

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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NH Rivers Management and Protection Program River Classifications and State Regulated Protection Measures by Classification

This table is a partial description of the protection measures by river classification for all rivers designated into the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RSA 483). When a river is designated into the Rivers Program, the protection measures of the Program and the provisions of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B) become effective.

In the table, the non-shaded cells indicate the protection measures contained within the Rivers Program and the shaded cells indicate the activities and setbacks contained within the Shoreland Act, which apply to all larger (4th order and higher) rivers in the state as well as to 1st, 2nd and 3rd order streams that have been designated into the Rivers Program. Please see the Rivers Management and Protection Act ([RSA 483](#)) and the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act ([RSA 483-B](#)) for a complete description of all protection measures and exemptions.

Activities	River Classifications			
	Natural	Rural	Rural-Community	Community
Dams & Channel Alterations				
<i>Construction of New Dams</i>	No	No	No	Yes
<i>Reconstruction of Breached Dams</i>	No	Yes (within six years)	Yes (within six years)	Yes
<i>Channel Alterations</i>	No (excluding bridge, road & riprap repairs)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)
<i>New Hydroelectric Facility</i>	(Not addressed in statute)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)
Water Quality/Water Quantity				
<i>Water Quality</i>	Class A or B	Class B	Class B	Class B
<i>Interbasin Transfers</i>	No	No	No	No
<i>Protected Instream Flow</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreational Use				
<i>Motorized Watercraft</i>	No	Yes (only "headway" speed within 150 ft. of shore)	Yes (only "headway" speed within 150 ft. of shore)	Yes (only "headway" speed within 150 ft. of shore)
Waste Disposal				
<i>New Landfills</i>	None within ¼ mi.	None within ¼ mi. (except Rochester)	None within 100 ft. of 500 yr floodplain	None within 100 ft. of 500 yr floodplain
<i>Expansion of Landfill</i>	Not within 100 ft. of 500 yr floodplain	Not within 100 ft. of 500 yr floodplain	Yes	Yes
<i>New Hazardous Waste Facilities</i>	None within ¼ mi.	None within 250 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 II(a))*		
<i>Other New Solid Waste Facilities</i>	None within 250 ft.	None within 250 ft.	None within 250 ft.	None within 250 ft.

	River Classifications			
Activities	Natural	Rural	Rural-Community	Community
<i>Sludge and Septage</i>	None within 250 ft.	None within 250 ft.	None within 250 ft.	None within 250 ft.
<i>New Septic Systems</i>	None within 75 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 V(c))			
<i>Replacement Septic Systems</i>	Meet 75 ft. setback to extent practicable (RSA 483-B:9 V(c))			
<i>Sale of Waterfront Property with Septic Sys.</i>	Waterfront Property Site Assessment Study of septic system required for sale of properties within 200 ft. (RSA 485-A:39)			
<i>New Auto Junk Yards or Salt Storage Yards</i>	None within 250 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 II(a))			
Fertilizer				
<i>Limestone</i>	Yes (Env-Wq 1402.09)			
<i>Slow or Controlled Release Fertilizer</i>	None within 25 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 II(d))			
<i>All Other Fertilizers</i>	None within 50 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 V(a))			
Pesticides and Herbicides				
<i>All pesticides and herbicides</i>	None within 50 ft. except with applicator license (RSA 483-B:9 V(a))			
Development within 250 ft. of River				
<i>Primary Structure</i>	Setback 50 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 II(b))			
<i>Accessory Structures</i>	Setback 20 ft. (Env-Wq 1405)			
<i>Impervious Surface Cover</i>	Greater than 20% within 250 ft. requires stormwater plan; Greater than 30% within 250 ft. requires stormwater plan developed by engineer (RSA 483-B:9 V(g))			
<i>River Frontage</i>	150 ft. minimum lot frontage (RSA 483-B:9 V(e-f))			
<i>Land Disturbance (new or existing use)</i>	Yes. Shoreland permit required for construction, excavation or fill unless exempted in Env-Wq 1406.04 (RSA 483-B:5-b). Alteration of Terrain permit also required if exceeding 50,000 sq. ft. (RSA 485-A:17)			
Removal of Vegetation within Waterfront Buffer (0-50 ft.):				
<i>Trees & Shrubs</i>	Yes, with limitations within 50 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 V(a))			
<i>Natural Ground Cover</i>	None within 50 ft. except 6 ft. path (RSA 483-B:9 V(a))			
<i>Stumps, Roots and Rocks</i>	Yes, permit required within 50 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 V(a))			
Removal of Vegetation within Natural Woodland Buffer (50-150 ft.):				
<i>Natural Woodland</i>	25% remains unaltered between 50 and 150 ft. (RSA 483-B:9 V(b))			

* The RMPP does not address hazardous waste facilities for Rural, Rural-Community, or Community Rivers.

Natural rivers are free-flowing rivers or segments characterized by the high quality of natural and scenic resources. River shorelines are in primarily natural vegetation and river corridors are generally undeveloped. Development, if any, is limited to forest management and scattered housing.

Rural rivers or segments flow adjacent to lands which are partially or predominantly used for agriculture, forest management and dispersed or clustered residential development. Some instream structures may exist, including low dams, diversion works and other minor modifications.

Rural-community rivers or segments flow through areas with mixed land uses reflecting some combination of open space, agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial land uses. Such rivers are readily accessible by road or railroad and may include impoundments or diversions, as well as developed centers that could qualify for Shoreland Act urban exemptions.

Community rivers or segments flow through developed or populated areas and are readily accessible by road or railroad. These rivers may include existing or potential impoundments or diversions for hydropower, flood control or water supply, as well as urban centers that could qualify for Shoreland Act urban exemptions.

For further information about the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program visit the NHDES website at: <http://www.des.state.nh.us/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/>, or contact the Rivers Coordinator, 29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-2959; riversprogram@des.nh.gov.