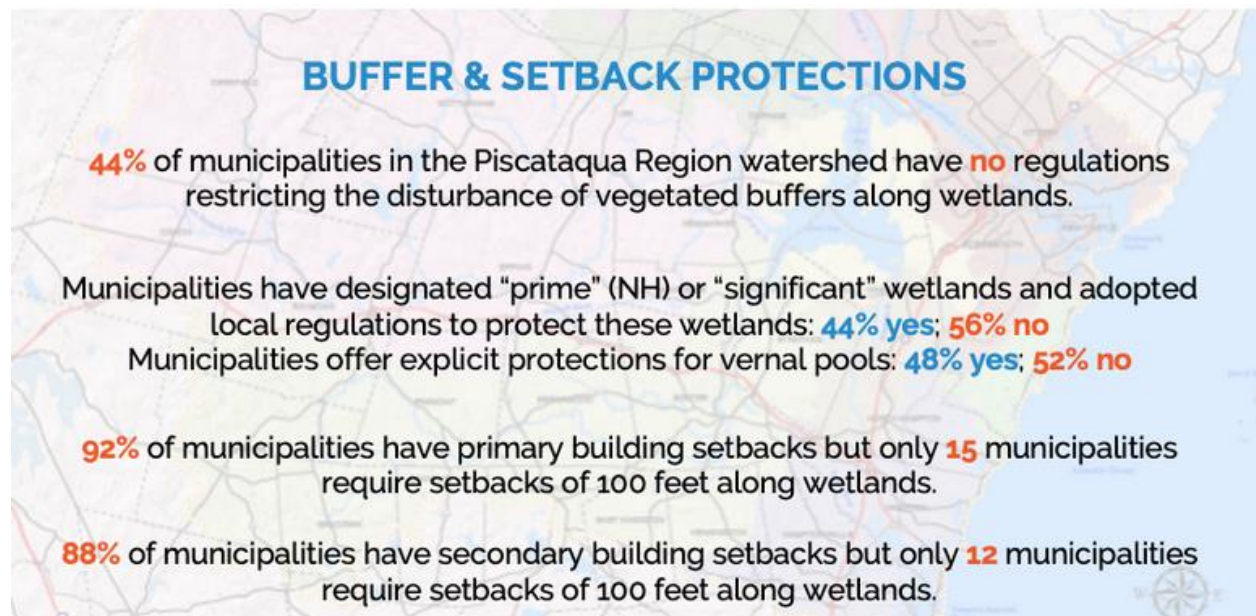


## From: Downstream Winter 2021: 2020 PREPA Data & Grant Opportunity!

On Monday, February 1, 2021 PREP published the third [Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment](#) (PREPA) (previous publications: [2010](#) and [2015](#)). Like the [State of Our Estuaries](#) reports, PREPA serves as a "status and trends" report but instead of tracking environmental indicators like nitrogen loading, oysters, or eelgrass, *PREPA tracks management indicators* like wetland buffer minimum distances, stormwater management regulations, and building and septic system setbacks. These management strategies help our communities make improvements to water quality in our Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook estuaries and the region's wetlands, streams, lakes, and ponds.

Despite progress our communities have made over the last five years, *critical protections are still needed in most of our communities. Results from the 2020 assessment show that management actions remain inconsistent across the Piscataqua Region watershed. Because our region's lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, wetlands, and estuaries are all connected, consistent protections for even 1st order streams better supports water quality downstream. By adopting and enforcing local land use regulations like buffers and setbacks communities can protect water quality, natural resources, and increase community resilience.*



An example of the summary analysis provided in the 2020 PREPA. Check out more by exploring the data online!

*Similar to the 2015 PREPA, the 2020 assessment began with an updated, edited, and streamlined assessment form to include new questions related to septic systems, drinking water, and more details about climate adaptation and resilience. Data was collected for all 52 communities in the watershed with the help of the [Rockingham Planning Commission](#), the [Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission](#), the [Strafford Regional Planning Commission](#), and the [Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission](#). With regional planning support, each community answered 50+ questions related to four primary focus areas: freshwater wetlands, shoreland protection, stormwater management and erosion control, and climate adaptation and resilience.*

*All data and recommendations are available online including:*

- A [SUMMARY OF FINDINGS](#) from the assessment and dynamic charts for the four focus areas to compare protections across communities
- Region-wide [ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS](#) help implement recommendations
- [COMMUNITY SPECIFIC DATA](#) is available for each town and [SUBWATERSHED](#) (New for 2020)
- [COMMUNITY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS](#) based on assessment questions (check out the grant opportunity section below for details about the 2021 PREPA Grant Program to implement these recommendations in your community!)

*PREP plans to update the assessment more frequently to provide more up-to-date data for our communities to better protect our region's valuable resources. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement for a webinar to walk through the 2020 assessment and an opportunity to ask questions about the assessment and grant opportunity.*

*Have questions about the 2020 assessment? Please email Abigail Lyon, Community Technical Assistance Program Manager, [Abigail.Lyon@unh.edu](mailto:Abigail.Lyon@unh.edu).*

## **2020 Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment**

<https://prepestuararies.org/resources/prepa/>