



**Mashpee
Environmental
Coalition**



Environmental News

Successful Textile Recycling Drive

The August 17th **Textile Recycling Drive** sponsored by the **Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC)** was a great success, with **3,000 lbs.** of textiles dropped off in a 4-hour period. As an added plus, the combined Household Hazardous Waste, Textile and Shredding Event received front page coverage in the *Mashpee Enterprise*.

Since August 2023, MEC has held three textile drives - keeping 8,750 lbs. in total out of our landfills - with up to 95% reused or repurposed. Since it is now illegal in Massachusetts for textiles to be discarded in the trash, MEC plans to sponsor textile drives twice each year -- in April for Earth Day, and in August combined with the county's Household Hazardous Waste collection. Once the April 2025 date is confirmed, it will be widely advertised to members, throughout the Internet, and across town. To learn more about what textiles can be reused or recycled, general information is available on our homepage at www.mashpeemec.us. Questions may also be directed to info@mashpeemec.us.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 28, 2024 - 10am to 11:15am

Climate Resiliency: A Bog Restoration Walk

Co-sponsored by the Barnstable Land Trust and Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (BCWC), this is an opportunity to tour the BCWC's historic 1800's cranberry bogs at the headwaters of the Marstons Mills River and learn about the ongoing wetlands restoration work to remove nitrogen flowing downriver. Though outside of Mashpee, this walk will provide a great way to learn about how bog systems can improve water quality and create a climate-resilient landscape. Preregistration is required at: <https://blt.org/events/climate-resiliency-a-bog-restoration-walk>.

Saturday, September 28, 2024 - Starting at 10am

Child's River Conservation Area Walk

This guided walk, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, is offered free-of-charge. For a description and directions, please go to:

https://www.mashpeema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3426f/uploads/0924_nature_tour_press_release.pdf.

Weekly Saturday morning walks for the month of October will be posted soon at:

<https://www.mashpeema.gov/conservation>.

Sunday, October 13, 2024 - 11am to 3pm

Walk for the Wild 2024

Sponsored by the Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR), this 5k walk will start at Quashnet School in Mashpee and take participants through a variety of MNWR trails before ending at Naukabout Brewery by Attaquin Park. Registration and additional details are available at:

Saturday, October 19, 2024 - 10am - 12:30pm

South Cape Beach Clean-up

Meet at South Cape Beach State Park to participate in the annual statewide beach cleanup effort sponsored by the MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Friends of the Waquoit Bay Reserve. For more information and to register, go to: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/events/south-cape-beach-clean-up/>.

Saturday, October 19, 2024 - 1pm - 3:30pm

South Cape Beach Dead Neck Trail Walk

Join the Southeast Walking Club for a moderate 2.5 mile walk on sandy terrain while enjoying views of the Bay and Vineyard Sound. Registration and additional information is available at: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/events/south-cape-beach-dead-neck-trail-walk/>.

Monday, October 21, 2024 - 7pm

Annual Town Meeting, Mashpee High School

Mashpee voters will be asked to consider four articles at the October 2024 Annual Town Meeting. The full warrant may be viewed at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/home/news/october-21-2024-annual-town-meeting-warrant>. Please also see the Commentary section below regarding Article 2.

Commentary - MEC Supports Article 2

On Monday, October 21st, Mashpee voters will have the all-too-rare opportunity to approve the **purchase and conservation of over 7 acres** of largely undeveloped land located **on the southern end of Johns Pond**. The purchase of this land has been unanimously recommended by members of the Community Preservation Committee, Mashpee Finance Committee, and Mashpee Select Board; and it would be funded with available Community Preservation Committee funds. The Board of the Mashpee Environmental Coalition is also in full support.

As described in Article 2 of the Town Warrant ([click here](#)), the goal of this purchase ". . . is to protect Johns Pond, Flying Squirrel Pond and the Childs River furthering the Town's goal for water quality protection. The parcel abuts Johns Pond and has multiple active wetlands onsite. Acquisition would allow for long-term protection of various wetland values, wildlife habitat, and endangered species."

MEC Board Members urge Mashpee voters to attend the October 21st Annual Town Meeting, and vote "yes" for Article 2.

Information Items

Waterways in the News

Last week, cyanobacteria advisories were posted on the websites of both the Town of Mashpee and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) for **Ashumet Pond** and **Santuit Pond**. Fish consumption warnings also continue to be listed for **Ashumet Pond**, **Johns Pond**, and **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** due to Mercury and PFAS levels. Details may be found at: www.mashpeema.gov/natural-resources/news/pfas-update-ashumet-johns-mashpeewakeby-ponds-fish-consumption-advisory.

In an August 1st Press Release from Governor Healey's office, Mashpee was named the recipient of nearly **\$1.7 million** for improvements to the **Santuit Pond Town Landing** at 117 Timberlane Drive to "Increase resilience to harmful algal blooms." The full Press Release may be viewed [here](#). An overview of these town landing improvements was presented to the Mashpee Conservation Commission by DPW Director Catherine Laurent at their June 27, 2024 meeting, which may be viewed, starting at 2 hours and 45 minutes, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csNBtTVcrBg>.

As reported in their *E-Newsletter* dated September 4, 2024, **APCC** was recently awarded **\$15 million** from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant to support planning, design, and implementation of five wetland restoration projects on Cape Cod. Projects specific to the Upper Cape include river and cranberry bog restoration in **Red Brook** on the Mashpee/Falmouth border and Mashpee's upper **Quashnet River**. In addition, these projects are intended to complement priority fish passage restoration including replacement or improvement of the fish passage structure at **Johns Pond** on the Quashnet River upstream of the

former bogs. As the article describes, the aim of these projects is to restore habitat, connectivity and improve resilience from the headwaters to our coastal estuaries. The full article may be read at: <https://apcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-09-04.html>.

In early August, **Johns Pond** was visited by the organization, **Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage (OLAUG)**. Thanks to their efforts, trash of all sorts was removed from the pond's bottom, including a powder blue toilet. Based on shared photos available on the *Mashpee Enterprise* website, their outing looks like it was much fun and a great success.

Co-Sponsorship of Conservation Lands Under Discussion

At the August 22, 2024 meeting of the Mashpee Conservation Commission, the idea was enthusiastically discussed of a potential co-sponsorship of Mashpee's conservation lands by the Town of Mashpee and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe -- perhaps similar to an agreement already in place between the Tribe and the Dennis Land Trust. While more work will be needed before such a co-sponsorship is possible, this initial 10-minute conversation may be viewed [here](#), starting at 3 hours and 28 minutes.

MIT Announces Possible PFAS Filtration Method

In an *MIT News* article dated, September 6, 2024, a new filtration method is described that could potentially remove long-lasting chemicals from water, including PFAS. The full article may be viewed at: <https://news.mit.edu/2024/new-filtration-material-could-remove-long-lasting-water-chemicals-0906>.

Cyanobacteria Pond Alerts Available via APCC.org

As a reminder, if you are interested in staying informed about cyanobacteria alerts in our ponds once they are known, consider signing up via APCC's alert program at: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/cyanobacteria-alert/>.

In Case You Missed It

Floodplain Regulation Discussion with the Cape Cod Commission

Two Cape Cod Commission (CCC) representatives met with the Mashpee Conservation Commission at their August 15, 2024 meeting, for over an hour, to discuss climate change challenges and possible floodplain regulation changes to address these challenges. Their informative presentation can be viewed [here](#), starting just under the 8-minute mark, followed by a discussion with Mashpee Conservation Commissioners. Also highlighted was a CCC Regulatory Toolkit developed to assist Cape Cod towns, as well as maps under the heading "Data Viewer" showing potential coastal flood areas (by town, street, and property) for the years 2050 and 2070 - all available at: <https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/regulatory-tools-for-coastal-floodplain-resiliency>.

Freshwater Pond Science 101 - Recording Now Available

This August 22, 2024 forum, sponsored by the Falmouth Pond Coalition, is an exceptional science-based overview of ponds. Speakers Julie Hambrook, Ph.D., Director of APCC's Pond & Cyanobacteria Monitoring Programs and Liz Moran, Ph.D., Planning and Restoration Specialist at Anchor QEA, present for a full hour followed by an informative Q and A session. Even for those with a good knowledge of ponds, this may be well worth watching at: https://youtu.be/e_RX9EZAKX8.

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

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:



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