



*Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Presentation to Drought Management Task Force
May 6, 2022*

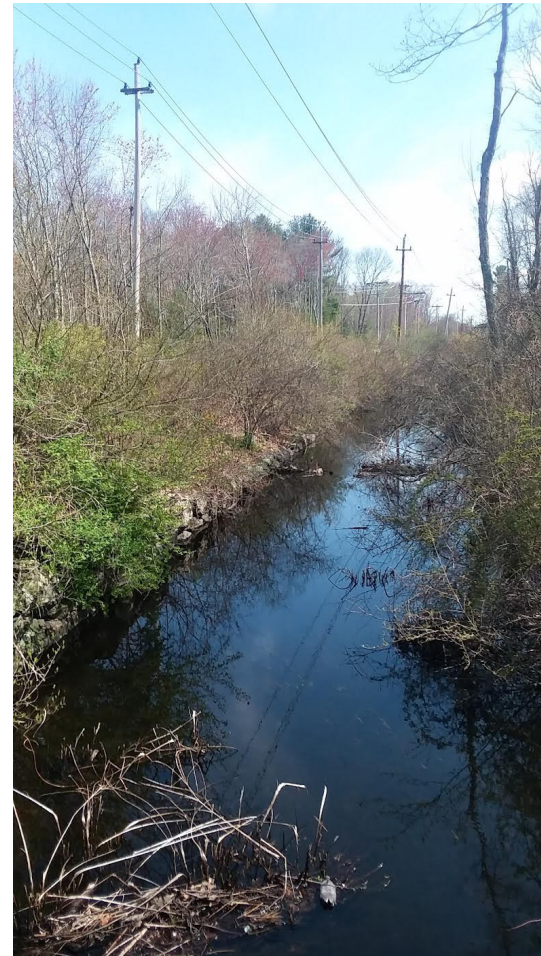


Parker River (Georgetown)

5/5/22

Photo: Parker River Clean Water Association

- Parking River in Georgetown, looking downstream from Mill Street after exiting Pentucket Pond Dam
- Depth is about 18 inches. Nearest USGS gage is in Byfield (4 miles away), indicates 37 cfs; mean flow for this time of year is 55 cfs.
- No herring approaching spawning grounds of the pond, as there haven't been for 20 years.



+ Palmer River, Rehoboth

April/May

- April 30, water was so high, fish ladder was submerged where it met the river.
- May 5, just a couple of weeks later, is completely dry, water level is down substantially.
- No herring or shad observed either April 30 or May 5.

Shad Factory Pond Dam



+ From around the state



- Nashua River Watershed Association (May 3)
 - “I don’t believe we’re seeing low flows in central MA/Nashua basin.”
- Ipswich River Watershed Association (May 3)
 - “While flows are below normal, they aren’t that bad in this region such that there would be anything noteworthy to share.”
- Shawsheen and Concord Rivers in Billerica (May 3)
 - “Currently there is decent flow; certainly not as high as last year this time, but last year was extreme. Muddy greenway trails, good to paddle.”