

**Draft Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters for the
Clean Water Act 2024/2026 Reporting Cycles**

**Appendix 21
Hudson: Bashbish River Basin
Assessment and Listing Decision Summary**

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Watershed Planning Program

The mission of the Watershed Planning Program (WPP) in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is to protect, enhance, and restore the quality and value of the waters of the Commonwealth. Guided by the federal Clean Water Act, WPP implements this mission statewide through five Sections that each have a different technical focus: (1) Surface Water Quality Standards; (2) Surface Water Quality Monitoring; (3) Data Management and Water Quality Assessment; (4) Total Maximum Daily Load; and (5) Nonpoint Source Management. Together with other MassDEP programs and state environmental agencies, WPP shares in the duty and responsibility to secure the environmental, recreational, and public health benefits of clean water for all people of the Commonwealth.

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Disclaimer

References to trade names, commercial products, manufacturers, or distributors in this report constituted neither endorsement nor recommendation by MassDEP.

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Overview of Appendix Contents

This Integrated Report (IR) Appendix functions as a watershed-based Assessment and Listing Decision Summary that catalogs the most recent assessment decisions for each assessment unit (AU) that was updated as part of the 2024/2026 IR cycle.

The appendix begins with 2024/26 Cycle Impairment Changes, a comprehensive table summarizing all impairments that were either added, removed, changed, or unchanged between the 2022 and 2024/2026 reporting cycles. This table presents the overall impairment status at the waterbody scale, across all designated uses. The table does not detail use-specific impairment changes; those details are provided in subsequent sections of the appendix.

Following 2024/26 Cycle Impairment Changes, the appendix provides an individual section for each AU updated during the 2024/2026 cycle. Each AU section details the supporting data and rationale for each designated use attainment determination, including any associated impairment removal decisions. Changes in impairment status at the designated use level are documented in full within the corresponding Designated Use Attainment Decision. AUs where no usable data were available for the 2024/2026 IR cycle are included, but with the assessment information from the 2022 cycle is carried forward.

The following abbreviations are used when referencing designated uses:

- ALU - Aquatic Life Use
- FC - Fish Consumption Use
- SH - Shellfish Harvesting Use
- AES - Aesthetic Use
- PCR - Primary Contact Recreation Use
- SCR - Secondary Contact Recreation Use

When listing an impairment, parentheses and an asterisk (*) are utilized to denote “pollution” or non-pollutant impairments that do not require the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Where applicable, further explanation of the ATTAINS impairment code is provided within square brackets [].

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2024/26 Cycle Impairment Changes

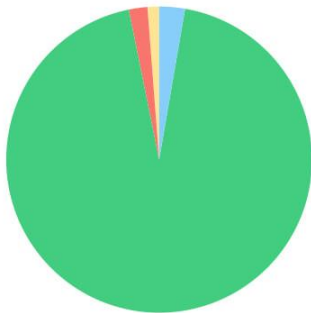
Waterbody	AU_ID	AU Category 2022	AU Category 2024/26	Impairment	ATTAINS Action ID	Impairment Change Summary
Bashbish Brook	MA13-01	2	2	None	--	Unchanged

Bashbish Brook (MA13-01)

Location:	Headwaters at confluence with Ashley Hill Brook, west of West Street, Mount Washington to Massachusetts/New York border, Mount Washington.
AU Type:	RIVER
AU Size:	2.1 MILES
Classification/Qualifier:	B: CWF, HQW

Bashbish Brook (MA13-01)

Watershed Area: 13.29 square miles



Land Cover Type	Entire Basin	Proximal Subbasin (5 km radius)	Stream Buffer (100 m)	Proximal Stream Buffer
Land Cover Area (square miles)	13.29	10.22	3.16	2.51
Agriculture	1.2%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%
Developed	2%	2.3%	2.3%	2.6%
Natural	94.1%	93.5%	90.8%	91%
Wetland	2.7%	2.8%	5.4%	4.6%
Impervious	0.8%	1%	1.1%	1.3%

AU Category 2022	AU Category 2024/26	Impairment	ATTAINS Action ID	Impairment Change Summary
2	2	None	--	Unchanged

Designated Use Attainment Decisions

Fish Consumption

2024/26 Use Attainment	Alert
Not Assessed	NO

2024/26 Use Attainment Summary

The Fish Consumption Use for Bashbish Brook (MA13-01) was not assessed because fish toxics sampling was not conducted recently.

Aesthetic

2024/26 Use Attainment	Alert
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Fully Supporting	NO
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2024/26 Use Attainment Summary

The Aesthetics Use for Bashbish Brook (MA13-01) is assessed as Fully Supporting based on the lack of any objectionable conditions documented by MassDEP staff during the summers of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2019. MassDEP staff surveyed Bashbish Brook just upstream of the confluence of Wright Brook in Mount Washington MA (W2280) during the summers of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2019 (n=3-5/Yr) as part of the Reference Site Network monitoring project. No persistent objectionable conditions (i.e., odors, deposits, growths, or turbidity) were observed during any of the surveys.

Monitoring Stations

Station Code	Organization	Type	Water Body	Station Description	Latitude	Longitude
W2280	MassDEP	Water Quality	Bashbish Brook	[south of Falls Road, approximately 200 feet upstream of the confluence of Wright Brook, Mount Washington]	42.106140	-73.482990

Aesthetic Observations

Aesthetics Summary Statements for MassDEP Stations (2011-2020) (MassDEP Undated 1)

Station Code	Waterbody	Data Year	Field Sheet Count	Aesthetics Summary Statement
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2012	3	MassDEP aesthetics observations for station W2280 on Bashbish Brook can be summarized as follows: there were generally no noted objectionable conditions (odors, deposits, growths, or turbidity) recorded by DEP field sampling crews during summer 2012.
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2013	5	MassDEP aesthetics observations for station W2280 on Bashbish Brook can be summarized as follows: there were generally no noted objectionable conditions (odors, deposits, growths, or turbidity) recorded by DEP field sampling crews during summer 2013.
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2014	4	MassDEP aesthetics observations for station W2280 on Bashbish Brook can be summarized as follows: there were generally no noted objectionable conditions (odors, deposits, growths, or turbidity) recorded by DEP field sampling crews during summer 2014.
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2015	4	MassDEP aesthetics observations for station W2280 on Bashbish Brook can be summarized as follows: there were generally no noted objectionable conditions (odors, deposits, growths, or turbidity) recorded by DEP field sampling crews during summer 2015.
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	4	MassDEP aesthetics observations for station W2280 on Bashbish Brook can be summarized as follows: there were generally no noted objectionable conditions (odors, deposits, growths, or turbidity) recorded by DEP field sampling crews during summer 2019 (n=4).

Observations of Filamentous/Film Algae at MassDEP Stations (2011-2020) (MassDEP Undated 2) (MassDEP Undated 1)

Station Code	Data Year	Field Sheet Count	Field Sheet Count w/ Film & Filamentous Algae Observations	Dense/ Very Dense Film/ Filamentous Algae
W2280	2012	3	3	0
W2280	2013	5	4	0
W2280	2014	4	4	0
W2280	2015	4	4	0
W2280	2019	4	4	0

MassDEP Aesthetics Observations (2011-2020) (MassDEP Undated 2)

Station Code	Waterbody	Data Year	Parameter	Result	Result Count	Total Field Sheet Count
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2012	Color	None	3	3
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2012	Objectionable Deposits	No	3	3
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2012	Odor	None	3	3
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2012	Scum	No	3	3
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2012	Turbidity	None	3	3
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2013	Color	None	4	5
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2013	Color	NR	1	5
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2013	Objectionable Deposits	No	5	5
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2013	Odor	None	5	5
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2013	Scum	No	5	5
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2013	Turbidity	None	5	5
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2014	Color	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2014	Objectionable Deposits	No	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2014	Odor	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2014	Scum	No	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2014	Turbidity	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2015	Color	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2015	Objectionable Deposits	No	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2015	Odor	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2015	Scum	No	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2015	Turbidity	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Aesthetics Impaired?	No	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Aquatic Plant Density, Overall	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Color	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Objectionable Deposits	No	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Odor	None	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Periphyton Density, Filamentous	None	3	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Periphyton Density, Filamentous	Sparse	1	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Periphyton Density, Film	None	3	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Periphyton Density, Film	Sparse	1	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Scum	No	4	4
W2280	Bashbish Brook	2019	Turbidity	None	4	4

Primary Contact Recreation

2024/26 Use Attainment	Alert
Insufficient Information	NO

2024/26 Use Attainment Summary

No bacteria data are available to assess the Primary Contact Recreation Use for Bashbish Brook (MA13-01) and available aesthetics observations for this AU did not result in any impairment, so it is assessed as having Insufficient Information.

Secondary Contact Recreation

2024/26 Use Attainment	Alert
Insufficient Information	NO

2024/26 Use Attainment Summary

No bacteria data are available to assess the Secondary Contact Recreation Use for Bashbish Brook (MA13-01) and available aesthetics observations for this AU did not result in any impairment, so it is assessed as having Insufficient Information.

Data Sources

MassDEP. "Open file analysis of MassDEP WPP water quality data collected between 2011 and 2020 using 2024 CALM guidance." Watershed Planning Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Worcester, MA, Undated 1.

MassDEP. "Open files of unpublished, validated water quality monitoring data, field sheet data, and GIS datalayers in development." Watershed Planning Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Worcester, MA, Undated 2.