



**Mashpee  
Environmental  
Coalition**



## Environmental News

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### Upcoming Events

**Monday, December 16, 2024 - Starting at 6:30pm**

**Select Board Meeting, Mashpee Town Hall, Online, and Local Cable Channels 8 and 1072**

The Select Board's agenda lists the following **two water quality presentations** by Ed Eichner:

- Mashpee Water Quality Monitoring Program (which has historically discussed our bays and estuaries)
- Mashpee-Wakeby Pond Management Plan and Diagnostic Assessment

The meeting agenda may be viewed [here](#). As outlined, this meeting can be attended in person; or viewed that night (or at a later date) on local channels 8 and 1072, or at [www.mashpeema.gov/channel-8/](http://www.mashpeema.gov/channel-8/). The full Mashpee-Wakeby Diagnostic Report is available [here](#).

**Saturday Morning Walks for the Remainder of December – Starting at 9am**

**Mashpee Conservation Lands**

Guided nature tours, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered free-of-charge. Upcoming walks on **Saturday, December 21 and 28** include Mashpee River Woodlands South and Mashpee River Woodlands West. 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>.

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – 10am to 12noon**

**First Day Hike, South Cape Beach State Park, 668 Great Oak Road, Mashpee**

Waquoit Bay Reserve invites walkers to participate in a 1-2 mile walk along the beach, where research in the nearby salt marshes will be discussed while enjoying the beautiful outdoors. Hot chocolate will be provided at the end of the walk, and heavy wind, rain or snow will cancel. For additional information and to register, go to: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/events/first-day-hike/>.

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - At Various Times and Across Cape Cod**

In addition to the walk along South Cape Beach, many other First Day Hikes are planned throughout the entire Cape. A complete list of these hikes may be found on the Barnstable Land Trust's website at <https://blt.org/firstdayhikescapecod> under the heading, "Take a Hike."

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - 11am**

**3rd Annual Freeze the Day! Polar Plunge, Mashpee-Wakeby Pond  
Check-in at Naukabout Brewery, 13 Lake Avenue, Mashpee**

The Mashpee Recreation Department and Naukabout Brewery are co-hosting this event. The fee to participate is \$25, with proceeds benefiting the Kiwanis Club of Mashpee. Participants must check in that day at Naukabout Brewery between 10 and 10:45am. Additional details and registration information may be found [here](#). Good luck to all who dare!

## Opportunity for You to Get Involved

The **Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve** (WBNERR) is noted for their exceptional education and training programs, including recent full-day workshops on Achieving Watershed Plans and Pond Oxygenation methods. They are currently **seeking input for future program topics** to ensure they are designing training that is relevant, timely, and impactful. To help in that endeavor, they are seeking ideas on what future Coastal Training topics, technical assistance, and program formats would best help towns, decision-makers and residents of Cape Cod.

If you would like to participate, you are invited to take a **15-minute survey by December 20, 2024**. Information about their Coastal Training Program may be found at their [website](#), with the direct link to the survey located mid-way down that page.

### Information Items

#### Waterways in the News

As mentioned above, the long-awaited **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond Diagnostic Report** is now available, and the full 167-page document may be viewed [here](#). We are grateful that MEC's role with the original PALS (Mashpee Pond and Lake Stewards) program is recognized in the report's "Acknowledgement" section, and that our organization's early water sampling data may have helped with the analysis for this study.

At the end of the November 14, 2024 Conservation Commission Meeting, Dan Kent, Assistant Conservation Agent, mentioned that his department is in the process of clearing out excess leaves and sediment from the **Johns Pond** fish ladder as well as the **Santuit River**.

Preliminary discussions are underway for a possible **Oyster Restoration Project in Hamblin Pond**. At the November 18, 2024 Select Board meeting, Christopher Avis, Shellfish Constable, announced discussions about this project with The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation organization. Although many steps still remain, if approved, this project would be fully funded. Select board members enthusiastically supported this effort and approved a letter of support to be submitted to The Nature Conservancy.

In a December 10, 2024 Press Release from the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the Town of Mashpee received one of 10 **Blue Economy Grants**. This **\$60,000** grant will support the permitting and design for the dredging of **Great River** and **Little River**, aimed at benefiting boaters and both commercial and recreational shellfishing. The full Press Release may be read [here](#).

#### Mashpee Recipient of Loan-Forgiveness Grant

On December 4, 2024, State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg named the Town of Mashpee a recipient of a **Clean Water Trust Loan-Forgiveness Grant** in the amount of **\$286,200**, in support of the Mashpee Phase I Sewer Project's \$5,400,000 loan. Additional details are available [here](#).

#### Town of Mashpee Leadership Changes

A new Director of Mashpee's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was recently appointed, namely Harbormaster **Robert Tomaino**. Former DNR Director, **Ashley Fisher**, has assumed the position of Water Quality Coordinator within the Mashpee Sewer Department. We wish both Robert and Ashley well in their new roles.

#### Co-Management Discussions Continue for Mashpee's Conservation Lands

Both Dan Kent, Assistant Conservation Agent and Brian Weeden, Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, updated Mashpee Conservation Commissioners on their ongoing discussions about the possibility of conservation land co-management at the December 12, 2024 meeting. To learn more, their update may be viewed in its entirety, starting at 2 hours and 59 minutes, at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/conservation/events/214511>.

#### 6th Annual State of the Waters Report - Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC)

The 6th Annual "**APCC State of the Waters - 2024**" report is now available at: <https://capecodwaters.org/>. A report summary by Andrew Gottlieb, APCC's Executive Director may be found at: <https://apcc.org/read-the-water/>.

#### Recycling News

Thanks to Barnstable County's Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Americorps Cape Cod, all 15 Cape Cod towns are again scheduled to participate in a **Holiday Light recycling program** through mid-January. Acceptable items may be dropped off at the Transfer Station and include old, unwanted or broken rope and garland lights, C7 and C9 bulbs, mini-lights and LED holiday lights. Additional details are available [here](#).

### **Cape-Wide Conservation Calendar**

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and its nonprofit members have recently launched a **Regional Calendar of Events**. 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.blc.org/capeconservationcalendar](http://www.blc.org/capeconservationcalendar).

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*On Behalf of Everyone at MEC,  
May You and Your Family Have a Lovely Holiday Season!*

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Please consider sharing 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 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 Mashpee's natural resources for over 25 years.*

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

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