13
Stream: Watson Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Watson Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Confluence w/ Shaker Mill Brook

Survey Participant(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-14
Stream: Savery Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Headwaters above Frost Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Watson Rd

Survey Participant(s): Yury Heron

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
### Shoreline Survey Findings

**Stream Segment:** WB-15  
**Stream:** Savery Brook  
**Surveyed Segment begins:** Watson Rd  
**Surveyed Segment ends:** Confluence w/ Shaker Mill Brook

**Survey Participant(s):** Yury Heron

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Stream Segment: WB-16
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: High St
Surveyed Segment ends: Confluence w/ Center Pond Brook
Survey Participant(s): Kelly & Jeff Jordain

PROBLEMS:

ASSETS:

PRIORITY FOR ACTION:

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-17
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Confluence w/ Center Pond Brook
Surveyed Segment ends: Confluence w/Coles Brook

Survey Participant(s): Yury Heron

PROBLEMS: 

ASSETS: 

PRIORITY FOR ACTION: 

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION: 
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-18
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Confluence w/Coles Brook
Surveyed Segment ends: Bancroft Bridge

Survey Participant(s): Yury Heron

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PROIRITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-18B  
Stream: West Branch  
Surveyed Segment begins: Bancroft Bridge  
Surveyed Segment ends: Railroad Bridge on Middlefield/Chester Line  

Survey Participant(s): Carl Lafreniere  
Note: Survey completed in October 2006

PROBLEMS:
1) Construction debris swept downstream from Bancroft Bridge construction;  
2) Japanese Knotweed;  
3) Trash;  
4) Discarded Railroad Ties

ASSETS:
1) Keystone Arch Bridges;  
2) Whitewater paddling

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:
1) Work with MassHighway to recover bridge construction and traffic control debris;  
2) Work with railroad to remove discarded railroad ties from riverbank;  
3) River clean-up near Bancroft end;  
4) Work with Town of Chester to get junkyard cleaned up (Note: Town working with landowner as of Spring 2007)

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
New Bancroft Bridge: The height from the bottom of the bridge to the river water looked good. Having the rock removed from underneath the bridge definitely makes it look like the river will be less restricted at higher water levels. The construction of the bridge is complete. Today loam was being spread, raked out and covered with straw.

During early construction of the bridge, Jersey Barriers were placed along both sides of the river at the construction site. In an attempt to keep river water away from the construction site, the barriers were covered with clear sheets of plastic. During times of high water over the last year, it appears that the sheets of plastic shredded and clumps could be seen spread out along the river down stream from the construction site. Also noted as possible debris from the construction site was a piece of red plastic temporary fencing and two pieces of plywood.

Japanese Knotweed. At the first house after the Bancroft Bridge, the shoreline on river right is choked for about 35 yards with Knotweed. The Knotweed has spread most of the way down the river from Middlefield to Chester. Small isolated clusters of the weed have randomly spread down river on either shoreline for the entire length section of river. By looking at the amount of Knotweed present, I would have to say that it was established well before the bridge construction began.
OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Discarded railroad ties: It seems liked old ties could be found anywhere the river and railroad ran parallel to each other. The couple of times I got out of my boat and hiked up to the railroad tracks, piles of ties could be found. Most of the ties seem to be pretty old and rotted.

Two abandoned cars on river left next to a fallen in Keystone Arch.

Over the time of the survey, five trains passed through. The majority were traveling east to west. One time I was up on the tracks as a train was coming through. I was surprised as to how much diesel smoke was pouring out of the engines as it was hauling its load up hill. A sooty residue was noted on the ground when I was up by the tracks. Open top rail cars loaded with trash from the eastern end of the state headed who knows where.

Trash. From the Bancroft Bridge, to the last house on river left when leaving Bancroft was the section of the river where there seemed to be the most trash around. Most of the trash seemed to have been there awhile. Items seen were old tires, an old steel kitchen table and a 55-gallon steel drum. This short section of river on the Middlefield side would make a good candidate for an organized river clean up. A closer inspection of the area would have to be made on foot to see how extensive a clean up would be needed. It may be scary as to the amount of junk that might have been buried over time behind these houses along the river. This is just speculation on my part.

Once downstream from Bancroft I was amazed how little trash there was along the shore. I was expecting to see more Styrofoam worm containers left behind by anglers. I saw none. Other than the occasional beer can or plastic bottle, the river was pretty much devoid of litter from what I could see sitting in a kayak.

A campsite was noted on river left in Chester across from Gobble Mountain.

The condition of the site where the skidder entered and exited the shore river right (west bank) during the logging operation a few years back below Gobble Mountain should be monitored.

An old gravel pit/ junk yard was noted in Chester across from Gobble Mountain (east shore).

Wildlife. There was not much wildlife to be seen along the river during this survey. One duck was seen in Bancroft. The only other thing I saw was what I believe to be a Great Blue Heron. I played tag with this bird and pushed it down the river ahead of me.

I have run this section of river a few times since my 10/12/06 “formal” shoreline survey and noticed a few plastic orange cones and white & orange plastic barrels that highway departments use for diverting traffic strewn down the river.
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-18C & WB-18D
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Railroad Bridge on Middlefield/Chester Line
Surveyed Segment ends: Main Street Bridge, Chester

Survey Participant(s): Mike Young & Mark Damon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Dump of old vehicles &amp; tires along east bank of the river</td>
<td>1) Keystone Arch Bridge – especially double arch with scenic vista</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Buried materials or waste at old emery mill?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Railroad debris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Scattered trash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Invasives: Barberry, knotweed, and multiflora rose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
At the start of this segment the West Branch is flowing through a fairly narrowly confined valley with no easy road access. This upper section includes the scenic double-arch Keystone Arch bridge. Fairly quickly the stream nears Middlefield Road in Chester and the valley widens noticeably by the time the stream crosses that road. A few hundred yards downstream, beyond the new Chester Elementary School, is a scenic ledge where the stream passes through a fairly narrow chute. That site appears to have some recreational use in summer. In the upper reaches, above Middlefield Road, the banks are generally wooded, while farther downstream the village of Chester and the railroad become more obvious features of the surroundings. Near the outskirts of Chester an abandoned emery mill, including several structures and a bridge across the river, is encountered. Water quality throughout this segment appears to be good, and the stream bed generally consists of cobbles and boulders of quartzite, schist, granite, and gneiss.
OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Three potentially significant problems/issues were noted along this segment: (1) a sizable dump of old vehicles and tires exists along the E bank of the river on the floodplain below Middlefield Road. Access to the site is gated and the site appears to be related to the house on the NE side of Middlefield Road a little way downstream from the dump, (2) there may be buried materials of concern and/or discharge of waste into the river from the old emery mill site on the outskirts of Chester on Middlefield Road, and (3) there is a substantial amount of debris associated with the railroad activity along the E bank of the river between the old emery mill site and the Chester Railroad Depot. Other issues that are probably of less significance are (1) scattered trash, including some metal debris from the railroad, is found all along the section, though not generally in amounts that detract from the scenic vistas, and (2) invasives of barberry, knotweed, and multiflora rose are scattered along the floodplain segments adjacent to the river.

SCENIC FEATURES:
This segment of the river is generally scenic, with pleasing vistas of the river flowing beside wooded hillsides. The most scenic vista along this section is of the lowermost Keystone Arch bridge - which is fairly easy to access from Middlefield Road. The most unusual natural site is the ledge where the river is forced through a fairly narrow chute a few hundred yards below the new Chester Elementary School.

CULTURAL FEATURES:
Ruins of a foundation and swimming pool (dating to the 1960s) on the W bank of the river. An article about the site appeared in a recent Southwoods magazine. This segment includes the lowermost Keystone Arch bridge - a double arch located near the sharp bend in Middlefield Road where the road starts to climb seriously. A third site of potential interest is the now-abandoned emery mill located along Middlefield Road near the edge of the village of Chester. Several building related to this site are located on both banks of the river, and a bridge connects the two portions of the site.

GEOLGICAL FEATURES:
The ledge exposure and chute below the Chester Elementary School has nice exposures of schist and has been sculpted by erosion from the river.
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-19
Stream: Center Pond Brook
Surveyed Segment begins: Outlet of Center Pond
Surveyed Segment ends: Benton Hill Rd

Survey Participant(s): Herb & Robin Greenspan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-20  
Stream: Center Pond Brook  
Surveyed Segment begins: Benton Hill Rd  
Surveyed Segment ends: Confluence w/ West Branch

Survey Participant(s): Cavanaugh Wolski, Emerson Wolski, Dalyan Babcock, Meredyth Babcock

PROBLEMS:  
1) Culvert under Benton Hill Road presents barrier to fish

ASSETS:  
1) Rock structure at the beginning of WB 20A and at the sharp curve 1/3 of the way down Westfield River;  
2) Waterfalls near the end of WB20B

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:  
1) Preserve the historic rock structures at beginning of WB-20A and the old bridge at the sharp curve

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:  
This section of Center Pond Brook has a few wonderful historic rock structures. Hopefully the landowners are aware of their significance and understand about the importance of preserving them. The section shows very little sign of pollution or present human interaction; the small amount of garbage we encountered we carried out.

Near a small pond two-thirds of the way down there was some pieces of plastic pipe but they were not attached to anything. An old road leads off from the small pond but looked as if it was used as a footpath.

There is a series of small waterfalls that are stunning.
SCENIC & GEOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Series of small, stunning waterfalls near the end.

CULTURAL FEATURES:
Old rock walls and foundation on east side, appears to be an old mill of some kind. Thick rock structures on either side of the brook located on sharp turn. They appear to have been a stream crossing at some point. The structures are beautifully maintained and very surprising to come upon in the thick wood. It would be important to see that they are protected.
Stream Segment: WB-21  
Stream: West Branch  
Surveyed Segment begins: Main St Bridge  
Surveyed Segment ends: Emery St  
Survey Participant(s): Fran Siska & Lou Volpi

### PROBLEMS:
1) Concrete dam -- shallow;  
2) Drain pipe;  
3) Minimal trash between bridges;  
4) Railroad bridge looking south cobble and free stones -- high -- could be holding pool for fish;  
5) Major cobble island under bridge -- more volume of water;  
6) Trailer – River Access

### ASSETS:
1) Walker Brook No Algae -- very clear;  
2) Banks seem to be in good condition;  
3) Rusted bridge -- banks well kept

### PROIRITIES FOR ACTION:
1) Railroad bridge may become a hazard

### OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream corridor in excellent condition. We observed well kept river banks on both sides of the river. Rock walls well maintained. River very clean with minimal litter. Access to the river is difficult. Over grown path available at Main Street Bridge. Water temperature ranged from 52-58 degrees.
Stream Segment: WB-22  
Stream: West Branch  
Surveyed Segment begins: Emery St  
Surveyed Segment ends: Railroad Bridge  

Survey Participant(s): Fran Siska & Lou Volpi

### PROBLEMS:
1) Poison oak;  
2) Old steel sewer pipe (broken, inactive);  
3) Pipe on top of rock connected?;  
4) Bank erosion;  
5) Trees across river -- recreational hazard;  
6) Minor trash;  
7) Junk trucks;  
8) Grinding wheels everywhere;  
9) Trees ready to fall into river

### ASSETS:
1) Minnows (dace);  
2) Water very clear;  
3) Hatches of insects;  
4) Clean under railroad bridge;  
5) Large grass field, several acres, adjacent to river;  
6) No algae;  
7) Railroad;  
8) Stream converge;  
9) Access -- swimming hole

### PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:
1) Trees across river should be removed -- recreational hazard;  
2) Banks starting to erode and should be assessed by professional

### OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream corridor is in excellent condition. River very clear with water temperature of 68 degrees. Easy fishing access to the river with some parking along road side near beginning of the segment. Canoe and kayak doubtful during low water levels. Bank erosion should be assessed by professional. Trees across river and being undercut in several locations. In section 22B, a large grass field borders the river. Where the river divides into 2 branches and converges back together again, the branch closest to the railroad needs to be checked. Large swimming area under railroad bridge.

### RECREATIONAL FEATURES:
Easy fishing access to the river with some parking along road side near beginning of the segment.
Large swimming area under railroad bridge.
Stream Segment: WB-23
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Railroad Bridge
Surveyed Segment ends: Old Iron Bridge @ NEFF Property

Survey Participant(s): Fran Siska & Lou Volpi

PROBLEMS:
1) Granite Blocks;
2) Algae after bridge;
3) Grinding wheels;
4) Discharge pipes

ASSETS:
1) State access;
2) Access to parking area

PROIRITIES FOR ACTION:

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
River and corridor in excellent condition. Granite blocks are in the river. Access to the river at the MassHighway pull-off and old rusted bridge. Water temperature 68 degrees.

SCENIC FEATURES:
Hill over rusted bridge.

RECREATIONAL FEATURES:
Access at MassHighway pull-off and rusted bridge.
Stream Segment: WB-24  
Stream: West Branch  
Surveyed Segment begins: Old Iron Bridge @ NEFF Property  
Surveyed Segment ends: Railroad Bridge adj. lumber co.

Survey Participant(s): Sue Tracey & Richard Small; Abigail Touchet

**PROBLEMS:**

1) Knotweed -- marked on map;  
2) Typical erosion from spring highwater & resulting trash in trees, etc;  
3) Abbott Brook (mostly dry this time of year) culverts under railroad almost blocked will produce problems in spring with runoff

**ASSETS:**

1) John W. & Mildred G. Wright Memorial Demostration Forest (NEFF);  
2) Fishing access near start point;  
3) Plenty of evidence of wildlife;  
4) In high water, good boating -- very picturesque & "natural" (no buildings, etc. visible)

**PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:**

1) Abbott Brook Culverts

**OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:**

Water appears clean over a mostly rocky substrate with some sandy spots. River is broad, with constrictions around a small island. Upper half river left preserved forest with evidence of variety of wildlife. Lower half bordered by railroad tracks. River right upper half bordered by Route 20 – not visible due to vegetation. No noticeable problems currently, but there is evidence of fresh beaver activity in upper portion on Route 20 side, and culverts for Abbott brook under the train tracks mostly blocked. This may be an issue with high water. Very picturesque; good boating in higher water. Fishing access at start point.

**SCENIC FEATURES:**

Whole segment very scenic – no buildings in sight and feels isolated except for road noise and train tracks in lower half.

**CULTURAL FEATURES:**

John W. + Mildred G. Wright Memorial Forest: owned by New England Forestry Foundation; managed for forest products, wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and non-motorized recreation.
RECREATIONAL FEATURES:
John W. + Mildred G. Wright Memorial Forest: owned by New England Forestry Foundation; managed for forest products, wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and non-motorized recreation.

Fishing access at rusted bridge and some deep holes along segment.

High water provides canoe and kayaking opportunities.

BIOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Ducks, merganser, beaver, deer, raccoon, bear, black cherry, crayfish, stonefly nymphs, and trout.
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-25
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Railroad Bridge adj. lumber co.
Surveyed Segment ends: Old State Rd

Survey Participant(s): Susan McIntosh & Linda Hamlin

PROBLEMS:
1) Eroded Road ends in River on North side;
2) Erosion down slope from railroad tracks on south side;
3) Trash;
4) Invasive Plants

ASSETS:
1) Much of land along segment may be in CR through Hull Forestlands

PROIRITIES FOR ACTION:
1) Signs to "Carry it out";
2) Tackle knotweed, How?

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
This is a beautiful, wild stretch of the West Branch. There are a few signs of human activity, except for the occasional train going by on the tracks along the south side of the river. Yet there is also convenient access from the 4WD road on the north side. That access creates one problem: trash at various campsites. Perhaps it would help to put signs at those sites, explaining about Wild & Scenic River and encouraging “carry it out.” After all, we assume (hope) that at least some of the visitors/campers come there to enjoy the natural beauty of the place.

SCENIC FEATURES:
Scenic aesthetic waterfall.
Geologically interesting rocks.
Approximately halfway down the segment, there’s a scenic upstream (west) river view.
Approximately 1/10 of a mile from the end, there’s a scenic eastern river view.

RECREATIONAL FEATURES:
When water is deep enough, kayaking would be enjoyable. There are access points on the south side and one on the north side. Fishing is probably good all along the stretch. Similarly birding. Hiking good along 4WD road.
WALKIN THE WATERSHED – STREAM TEAM 2007
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-26
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Old State Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Allman Dr

Survey Participant(s): Krystal Fitzgerald

PROBLEMS:          ASSETS:          PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Stream Segment: WB-27
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Allman Dr
Surveyed Segment ends: Cook Hill Rd

Survey Participant(s): Lue Volpi

PROBLEMS:   ASSETS:   PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Shoreline Survey Findings

Stream Segment: WB-28
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Cook Hill Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Upper Russell Rd

Survey Participant(s): Marjory Lehan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMS:</th>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Broken pipe near bridge is an eyesore; 2) Dense algae, no odor but brown &amp; green areas -- does not look healthy; 3) Locals complain &quot;out of towners&quot; leave large amounts of trash; 4) Dirt bike trail not too close to river; 5) Parts of rocky RR embankment look like they are slipping</td>
<td>1) In general, healthy habitat &amp; clean H20; 2) Local people seem to respect river &amp; initiate cleanups of trash; 3) Limited recreational access, fishermen should be happy, nice swimming area, good birding</td>
<td>1) Broken pipe just upstream of footbridge needs to be removed -- use to carry Huntington's water supply from Knightville -- no longer in use; 2) Check why algae overgrowth by footbridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION:
Overall the river is shallow here with a rocky substrate. The water conditions seem good. The shore is mostly tangled wetland, difficult to bushwhack through. There are areas of riffles. The road and homes are mostly out of sight, making this section seemed untouched. The large broken, unused pipe that had previously crossed the river just upstream of the footbridge should be removed. It’s currently in 3 sections. This is heavy work. It’s an eyesore.

Residents along the river spoke of the huge changes in the river’s course during the last few years. Floods have eaten away large parts of the left bank (looking downstream).

SCENIC FEATURES:
Entire segment (except for area upstream of footbridge where broken pipe is located) is clean, unspoiled and scenic.
GEOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Unique glacial rocks and large rock formations.

RECREATIONAL FEATURES:
Wonderful swimming hole. Birding, fishing and boating.

BIOLOGICAL FEATURES:
Abundant fry and rich bird life.
Stream Segment: WB-29
Stream: West Branch
Surveyed Segment begins: Upper Russell Rd
Surveyed Segment ends: Rte 20 MassHighway Pullout

Survey Participant(s): William Graoy

PROBLEMS: 

ASSETS: 

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION: 

OVERALL SEGMENT DESCRIPTION: 