

MDI WATERSHED AND HABITAT PROTECTION WORKING GROUP

WORK PLAN

Mission: To promote balance between development and preservation pressures on MDI by providing information to the MDI community (both residents and visitors) about habitat and watershed issues relevant to growth, and by furthering discussion between public and private interests affecting the future of the island.

Vision: Future land use on MDI will be in keeping with the sustainable functioning of watersheds, wetlands, and significant habitat areas (both terrestrial and aquatic).

Goals: To promote awareness of the watersheds and habitats of MDI, including what and where they are, how they function, and why they are important.

Proposed Projects:

1. Produce and distribute a watershed map showing wetlands and habitat areas on MDI based on existing data, together with a web page and interpretive brochure.
2. In partnership with COA and Acadia National Park, produce a watershed map of MDI with *groundtruthed boundaries* (requiring fieldwork not included in No. 1).
3. Go before MDI planning boards, town councils, selectpersons, and other bodies to explain what watersheds are, how they work, and why they are important to the health of the island.
4. Seek to establish a center on MDI for the study of coastal watershed and habitat protection in the Gulf of Maine region by working with existing agencies/institutions, or by establishing a new year-round research entity.
5. Help local towns include watershed and habitat awareness in the planning process by supplying information and helping draft local zoning guidelines for urban, residential, and rural areas (e.g., helping citizens set impervious-surface standards based on recent research at the University of Maine).
6. Declare a “Year of the Watershed” and facilitate hiring a watershed educator or storyteller to work with towns and schools on raising awareness of habitat areas and watersheds on MDI, including their relationships with the receiving waters of Frenchman and Blue Hill Bays and Somes Sound.

Scope of Work: We will base our efforts on existing data, and serve as a clearinghouse to facilitate distribution of up-to-date resources and information.

Time Line: As appropriate, we will provide timely input to MDI-Tomorrow committees, as well as comprehensive planning and other committees in the four island towns.

Drafted by Bob Collins, Jane Disney, Donna Gann, Michael Good, and Steve Perrin, 1-25-2003; with revisions proposed by Jane Disney, Michael Good, Steve Perrin, and Jill Weber, 1-26-2003.