

What is a Tactical Basin Plan?

A Tactical Basin Plan (TBP) is a strategic guidebook produced by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to protect and restore Vermont's surface waters. The agency develops these watershed plans for each of the 15 major basins in the State of Vermont. TBPs target strategies and prioritize resources to those actions that will have the greatest influence on surface water protection or restoration.



Figure 1. Policy requirements of Tactical Basin Planning.

TBPs are integral to meeting a broad array of both state and federal requirements including the U.S Environmental Protection Agency's 9-element framework for watershed plans (Environmental Protection Agency, 2008) and state statutory obligations including those of the Vermont Clean Water Act, and 10 VSA § 925 and 10 VSA § 1253 (Figure 1).



Figure 2. Five-year basin planning cycle.

Tactical basin planning is carried out by the Water Investment Division in collaboration with the Watershed Management Division and in coordination with other state agencies and watershed partners. A successful basin planning process depends on a broad base of partnerships with other state, federal, regional, and local government agencies, and other stakeholders, including community and non-profit groups and academic institutions. The partnerships support and strengthen the Agency's programs by proposing new ideas and input, increasing understanding of water quality issues, and building commitment to implementing solutions.

Basin-specific water quality goals, objectives, strategies, and projects described in this Plan aim to protect public health and safety ensure public use and enjoyment of Vermont waters and their ecological health as set forward in the [Vermont Surface Water Management Strategy](#) and the

[Vermont Water Quality Standards](#). The TBP process shown in Figure 2, allows for the issuance of plans for Vermont's 15 basins every five years.

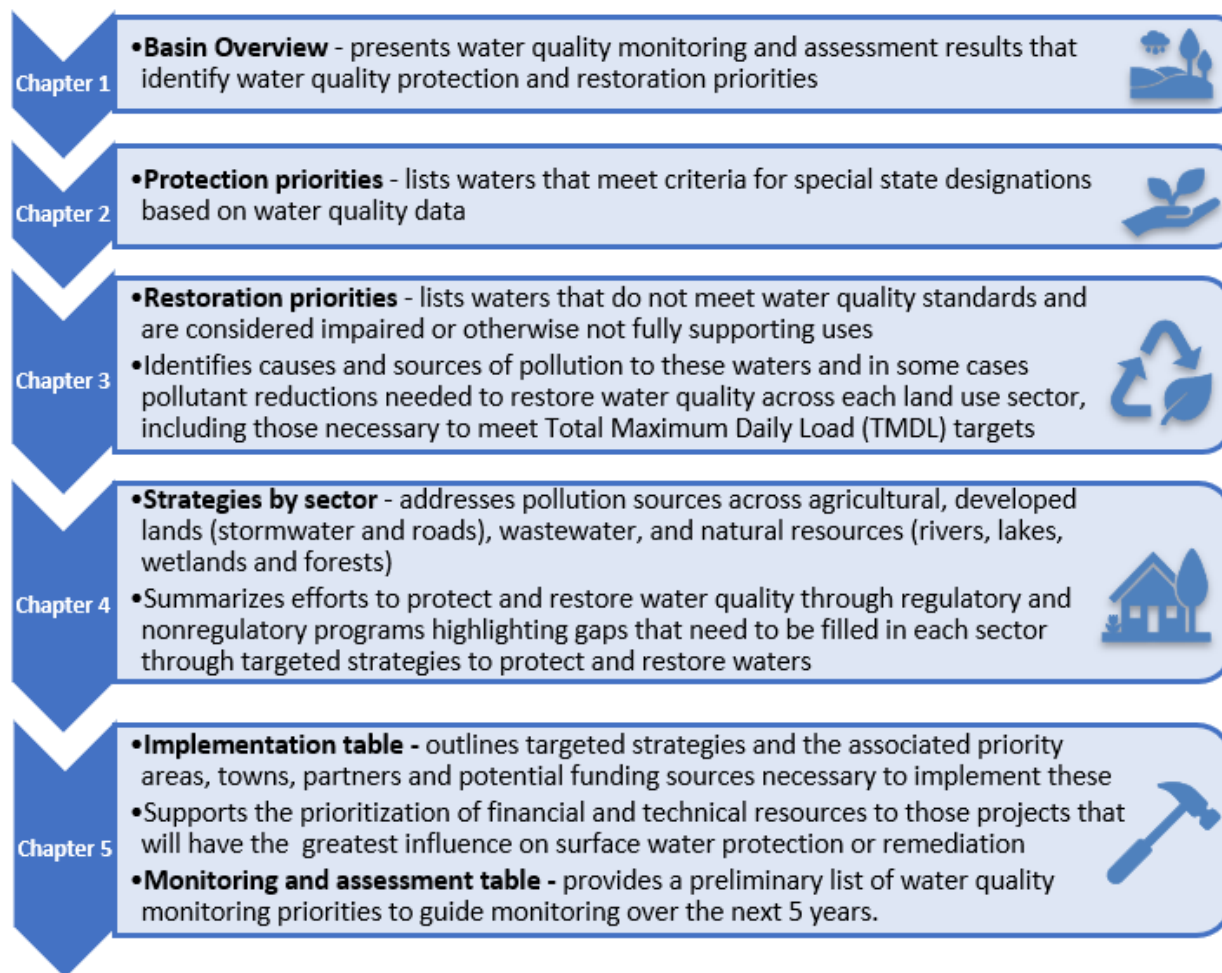


Figure 3. Chapters of Tactical Basin Plans.

Chapters 1 through 4 in the TBP describe water quality in the Basin, protection and restoration priorities, and efforts to protect and restore water quality for each sector. This information supports the targeted strategies listed in the implementation table in Chapter 5 (Figure 3).

Tactical Basin Plans identify strategies that help ANR, and its partners, prioritize activities for the next five years. These strategies inform individual projects that are identified and tracked in the [Watershed Projects Database](#) and the [Watershed Projects Explorer](#). The Project Database and Explorer are found on ANR's Clean Water Portal and are continuously updated to capture project information throughout the TBP process.