

PRWC's Major Milestones: Ten Years of Community Service 1999—2009

1998—Marc Taylor meets Larry Pond; Dick Leavenworth expresses need for watershed group to Woodbury Conservation Commission

1999—Marc, Larry, and Dick form Watershed Steering Committee and begin working with town governments

May 15, 2000—PRWC becomes Incorporated

Fall 2000—First two employees hired

Spring 2001— PRWC moves into the Audubon Center at Bent of the River

April 2001—State of the Watershed Report Published

2002—Website goes online

Summer 2001— Volunteer Streamwalk Survey Program begins to gauge health of river corridors

2003/04—Pomperaug Water Resources Management Project initiated; research includes MesoHABSIM (fish habitat study) & USGS's Precipitation Runoff Modeling

2004— First Membership Campaign

2006— First Annual Macroinvertebrate Survey (volunteers survey tiny, river-dwelling creatures to assess water quality)

2005— Streamwalk Summary Report and Proposed Action Plan published; Watershed Management Plan developed

2007—Outreach Director position added; New Science Outreach to towns and Watershed Capsule school programs begin

Winter 2008—Habitat Meter added to website, indicator of fish habitat health

Fall 2008—Drought Simulation Exercise involves town and state officials

Keeping your water pure and plentiful

PRWC's work

- Conducting and supporting scientific research including:
 - Studies of water quality, water flows, and water levels
 - Bedrock mapping to better understand our public and private wells
 - Habitat studies to document fish life in relation to water flow
 - Streamwalks to monitor erosion and identify impairment sites
 - Annual studies of tiny aquatic macro-invertebrates as indicators of water quality
- Informing local policymakers on water quality and water management issues
- Educating residents about their water source and riverfront homeowners on best practices in lawn care, wetlands maintenance, and stream buffer management
- Simulations to help municipal officers better understand and prepare for droughts and other environmental crises
- Educating young people about river stewardship and watershed ecology
- Convening stakeholders--environmental groups, business leaders, town officials and residents--to advance understanding of water issues and to facilitate regional cooperation

Results

- The source and quality of your drinking water are better protected.
- The Pomperaug River Watershed has been used as a model watershed for others in our state and nation.
- Elected officials and the general public can make better environmental, land use, and growth decisions.
- Significant federal and state dollars have been directed toward research and remediation in our watershed.
- We can all have greater assurance that the ecology and beauty of our rivers and streams will be maintained.