



**Mashpee  
Environmental  
Coalition**



## Environmental News

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### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, August 2, 2025 - 9am to 12noon**

**Free Latex Paint Take-Back Day**

**Tony Kent Arena, 8 South Gage's Way, Dennis**

Latex paint can be dropped off for free and will be reused by ReColor. No oil, stains, or marine paint will be accepted, but these may be brought to the Hazardous Waste Collection at Mashpee Middle-High School on August 16th - see notice below. More information about the August 2nd event is available [here](#).

**Sunday, August 3, 2025 - 3pm to 6pm**

**Waquoit Bay Block Party and Cookout on the Bay**

**131 Waquoit Highway, Waquoit**

Join the Waquoit Bay Reserve and Friends of the Waquoit Bay Reserve for a free cookout and block party overlooking beautiful Waquoit Bay. Live music, research demos, hand-on activities, games and crafts. Reserve and partner organizations will highlight what they are doing to monitor changes in the environment and protect our natural resources. All attendees are asked to register [here](#).

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025 - Refreshments 5:30pm, Meeting 6pm**

**Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay - Annual Meeting**

**Waquoit Congregational Church, Parish Hall, Parsons Lane and Rt 28, Waquoit**

Program will feature Speaker Steve Rafferty, Falmouth Water Quality Committee Management Chair, and Bryan Horsley, Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center's Director.

**Thursday, August 14, 2025 - 6pm to 8pm**

**Cape Cod Ponds Network Meeting**

**Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Main Street (Rt 6A), Brewster**

Short presentations by Cape Cod Commission and Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) staff will be followed by time for networking and sharing. To attend, please register [here](#).

**Saturday, August 16, 2025 - 9am to 1pm**

**Upper Cape Hazardous Waste Collection, Textile Recycling, and Secure Shredding Event**

**Mashpee High School, 500 Old Barnstable Road, Mashpee**

This FREE event is co-sponsored by Barnstable County, Mashpee DPW, and Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC). However, non-Upper Cape residents will be charged a fee for hazardous items. This combined event will provide a convenient way for residents to keep harmful household hazardous products out of our waters while, at the same time, keeping textiles out of our landfills. In addition, a secure shredding company will be on-site. Information regarding the county's Household Hazardous Waste program may be found [here](#). The full list of textiles that can and cannot be recycled is available [here](#). Questions may also be directed to [info@mashepeemec.us](mailto:info@mashepeemec.us).

## Looking Ahead:

**Tuesday, September 16 and Wednesday, September 17, 2025 - Starting at 9am**

**Cape Cod Commission's OneCape 2025 Summit**

**Wychmere Beach Club, 23 Snow Inn Rd, Harwich Port**

Register [here](#) for one or both days to hear from local, state, and national experts on forward-looking, action-oriented initiatives to address Cape Cod's critical challenges, including natural resources protection, housing affordability and attainability, water quality, climate action, and sustained and equitable economic opportunities.

## Let's Take a Hike

**Saturday, August 2, 2025, Besse Bog Conservation Area**

**Saturday, August 9, 2025, John Johansen Conservation Area**

**Saturday, August 16, 2025, Mashpee River Woodlands (West)**

**Saturday, August 23, 2025, Mashpee River Woodlands (South)**

**Saturday, August 30, 2025, Mashpee River Woodlands (North)**

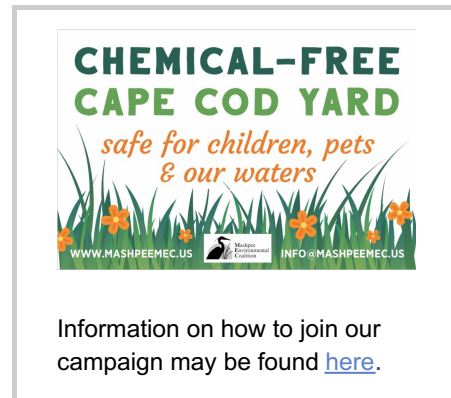
**All walks start at 10am, and are weather dependent**

Guided nature tours, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered each month free-of-charge. Registration is not required, but rain may cancel. For information about these walks and those in the coming months, click on the "Guided Nature Tour" link along the left-hand margin at <https://www.mashpeema.gov/conservation> or call (508) 539-1400, ext. 8538.

## MEC's Chemical-Free Yard Sign Campaign

This past April, MEC launched its new **Chemical-Free Cape Cod Yard Sign Campaign** -- aimed at promoting Chemical-Free Yards that are safe for our Children, Pets, Waters - and Nature as a whole.

Already, our signs are proudly being displayed in yards across Cape Cod, including Dennis, Falmouth, Mashpee, Pocasset, and Sandwich. Thanks to all who have chosen to set an example for their friends, neighbors, and local associations - by helping to save our environment, one yard at a time!



Information on how to join our campaign may be found [here](#).

## Coming to Mashpee Middle-High School this Fall

As previously reported, a grant-sponsored **Vernal Pool** may soon be constructed on the grounds of Mashpee Middle-High School, providing students of all ages with an excellent opportunity to learn by observing a "living lab." Science Teacher, Shona Vitelli and Consultant, Ian Ives presented an extensive project overview during the June 11, 2025 Mashpee School Committee meeting. The recorded presentation may be viewed [here](#), starting at 7 minutes, 30 seconds. This is a great way to learn more about this exciting endeavor - and MEC is proud to be one of the project sponsors.

## Information Items

### Waterways in the News

**Cyanobacteria alerts** from early summer have been cleared for **Ashumet Pond** and **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond**, while an advisory is still in effect for **Santuit Pond**. This year, APCC's pond testing program in Mashpee includes **Ashumet Pond**, **Johns Pond**, **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond**, **Moody Pond**, and **Santuit Pond**, and their Cyanobacteria Monitoring Map may be found [here](#). If you would like to receive an email from APCC as soon as a cyanobacteria alert has been issued, sign up at: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/cyanobacteria-alert/>. In addition, the Town of Mashpee now posts both APCC cyanobacteria alerts as well as Barnstable County's beach closures, accessible by clicking on the link "Bathing-Beach - Status Update" at [www.mashpeema.gov](http://www.mashpeema.gov).

**Johns Pond** made the news last month when the **Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage**

**(OLAUG)** pulled out the front end of a 1990s Corvette from the bottom of the pond. However, we feel it's a toss-up as to whether this year's "treasure" was more or less of a find than last year's powder blue toilet - also found in Johns Pond. Our thanks to this great organization for helping to clean up Mashpee's ponds, literally from the bottom up.

Construction for the **Santuit Pond Town Landing Restoration Project** is due to begin this Fall. If interested in the project details, Mashpee's Water Quality Coordinator, Ashley Fisher, and Scott Turner from Fuss and O'Neill, updated the Select Board at their meeting on June 23, 2025. This presentation may be viewed [here](#) in its entirety, starting at 25 minutes, 45 seconds.

**Fish consumption advisories** continue for **Ashumet Pond, Johns Pond, and Mashpee-Wakeby Pond**. Details for these and other ponds across Massachusetts are available [here](#).

Although the water quality in **Waquoit Bay** has been greatly impaired for decades, as recently reported in the *Mashpee Enterprise*, this summer's **algae blooms** were thicker than neighbors have ever seen. With relief for Waquoit Bay having been moved from Phase 2 to Phase 3 of the Mashpee Wastewater Plan, it appears that relief from sewers cannot come soon enough.

### **Free Water Testing of Private Wells**

Barnstable County is seeking Cape-wide volunteers for **FREE private well water screenings**. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report - Ponds and Lakes**

The Cape Cod Commission released its final **Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report** earlier this summer. This guide outlines a data-driven approach to evaluating, protecting, and restoring Cape Cod's ponds and lakes, and a framework for improving their overall health. Additional information and the report itself may be found [here](#).

### **Mass Ready Act**

The Healey-Driscoll administration unveiled the **Mass Ready Act** in late June, which aims to help communities strengthen their infrastructure, protect their waters and nature, and prepare for floods and wildfires. This act includes \$505 million for **clean water infrastructure** and **PFAS contamination remediation**; \$340.5 million for **land stewardship and conservation**; \$401.6 million to support **inland dams and flood control** projects; and \$200 million for developing **coastal resilience strategies**. Additional information is available [here](#).

### **Cape Cod's Drought - Downgraded to Level 1**

As of July 11th, Cape Cod's drought has been downgraded from a Level 2 "Significant Drought" to a **Level 1 "Mild Drought."** While this is good news, as outlined at the [MA Drought Status website](#), residents are still encouraged to conserve water use, both indoors and outside, until our drought ends.

### **Regulation 25 Revisions Now in Effect**

On June 26, 2025, the Mashpee Conservation Commission finalized revisions to **Regulation 25, Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF)**, and these changes are now in effect as of July 24, 2025. The revised regulation is available [here](#) starting on page 67.

### **Mashpee Freshwater Ponds Committee Update**

With the recent approval of a Santuit Pond representative, current members of the Mashpee Freshwater Ponds Committee now include:

**Ashumet Pond** Representative: Diane Phillips

**Johns Pond** Representative: Amy Dufault

**Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** Representative and Committee Chair: Susan Dangel

**Santuit Pond** Representative: Larry Ginsburg

**Nonprofit/Environmental Organization** (i.e. MEC) Representative: Irene Checkovich

**Members at Large:** Linda Farricy (Committee Secretary), Laurel Francke (Committee Vice Chair), and Jonathan Small

**Ex Officio Town Representatives:** Ashley Fisher and Assistant Conservation Agent, Daniel Kent

As the committee is still seeking a **Technical Expert**, information about the committee and application process may be found [here](#).

## **Reminders**

### **Cape-Wide Conservation Calendar of Events**

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and its nonprofit members publish updates to their **Regional Calendar of Events** on an ongoing basis. This Conservation Calendar includes programs from villages and towns across Cape Cod, encouraging both visitors and residents to take part in nature and environmental events. The wide list of current programs may be accessed at: [www.blt.org/capeconservationcalendar](http://www.blt.org/capeconservationcalendar).

### **Textile Recycling is Now Mandatory - It's the Law!**

Due to the solid waste crisis in Massachusetts, as of November 2022 it is now illegal to discard any clothing or other textile item in the trash, even if stained, ripped, threadbare, or one of a pair. This includes footwear, bedding, table linens, accessories such as belts and scarves, and even stuffed animals for children and pets. The full list of textile items that must now be recycled is available [here](#), courtesy of Bay State Textiles. To assist residents in complying with this law, MEC now sponsors textile recycling drives twice each year — in April as an Earth Day event, and in August alongside the Hazardous Waste Dropoff (see the August 16th event description above). Exact dates and times for each April and August event, once known, will be posted on our homepage at [www.mashpeemec.us](http://www.mashpeemec.us).

### **River Restoration Projects**

Under the program name, "**Source to Sea**," projects continue which aim to help restore the health of the **Mashpee River, Quashnet River, and Red Brook**. To learn more, information may be found at: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/coastal-training-programs/source-to-sea>

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**Please share this newsletter with your friends, colleagues, and neighbors who may have an interest in this information.**  
**Our thanks to each of you for your own efforts on behalf of our town, our region, and the environment!**

To Join or Donate

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*Our Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each Month (January - November) via Zoom starting at 4pm, and our Annual Meeting immediately precedes the September Board Meeting. All are welcome.*

*The Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization – dedicated to educating and advocating on behalf of our natural resources for over 25 years.*

*[info@mashpeemec.us](mailto:info@mashpeemec.us) | [www.mashpeemec.us](http://www.mashpeemec.us)*

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