Mashpee Environmental Coalition



Environmental News

Upcoming Events and Happenings - Next Week and Beyond

Monday, October 26, 2026 through Friday, October 30, 2026
Ashumet Pond and Ashumet State Boat Ramp CLOSED
Between Monday, October 26th and Friday, October 30th, **Ashumet Pond and the State Boat Ramp will be closed to the public** due to a scheduled **alum application** being conducted by Solitude Lake Management in coordination with the School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST). During this 5-day period, all recreational boating and watercraft activities on Ashumet Pond are prohibited, as well as the launching and hauling of boats at the Ashumet State Boat Ramp. The full announcement on the Town of Mashpee website may be found **here**.

Monday, October 26, 2026 through late November/early December
Attaquin Park CLOSED
Lake Avenue, Mashpee
This closure is due to a **stormwater improvement project**, scheduled to begin on October 26th. Additional details can be accessed **here**.

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 - 1pm to 6:30pm
Joint Base Cape Cod Small Arms Range Public Meeting (In-Person or Online)
Iris Hotel, 291 Jones Road, Falmouth (For the In-Person Meeting)
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has been commissioned to undertake a study to determine if, in their opinion, the **proposed gun range** could jeopardize **Cape Cod's sole source aquifer**. This 3rd information gathering session will take place from 1pm to 5pm, with a period for **3-minute public comments from 5:30pm to 6:30pm**. Registration is required **here**, both to attend the meeting and to make a public comment. The dedicated website explaining this study is available **here**, where you will also be able to read the committee's final report.

Let's Take a Hike

Saturday, October 24, 2026, Mashpee River Woodlands (North) - 9am
Saturday, October 31, 2026, Lowell Holly Reservation - 9am
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.

Information Items

Waterways in the News

Based on water sampling by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) on **10/19/26**, **Santuit Pond** is still listed with a cyanobacteria **"Potential for Concern" advisory**. Please be safe and avoid contact with the water!

On the good news front, a **new Santuit Pond Group** was recently formed by residents, for residents, called the **Santuit Pond Watershed Association**. Any/all residents who live on or near the pond are urged to **join their email list** at **https://santuitpond.org**. Their website is already filled with great information, so please check it out - and **spread the word**!

In addition to the **Ashumet Pond** alum treatment (see the "Events" section above), planning continues with regard to improvements to the pond's **State Boat Ramp**. The 75% design plan may be viewed **here**.

And last, but not least, at the October 19th Mashpee Town Meeting, the **Johns Pond** and **Moody Pond Diagnostic Study** was overwhelmingly approved. Also approved was funding to help the **Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge** bring a **Nature and Education Center** to a town-owned property at 475 Nathan Ellis Highway, on the southern shore of **Johns Pond**.

Joint Base Cape Cod Cleanup Update

At the JBCC Clean-up Team/Restoration Advisory Board Public Meeting on September 16th, it was reported that **7 new extraction wells and 3 new reinjection wells** are in the review/permitting stage for the Sandwich Road Treatment Facility. Also under review are **2 new reinjection wells and the restart/refurbishment of 3 existing extraction wells** at the Ashumet Valley Plant. At both sites, the aim is to prevent additional PFAS from entering our waters. The anticipated start date for construction is February/March of 2027, pending approval. Updates will be shared as they become available.

Ballot Question 6 - Please Vote YES

The MEC Board has unanimously endorsed a "Yes" vote for State Ballot Question 6, which would create a "**Nature For All Fund**" to be used in **support of natural resource conservation**. Revenues would come from a portion of **state taxes already collected** on the sale and use of sporting goods and recreation vehicles, and the use of golf courses. Additional information may be found **here**.

Mashpee Septic System Regulation Changes Approved

At the October 7th meeting of the Mashpee Board of Health, changes to the **Innovative/Alternative On-site Septic Systems Regulations** were approved for all **Zone II** area properties as well as **properties within 500' from surface waters**. The **approved regulation** outlined on the meeting agenda may be read **here,** with a scheduled effective date of December 1, 2026.

Cape Cod's Drought - Still at Level 2

As of October 9, 2026, Cape Cod remains at a **Level 2 "Significant Drought"** status, despite our recent Nor'easter. Residents are urged to continue conserving water, both indoors and outside. Latest drought updates may be found at the **MA Drought Status website**.

In Case You Missed It

Mashpee Ponds Now Have a Voice

The Mashpee Enterprise recently launched a new column, called "Pondemonium" - 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. . . . At its core, it 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. For the latest column about Santuit Pond, click **here**.

State of the Ponds Presentation

Learn about the current state of Mashpee's four major ponds, as presented on July 21, 2026, sponsored by the Mashpee Freshwater Ponds Committee. Speakers included Town Officials Ashley

Fisher and Dan Kent, along with Julie Hambrook from APCC, Ed Eichner from SMAST and TMDL Solutions, and Danica Belknap, the Mashpee Wampanoag Liaison from SNEP (Southeast New England Program). The recording is available **here**.

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) recently hosted a talk on **Groundwater's Role in Cape Cod's Freshwater Resources**. The video of this informative program may be viewed **here**.

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 Barnstable, 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 with just a $10 donation 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 online **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**.

Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report - Ponds and Lakes

As part of its Freshwater Initiative, the Cape Cod Commission finalized its **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 about the initiative as well as 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**.

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**

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

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:

Mashpee Environmental Coalition | PO Box 274 | Mashpee, MA 02649 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!