



**Mashpee
Environmental
Coalition**



Environmental News

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - 4:30 to 5:30pm

Cape Cod Ponds Network Meeting, via Zoom

Discussion topics include the Cape Cod Commission's newly released "**Freshwater Strategy Draft**," as well as their new **Water Quality Data Portal** and "**Pond Buffer Guide**." Details about these tools and links for direct access may be found in the "Information Items" section below. To join the Zoom Meeting, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85627050604?pwd=RIKb3CnAAA4syTjHKq3iY2wYJotsqb.1> Meeting ID: 856 2705 0604; Passcode: 759257

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - Starting at 5:30pm

**Military-Civilian Community Council (MC3) Meeting, Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC)
Building 1805, JBCC Welcome Center**

Kari Parcell, Barnstable County's Regional Waste Reduction Coordinator, will present the findings of a recently completed feasibility study for an **Upper Cape Regional Food Scrap Composting Facility at JBCC**. To attend this public meeting, enter JBCC via the Connery Gate in Bourne, off Route 28 (exit at the Otis Rotary). At the gate, show a valid id and let the Guards know that you are attending the "MCCC (MC3) Meeting at Building 1805, JBCC Welcome Center." For more information, contact Paul Rendon at paul.e.rendon2.nfg@army.mil.

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - 7:00 to 8:30pm

**The History of Land Conservation on Cape Cod
Falmouth Museums on the Green, 35 Palmer Ave, Falmouth, MA**

Sponsored by The 300 Committee Land Trust of Falmouth, Mark Robinson, Executive Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, will discuss the history of both development and land conservation on Cape Cod over the past 200 years. Additional information is available at: <https://300committee.org/news-events/calendar-of-events/>.

Thursday, February 27, 2025 - Starting at 7:00pm

**Mashpee Conservation Commission's Quarterly Update Meeting
Mashpee Town Hall and Broadcast Live on Channels 8 and 1072**

The Mashpee Conservation Commission's Quarterly Update Meeting will cover a broad range of discussion topics, including Mashpee Town Counsel's feedback on draft 7 of Regulation 25. The full agenda may be viewed [here](#).

Saturday, March 29, 2025 - 9am to 1pm

**Spring Symposium - We Are Nature's Best Hope
CC Regional Technical HS, 351 Pleasant Lake Avenue (Route 124), Harwich, MA**

Sponsored by the Master Gardener Association of Cape Cod, this program features award winning author, **Doug Tallamy**, along with **Trevor Smith** and **Russell Norton**. The fee to attend is \$40 and

registration is required at: <https://mastergardenerscc.org/events/spring-symposium/>.

Saturday, April 5, 2024 - 9am to 12noon

Mashpee River Restoration Visioning Session

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Government Center, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

As reported by Assistant Conservation Agent Dan Kent at the end of the February 20, 2025 Conservation Commission meeting, this public community outreach is part of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod's \$2.58 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to restore fish habitat and passage along the Mashpee River. Additional details will be shared as they become available. See also the related notice in the "Information Items" section below.

Let's Take a Hike

Saturday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025 - Starting at 9am

Mashpee Conservation Lands

Guided nature tours, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered each month free-of-charge. Upcoming walks for March include sections of the **Mashpee River Woodlands, South Cape Beach, Besse Bog Conservation Area, and Lowell Holly Reservation**. 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>.

Saturday, March 8, 2025 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Dead Neck Trail Hike at South Cape Beach

Meet at Bayberry Lot, 668 Great Oak Road, Mashpee

Sponsored by the Southeast MA Walking Club, this is a guided, 2.5-mile, moderate hike with some challenges due to soft sand. Enjoy views of Waquoit Bay, its surrounding salt marshes, and the possibility of seeing snowy owls. Please register at: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/events/dead-neck-trail-hike-at-south-cape-beach>.

Saturday, April 5, 2025 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Quashnet River Trail Hike

Meet at the Martin Road Parking Lot, East Falmouth (off Route 28)

The Southeast MA Walking Club invites you to join them for a moderate, 2.5-mile hike along the western and eastern trails of the Quashnet River, including some hills. To register, go to:

<https://waquoitbayreserve.org/events/quashnet-river-trail-hike>.

Looking Ahead - In Celebration of Earth Day 2025

Saturday, April 12, 2025 - 11am to 4pm

Honor the Earth Fair

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Government Center, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

Co-hosted by the Native Land Conservancy and the Mashpee Wampanoag Natural Resources Department, this event is free, open to the public, and features **vendors and exhibitors (including MEC)** with a shared mission of protecting and preserving the ancestral homelands of the Wampanoag. Festivities will include opening remarks by **Mashpee Wampanoag Chief Earl Mills Jr.**, **cultural crafts**, **traditional singing and dancing**, and **activities for children**. More information is available [here](#). If you attend, please stop by the MEC table and say hello.

Saturday, April 19, 2025 – 9am to 1pm

Textile Recycling, Media Storage Recycling, Secure Shredding, and Composting Event

Mashpee Senior Center, 26 Frank E. Hicks Drive, Mashpee

MEC, in collaboration with Mashpee's Department of Public Works, will hold our **2nd Annual Earth Day Event**, featuring **Textile Recycling, Secure Shredding, Composting** Containers and Information, and (new this year) **Media Storage Recycling**. Details about this **free event** are available by viewing our [Earth Day 2025 Flyer](#), the [Full List of Textiles](#) that may be bagged and dropped off, and the [List of Media Storage Items](#) that can and cannot be recycled. Additional questions may be sent to info@masheemec.us.

Information Items

Waterways in the News

In late December 2024, the Town of Mashpee concluded their purchase of 7.1 acres of largely undeveloped land along the southern end of **Johns Pond** using CPA funds, as approved by voters at the October 2024 Town Meeting.

At their January 6, 2025 meeting, Select Board members approved Mashpee Water Quality Coordinator Ashley Fisher's recommended contractor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's School for Marine Sciences and Technology Coastal Systems Program, for the Nutrient Inactivation Project at **Ashumet Pond**.

Last month, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) announced their receipt of a multi-million-dollar grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to restore fish habitats and passages along the **Mashpee River**. Additional information about this grant project may be found at: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/ecosystem-restoration-program/mashpee-river/>. As part of their community engagement, a public visioning session will be held on April 5th, as outlined above under "Upcoming Events."

Mashpee will soon have a **Freshwater Ponds Committee**, as approved by the Select Board at their January 27, 2025 meeting. Four of the eight members of this committee will be representatives from **Ashumet Pond, Johns Pond, Mashpee-Wakeby Pond, and Santuit Pond**. Applications are currently being accepted as outlined at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/home/news/new-town-committee-vacancy-notice>. Additional information about the committee and its goals can be obtained by viewing Ashley Fisher's presentation to the Select Board, starting at minute 17, at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/home/events/222116>.

Mashpee's Wastewater (Sewer) Plan Update

At the January 27, 2025 Select Board meeting, a representative from consulting firm GHD presented a thorough overview and update on Mashpee's Wastewater Plan - including a detailed timeline of how Mashpee can succeed in meeting the Commonwealth's water quality requirements for both **Popponesset Bay** and **Waquoit Bay** by 2050. This presentation can be viewed in its entirety, starting at minute 59, at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/home/events/222116>.

Cape Cod Commission's New Water Quality Tools

As outlined in their [Press Release](#), last month the Cape Cod Commission announced new tools and resources to support the region's efforts to improve Cape Cod waters. Data from across Cape Cod are now available in one centralized location through the **Cape Cod Water Quality Data Portal** which includes both **freshwater pond and marine water quality data**-- accessible [here](#). Also available is a new resource entitled "**Cape Cod Freshwater Pond Buffer Guidance**" which, according to their website, is a comprehensive document designed to help homeowners and municipalities preserve and protect ponds through responsible landscape management. This [Pond Buffer Guide](#) will be an invaluable resource for both individual residents and our local pond groups.

Cape Cod Commission's Draft Freshwater Strategy is now available - Comments Accepted Through March 17th

Public comments about the Cape Cod Commission's draft **Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy** will be accepted through March 17, 2025. The draft itself, as well as information about both In-Person and Zoom meetings starting in early March, are available at: <https://capecodcommission.org/about-us/newsroom/cape-cod-commission-releases-draft-cape-cod-freshwater-strategy/>.

Herring Counters Wanted

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) is actively recruiting **Herring Counters** for this year. Registration is required. Information about this program may be found at [APCC Herring Count Program](#). Training in Mashpee will take place on March 14, 21, and 28 from 11am to noon, as outlined [here](#).

Mashpee Environmental Coalition Scholarship for 2025

MEC is pleased to announce that their scholarship will again be offered to one or more qualified Mashpee High School seniors. This scholarship aims to assist students who are dedicated to helping the environment and who plan to continue their education beyond high school. Past scholarship recipients have pursued degrees at Amherst College, Colby-Sawyer College, Northern Arizona University, Tufts University, and UMass-Amherst in programs such as environmental science and forestry. Scholarship qualifications, applications, and deadlines are available through the Mashpee

Middle High School scholarship website and the MMHS Guidance Department. All qualified seniors are encouraged to apply.

Cape-Wide Conservation Calendar of Events - Reminder

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.

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 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 Mashpee's 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

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