

Working Together to Develop a Shediac Bay Watershed Management Plan

Water is one of New Brunswick’s most important and valuable natural resources. Effective management and sustainable use of this resource is essential to ensure its long-term availability, quality and quantity to support both human and natural uses.

The Government of New Brunswick is committed to the protection of water quality. For the past few years, water quality at Parlee Beach has been an area of concern for local residents. While water quality at Parlee Beach is very good, Government has been supporting further study to gain a better understanding of the watershed.

The findings of the Steering Committee that led to this work can be found in the *Parlee Beach Water Quality Shediac, New Brunswick Final Report*. Of the 14 recommendations presented to government, the development of a Shediac Bay Watershed Management Plan is an important next step in addressing water quality within the watershed.



Figure 1: Shediac Bay Watershed



What is a watershed?

A **watershed** is a land area (also referred to as a catchment area), that captures and channels rainfall and snowmelt towards a common discharge point (i.e. reservoir, bay, ocean). Figure 1 identifies the catchment area that drains into Shediac Bay.

What is a Watershed Management Plan?

A **watershed management plan** is a document that characterizes a watershed and designs and structures a working plan to establish a set of goals and objectives that protect and improve water quality and natural resources within its boundaries. It describes the actions and process of implementing sustainable land-use practices and water management programs that allows the community to accomplish and achieve these goals.

Why develop a watershed management plan?

- It will help us understand and characterize the current state of the Shediac Bay Watershed
- It will identify areas and issues of concern
- It will allow us to work with the community and build relationships with stakeholders, local governments, and First Nations
- It will allow us to develop an action plan that will address areas and issues of concern
- It will help continue to protect the Shediac Bay Watershed over the long-term.

Who will be involved in developing the watershed management plan?

EVERYONE

- Local environmental groups
- First Nations
- Academic community
- Provincial and federal government departments
- Residents and landowners within the watershed
- Businesses
- The town, LSDs, etc.

Here are the steps involved in developing a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the Shediac Bay Watershed

