A watershed is an area of land that drains into a particular river, lake or other body of water. In the Southeast Environmental Association (SEA) region there are six main watershed areas, made up of 26 sub-watersheds, covering 731.6km$^2$. One of the main watershed areas is the Murray River watershed. It is made up of five sub-watersheds.

**Location**

The Murray River and Area watershed is located in southern Kings County and includes all areas that drain into the Murray River and Murray Harbour. This includes:

- Murray River
- Greek River
- Fox River
- South River
- Nicolle Point

**Total length of streams:** 108.4km

**Total area:** 13,855.8ha (138.6km$^2$)

**Basin Name:** Murray Harbour

**Largest Land Use:** Forest (64.7%)

**Physical Description**

- **Murray River watershed** drains into Murray Harbour which flows into the Northumberland Strait then to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The watershed covers an area of 70km$^2$, with headwaters located in Mount Vernon, Hopefield and Glenwilliam. The total length of streams in this watershed is 52km which includes Maclure’s Pond, the largest pond in PEI.

- **Greek River watershed** covers an area of 36.2km$^2$ including Cambridge and Peters Road. There are 24.8km of streams flowing into Murray Harbour from this watershed.

- **Fox River watershed** is 11.1km$^2$ in area, with 7.4km$^2$ of forested land. It is made up of 9.8km of streams that drain into Murray Harbour before flowing out into the Northumberland Strait.
**South River watershed** covers 20.2km$^2$ including the Community of Murray Harbour. It has 22.1km of streams draining into Murray Harbour, before flowing out into the Northumberland Strait.

**Nicolle Point watershed** is the smallest in the SEA region. It is 1.2km$^2$ in area. It has 10m of stream draining into Nicolle Cove, then the waters move out into Murray Harbour.

**Watershed and Area Land Use**

Based on land use data from 2010, forested areas dominate the land in the Murray River and Area watershed at 64.7%. Agricultural land accounts for 18.2%. Developed land, which includes commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, residential, transportation and urban, covers 7.5%. Wetlands cover 6.1% and the remaining 3.5% of land has no evident use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Murray River (Hectares)</th>
<th>Greek River (Hectares)</th>
<th>Fox River (Hectares)</th>
<th>South River (Hectares)</th>
<th>Nicolle Point (Hectares)</th>
<th>Total Area (Hectares)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1363.6</td>
<td>613.6</td>
<td>157.6</td>
<td>387.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2525.9</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed</td>
<td>203.5</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>427.9</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>4556.4</td>
<td>2517.9</td>
<td>737.1</td>
<td>1065.8</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>8967.0</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland</td>
<td>344.4</td>
<td>166.4</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>238.5</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>845.0</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-evident</td>
<td>249.5</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>477.9</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MacLure’s Pond**

MacLure’s Pond, located in Murray River, is the largest freshwater body in Prince Edward Island. It is highlighted by the Murray River Pines Trail, which offers a short hike through red and white pines trees.

**Conservation Issues**

Riparian assessments of the Murray River and Area watershed have not been completed in recent years. The 2001 watershed management plan for Murray River highlighted some of the issues in the streams; however, due to funding restraints, SEA was unable to complete the necessary restoration work. With little stream restoration completed in the Murray River and Area watershed, these issues still remain:

- Natural blockages
- Beaver activity
- Thick alder growth
- Sedimentation

These issues may result in:

- Fish passage impediment
- Loss of habitat
- Loss of biodiversity

**Get Involved!**

SEA can now carry out restoration work on streams in the region. An updated management plan for the Murray River and Area watershed needs to be developed to address issues in the area. SEA requires public support and input for this to be successful. We urge you to get involved. Please contact us if you are interested in improving the watershed you live in.