



## Environmental News

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### Upcoming Events

#### This Weekend, Later This Summer, and Beyond

**Saturday, June 27, 2026 - 10am to 12 noon**

**Don't Let Waquoit Bay Go Down the Drain - Adopt a Storm Drain Kickoff Event**

**Westies Shoe Outlet Parking Lot, 486 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth**

Sponsored by Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay (CPWB), both Mashpee and Falmouth residents are encouraged to become **storm drain monitors** and help keep pollutants out of **Ashumet Pond, Johns Pond, and the Waquoit Bay Watershed**. For event information and access to their storm drain locator tool, click [here](#).

**Thursday, July 21, 2026 - 6pm to 7:30pm**

**State of the Ponds Presentation**

**Mashpee Public Library, 64 Steeple Street, Mashpee (use the back entrance)**

Sponsored by the Mashpee Freshwater Ponds Committee, join committee members and Ashley Kendrick Fisher, Mashpee's Water Quality Coordinator, for an informative **update on the health of Mashpee's four major ponds**. Ashley will present the current conditions of these vital freshwater resources, outline the Town's planned remedial strategies, and share the long-term vision for protecting and restoring pond ecosystems. The presentation will also highlight collaborations with local agencies to deepen our understanding of Mashpee's freshwater systems and ensure their sustainability and health for generations to come. Come learn about the **current condition of our ponds** and share ideas on **what we all can do to help**.

**Thursday, August 6, 2026 - 6pm to 8pm**

**Cape Cod Ponds Network In-Person Meeting**

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

Details to follow. If you are not currently part of this **Cape-Wide Ponds Network** and would like to sign up for their email list, you may do so [here](#).

**Saturday, August 22, 2026 - 9am to 1pm**

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

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

This combined event will provide a convenient way for residents to **keep harmful household hazardous products out of our waters** and, at the same time, **keep 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@mashpeemec.us](mailto:info@mashpeemec.us).

**\*Note:** This **FREE Event** is co-sponsored by Barnstable County, Mashpee DPW, and Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC). However, while textile recycling and secure shredding are **FREE** to

everyone, non-Upper Cape residents will be charged a fee for hazardous items as outlined [here](#).

### **September 13 - 19, 2026, Cape Cod Clean Water Week**

Hosted by the Barnstable County Clean Water Center, this community-centered celebration will bring together residents, visitors, scientists, policymakers, non-profits, pond groups, land trusts, students and more to raise awareness about water quality issues, while inspiring meaningful action. Throughout the week, attendees can participate in a range of activities at the Clean Water Center and at partner sites, including educational workshops, guided nature walks, panel discussions (Zoom and in-person), art exhibits, and volunteer clean-up efforts. Event hosts are currently being sought. Additional information is available [here](#).

## **Let's Take a Hike**

### **Saturday, June 27, 2026, Conaumet Neck Hike, Lowell Holly Reservation - 9am**

#### **Meet at the Reservation Parking Area on South Sandwich Road, Mashpee**

Guided nature tours, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered each month free-of-charge. Registration is not required, but stormy weather may cancel. For directions and information about these walks, and those in the coming months, click on the "Guided Nature Tour Schedule" link along the left-hand margin at <https://www.mashpeema.gov/1456/conservation-commission> or call (508) 539-1400, ext. 8538. **Coming Soon:** Guided Nature Tours for the **Month of July**

### **Sunday, June 28, 2026, Quashnet River Walk - 9am**

#### **Meet at 62 Martin Road, East Falmouth at the Trailhead**

Sponsored by the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR), this 3-mile guided hike along the Quashnet River includes flat open space and narrow paths with some hills. Click [here](#) for information and to register.

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## **Mashpee Middle-High School (MMHS) Happenings**

### **Environmental Scholarship Awarded**

The Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC) Scholarship Program is now in its 7th year, and we were pleased to be part of the MMHS Scholarship Award Night on May 14th -- a truly inspiring event. This year's **MEC Scholarship** was presented to an exceptional MMHS Senior who plans to continue her education at **Mass Maritime Academy** in the **Marine Safety, Science, and Environmental Protection** Program. Our sincere, best wishes for her success!

### **Vernal Pool Update**

This Spring, when curiosity got the better of her, one of our board members stopped by the newly constructed **Vernal Pool on MMHS grounds** and snapped this picture. As you can see, it has successfully filled with water and is now waiting for Nature to do the rest! **MEC is a proud supporter of this MMHS Living Lab**, and we look forward to following its progress.



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## **A Well-Deserved Honor**

### **Mashpee Wastewater Treatment Facility Dedication**

On June 2, 2026, MEC Board Member Tom Fudala was celebrated at the newly named **Thomas Fudala Water Resources Recovery Facility**, in recognition of his decades-long service as Mashpee's



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## Mashpee Ponds Now Have a Voice!

Last month, the *Mashpee Enterprise* launched a new column, called "**Pondemonium**." You guessed it, it's **a column all about Mashpee's ponds**. Columnist and Mashpee Freshwater Ponds Committee Member, Amy DuFault, describes it as follows:

"Pondemonium" is a monthly dive into the ponds that define Mashpee and an attempt to understand the confusion surrounding the ecological and social forces affecting each pond and its future. We'll take a look at the people who cherish them, work to protect them, and the stories that ripple out from their many shores. Each column will explore the beauty, complexity, and challenges of these cherished places, from seasonal shifts to conservation efforts, technology to community voices.

Here, you'll meet the stewards working to protect these fragile ecosystems, learn about the history and traditions tied to each pond, and discover what's at stake if we fail to care for them. At its core, "Pondemonium" is about awareness and action and a reminder of what we stand to lose, and what we can still protect together. **If you have a story to share, please contact Amy at [hello@amydufault.com](mailto:hello@amydufault.com).**



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## Additional Information Items

### **Pond Cyanobacteria Monitoring and Alert Program - It's Back!**

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) has begun its **Summer Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program**, which includes testing the waters of Mashpee's **Ashumet, Johns, Mashpee-Wakeby, and Santuit Ponds**. **To receive email alerts** as soon as they are issued, and to view the interactive map with up-to-date findings, please go to [APCC.org/cyano](http://APCC.org/cyano).

### **Waterways in the News**

The Wakeby and Mashpee basins of **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** are both under a **Cyanobacteria Advisory** -- be safe and avoid contact with the water!

On the good news front, the **State Boat Ramp** at **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** on Route 130 is now open, complete with significant stormwater improvements. At **Attaquin Park** off of Route 130, stormwater improvements are also planned which aim to further safeguard the pond's waters. (For project details, see the Stormwater Management Program Update below.)

According to Ashley Fisher, the Town of Mashpee and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe are planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the extensive, soon-to-be-completed work at the **Santuit Pond**

**Town Landing** on Timberlane Drive. A ceremony date has not yet been finalized. (For project details, see the Stormwater Management Program Update below.)

The Mashpee Select Board, on June 22nd, approved an **Alum Treatment** contract for **Ashumet Pond**. This treatment is planned for some time in the Fall of 2026.

At its meeting on June 16th, the Community Preservation Committee approved an application for a **Diagnostic Assessment** of both **Johns Pond** and **Moody Pond**. Voters at the October Town Meeting will make the final decision regarding this funding request. Published in 1982, the "1978-80 Johns Pond Diagnostic Study" was the last time such an assessment of Johns Pond was done.

The **Mashpee River** now has a **Real-Time Monitoring System**, thanks to partners which include the Town of Mashpee, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, APCC, and funding support from the NOAA Restoration Center. This exciting project is described in the May 27th APCC e-Newsletter which may be read [here](#).

### **Visitor's Center a Possibility for the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge**

At long last, the **Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge** is one step closer to having a **Visitor's Center** to help residents and visitors alike explore this incredible asset within our community. On June 16th, the Community Preservation Committee approved an application funding request for this Center which would occupy three of four units within the town-owned building at 475 Nathan Ellis Highway, right along the **Johns Pond** shore. In October, Mashpee voters will make the final decision regarding this request.

### **Cape Cod's Drought - Still at Level 2**

As of June 9, 2026, Cape Cod remains at a **Level 2 "Significant Drought"** status. Residents are urged to continue conserving water, both indoors and outside. Latest drought updates may be found at the [MA Drought Status website](#).

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## **In Case You Missed It**

### **Mashpee's Stormwater Management Program Update**

The Town's ongoing Stormwater Management Program was highlighted at the June 1st Select Board Meeting by DPW Director Catherine Laurent and a consultant from Tighe & Bond. Current stormwater projects at **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** and **Santuit Pond** were reviewed, and next steps were discussed. The recording of this 35-minute presentation is available [here](#), starting just past minute 45.

### **Cape Cod Groundwater Presentation**

As part of Groundwater Awareness Week this past March, MASSTC (The Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Technology Center) hosted a talk on **Groundwater's Role in Cape Cod's Freshwater Resources**. The video of this informative program may be viewed [here](#).

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## **MEC's Chemical-Free Yard Sign Campaign**

Since April 2025, MEC's **Chemical-Free Cape Cod Yard Sign Campaign** has been in full swing, 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](#).

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## 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.blit.org/capeconservationcalendar](http://www.blit.org/capeconservationcalendar).

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

The Cape Cod Commission released its final **Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report** last 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](#).

### State of the Waters: Cape Cod 2025 Report

In December, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) released its latest data regarding Cape Cod's **State of the Waters** in our estuaries, ponds, and municipal water supplies. Details may be found at: <https://capecodwaters.org/>.

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

Due to the solid waste crisis in Massachusetts, effective 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 County's Hazardous Waste Dropoff. Exact dates and times for each April and August event, once known, will be posted in our newsletters and 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 | www.mashpeemec.us*

*See what's happening on our social sites:*



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