

Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative



Betsy White, Project Coordinator
 Buzzards Bay Action Committee
 Stormwater Collaborative Project



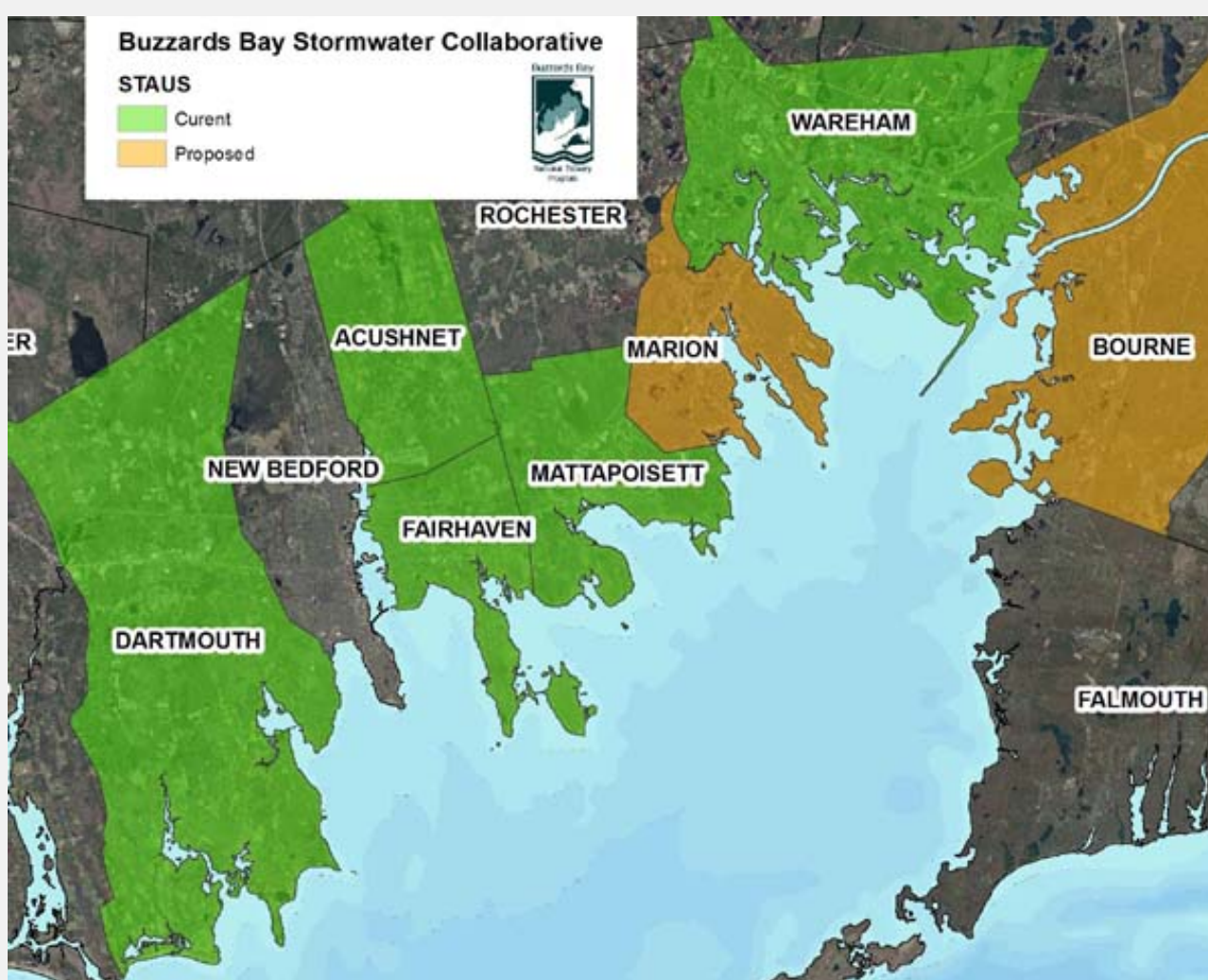
This initiative will help map stormwater infrastructure, identify pollution sources, and gather the kinds of information necessary to prioritize action to reduce stormwater pollution and ultimately re-open shellfish beds. The results of this project will eventually lead to stormwater treatment design for priority sites.

The Stormwater Collaborative currently consists of five towns (Dartmouth, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and Wareham) that are working with the Buzzards Bay Action Committee and the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program on this initiative.

BBNEP, BBAC staff, and interns worked with local public works departments to identify and sample stormwater discharges, including pipes, manholes, catch basins, and road cuts.

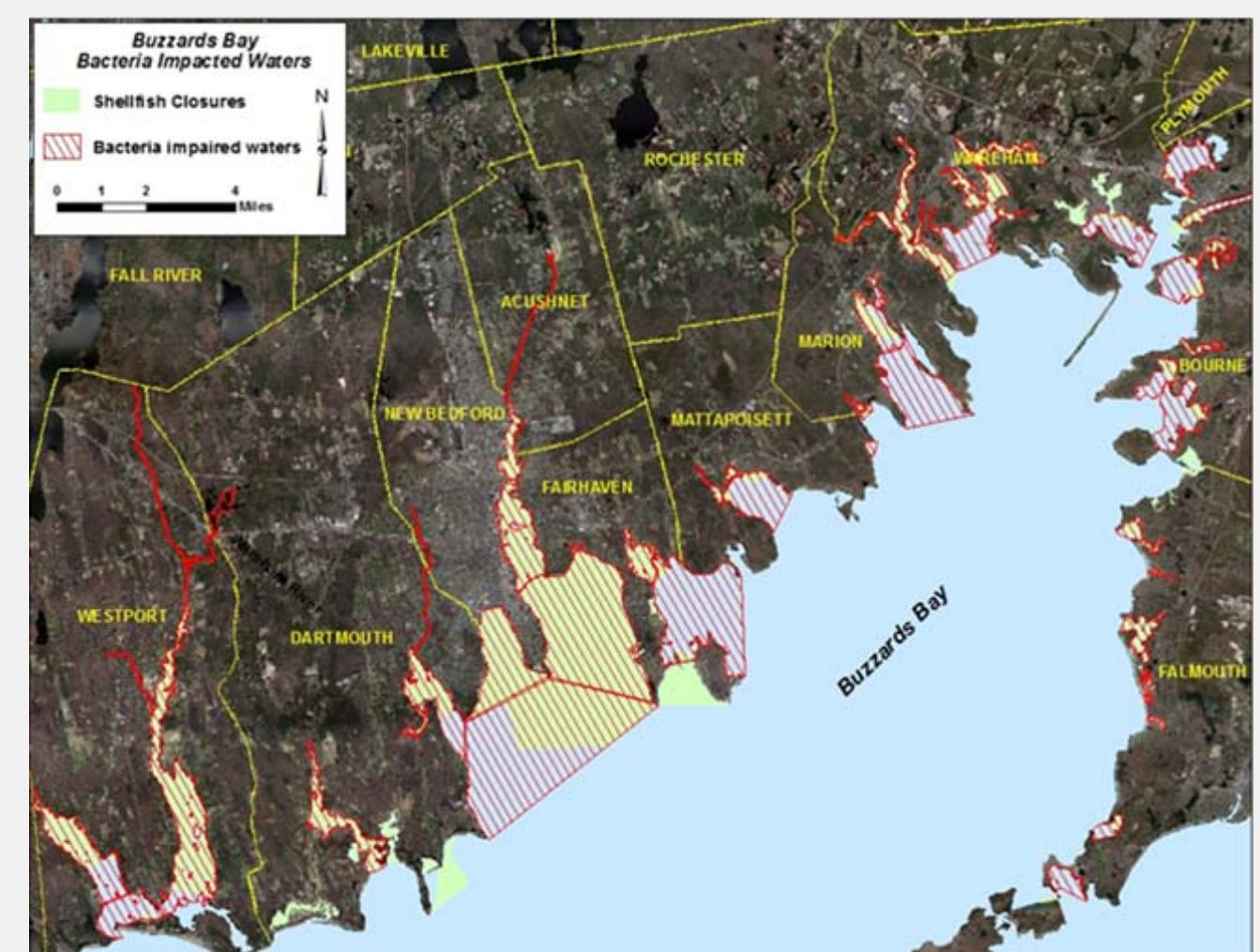


Samples were analyzed for bacteria as well as for various parameters such as nitrates and detergents



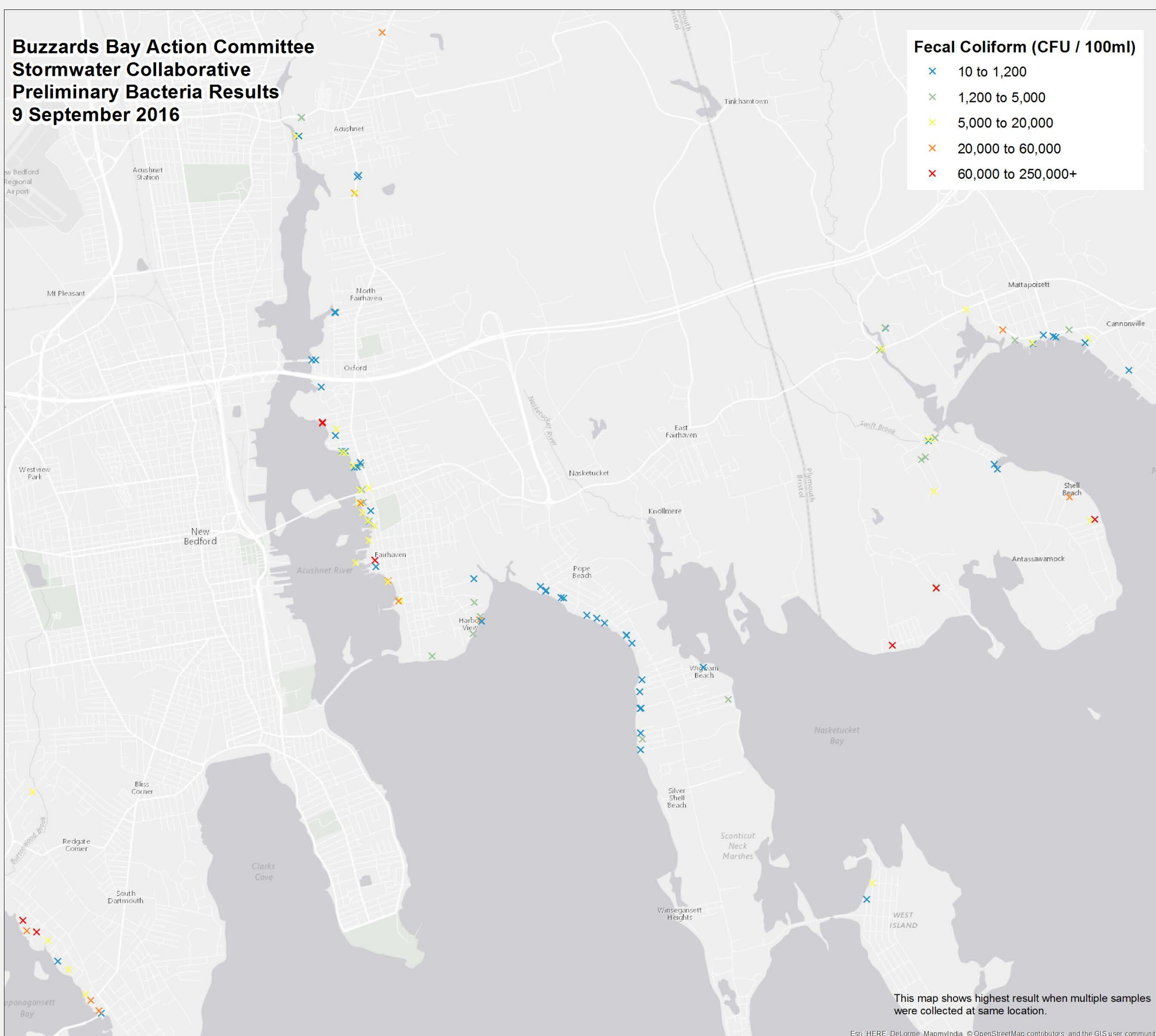
Collaborative Towns

Bacteria Impaired Waters



Challenges

- The training of interns and staff from numerous towns, all of whom became more proficient over time
- The field testing of instruments and protocols in order to establish consistency and efficiency
- The logistics of scheduling interns, highway departments, health labs, and sample analysis for daily sampling events
- The project period coincided with one of the worst local droughts in recent history
- Other towns have expressed interest in becoming involved in this project but have not been able to due to lack of funding



Outcomes

- The mapping of stormwater networks throughout each town, focusing on those connected to priority discharge pipes
- While lack of rain affected monitoring, it facilitated the identification of illicit connections, of which there were few
- A good general correlation was found between fecal coliform and enterococcus, eventually limiting testing to one indicator
- We tested, changed, and adopted protocols which allowed the streamlining of data collection
- We used local municipal knowledge to more efficiently and accurately map and sample sites
- We established working relationships with towns, laboratories, and the public which will be assets for future stormwater initiatives and funding
- Creating a “blueprint” which other towns can use to develop their own stormwater monitoring program
- By employing student interns, this project helped train and give experience to the next generation of environmental advocates

This project was funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This project may not necessarily reflect the views of EPA, and no official endorsement should be inferred, mention of trade names, commercial products or enterprises does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the EPA.

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For More Information Contact:

Betsy White
 Buzzards Bay Action Committee
 (508) 990-0931
<http://buzzardsbayaction.org/>