

# Update on Parsons Creek Watershed

## Town of Rye Select Board

### September 22, 2014

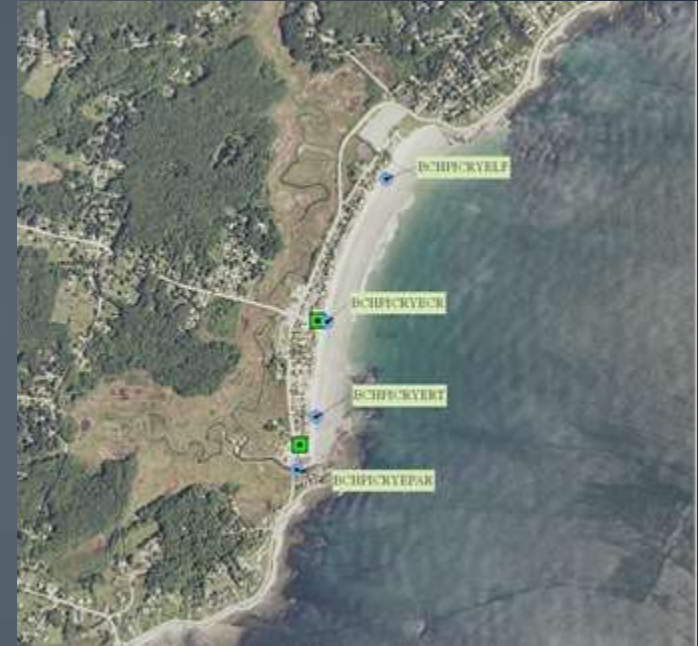
Emily DiFranco, FB Environmental Associates  
170 West Road, Suite 6, Portsmouth, NH

# The Parsons Creek Watershed



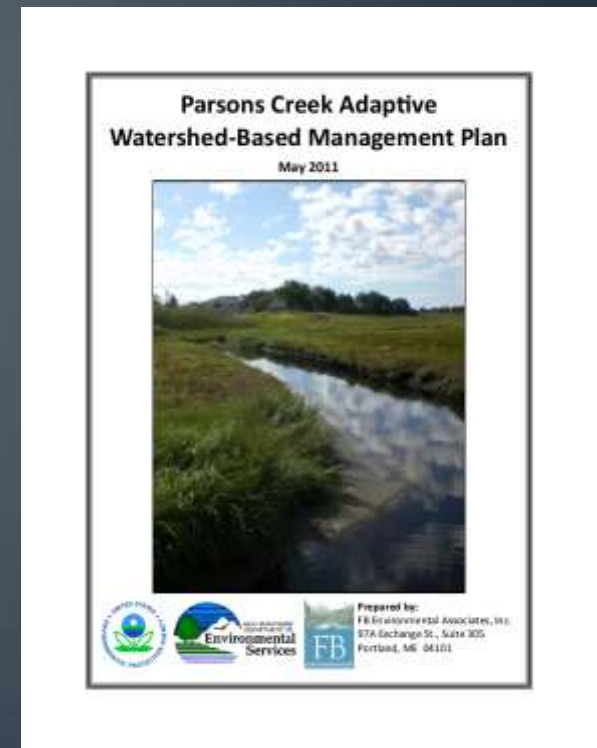
# Parsons Creek Impairments

- Listed as impaired by the NH DES
  - Enterococci bacteria
  - PCBs
  - Mercury
  - Dioxin
- Wallis Sands Beach at Wallis Road
  - “Beach Right” location near outlet
  - Multiple days over the standard
  - Four advisories since 2003



# Addressing the Problem

- 2011 Watershed Based Plan
  - Sources: stormwater runoff and septic systems
  - Actions:
    - Install BMPs
    - Strengthen/develop ordinances
    - Educate residents and municipal staff
    - Conserve land



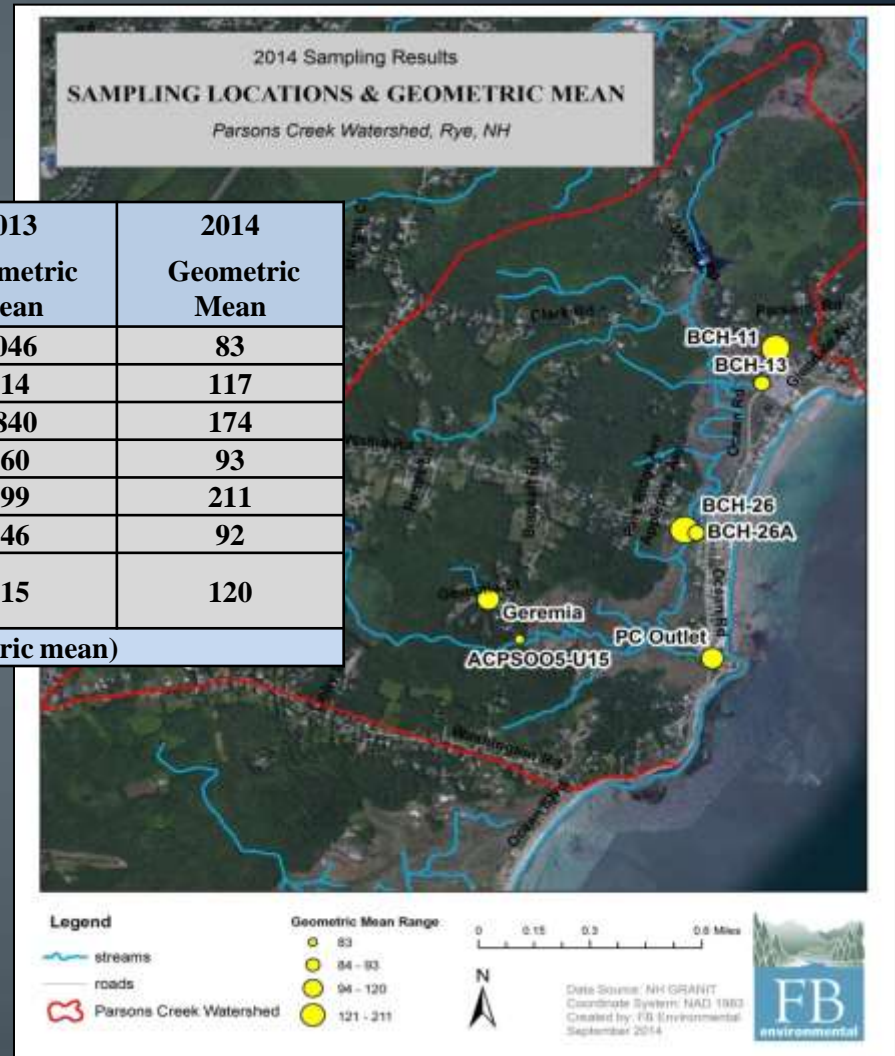
# NH DES Water Quality Grant

- 2012 Parsons Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Project, Phase I
  - \$42,465 grant, \$30,493 in-kind match
  - Stormwater BMPs (Wallis, Brackett, Marsh, Geremia)
  - Septic database, outreach, and survey
  - Water quality sampling



# Water Quality Sampling

- Watershed Scale



Sample ID	Site Location	2013 Geometric Mean	2014 Geometric Mean
ACPS005 U15	Brackett Road	1046	83
Geremia	Geremia Road	714	117
BCH 11	Marsh Road	2840	174
BCH 13	Ocean Blvd	860	93
BCH 26	Wallis Road	799	211
BCH 26A	Wallis Road	346	92
PC OUTLET	Parson Creek outlet on Ocean Blvd.	315	120

**NH DES enterococci standard = 35 colonies/100 mL (geometric mean)**

- Higher concentrations in wet weather
- Concentrations before July were low
- 2013 data higher than 2014

# Beach Investigation (2013 and 2014)

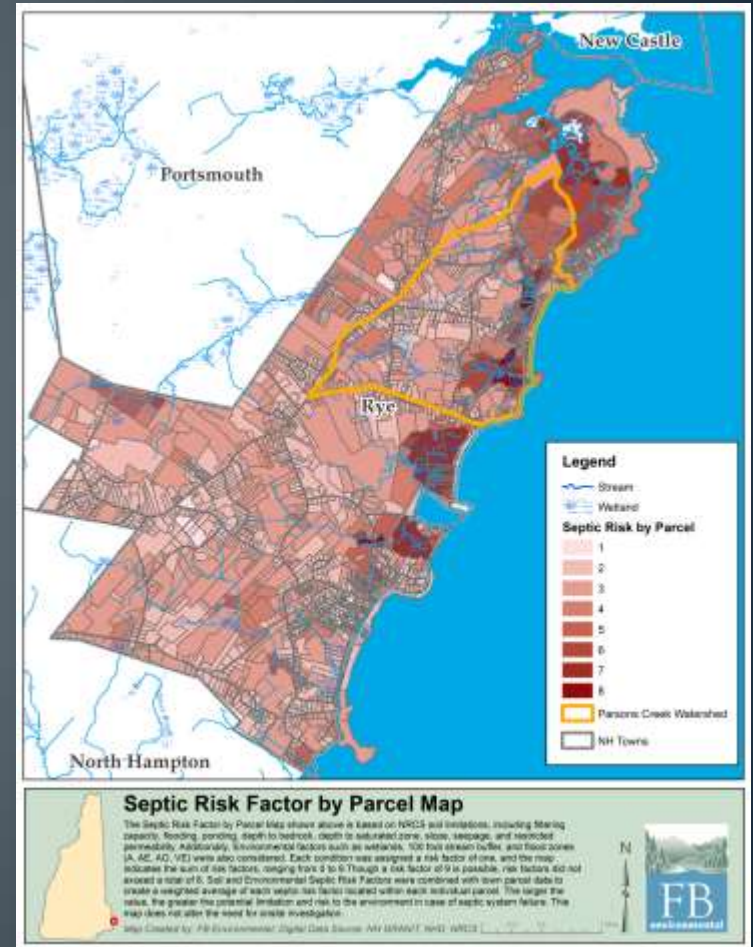
- Canine Detection
- Weekly/Nightly Sampling



- Presence of human-derived bacteria
- Variable concentrations (daily, weekly, monthly)

# Septic Database

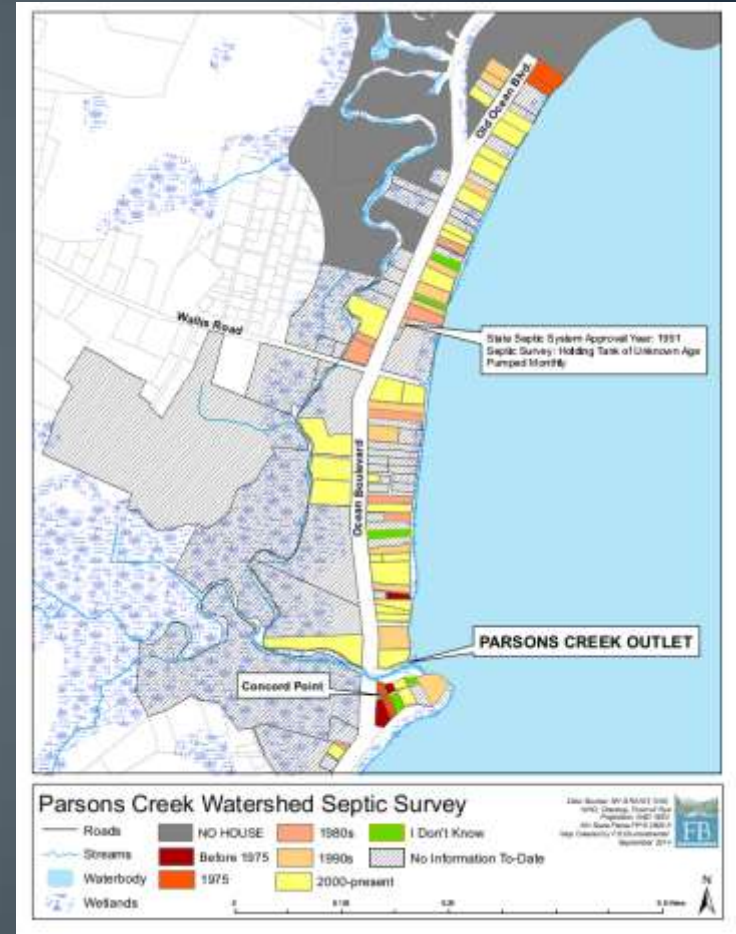
- “Septic Risk Factor”
  - Town and state records
  - Soils, proximity to wetlands, flooding risk, proximity to streams, etc.





# Septic Survey

- Ocean and Old Ocean Blvd.
  - 123 parcels in focus area
  - 107 built
    - Septic dates for 61 of 107
    - 26% installed since 2000



**We're planning to visit your neighborhood**

You've probably heard that the Town of Rye has been working toward improving water quality in the Parsons Creek Watershed.

As part of that effort, representatives from the Town of Ryehill, the consulting firm of TFI Environmental are conducting a door-to-door survey of households near Parsons Creek. The information gathered will be used to estimate the extent of a small septic system use. This survey is not an enforcement inspection - it's simply intended to help build an accurate resource model of the stream and its watershed.

We're asking you to take a few minutes to provide the information needed for the survey when members of the team visit your property. If you are not home during the survey, a copy will be left that can be filled out and mailed or delivered to the Town of Ryehill.


For more details, see the other side of this card.  
And thank you so much for your assistance!


  
Town of Ryehill, New Hampshire

A representative from the Town of Ryehill and TFI Environmental will be surveying the households of your neighborhood the week of

**August 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

If you prefer not to be contacted during the survey, please provide permission and street address to the Town of Ryehill by calling 603-964-9900 or by sending an email to [land@townofryehill.com](mailto:land@townofryehill.com).

 Town of Ryehill • 10 Central Rd • Ryehill, NH 03875

 TFI Environmental • 170 West Rd. Suite 4 • Portsmouth, NH 03801

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# What Else Can We Do?

- Develop a septic pump-out ordinance
  - Initial inspection of system;
  - Pumping requirement (homeowner);
  - Reporting requirement (pumpers and haulers);
  - Tracking, notification, and enforcement requirement (town).
- Examples:
  - York, ME: Pump every 3 years (Watershed Protection Overlay) and 5 years everywhere else.
  - Meredith, NH: Must “prove” to town that they are not in failure (inspection) every five years (within 250 feet)
  - Yarmouth, ME: Town provides pumping services (all receive sewer bill)

# What Else Can We Do?

- Assist homeowners with replacement/inspection
  - EPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) – Town obtains loan and loans to residents
  - HUD Community Block Grants – Low/moderate income; community development needs
  - NH DES 319 Funding

# NH DES Water Quality Grant New Application

- 2015 Parsons Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Project, Phase II
  - Pre-proposal approved by NH DES; full proposal due on Nov 14
  - Additional stormwater BMPs
  - Septic Evaluation and Replacement Program
    - Septic Evaluation (up to 20 homes)
    - Septic Replacement (\$5K for up to 5 homes each)
  - Public Outreach
  - \$70,000 grant, \$45,000 match
    - In-kind (DPW and other staff labor and equipment)
    - Homeowner match for septic replacement
    - Water quality sampling (\$5K per year)

# Questions?

