

FY 2025: Coastal Habitat and Water Quality (CHWQ) Project Summaries

Alder Brook Best Management Practice Design Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure to Protect Water Quality

Funding: \$125,425

Recipient: Town of Needham

The Town of Needham, in partnership with the Charles River Watershed Association, will develop green stormwater infrastructure designs to mitigate stormwater impacts along Alder Brook. Alder Brook is an impaired tributary of the Charles River, identified as nutrient impaired in the Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters. Advancing assessment and planning for stormwater management will reduce phosphorous input to Alder Brook by capturing and treating stormwater.

Town of Rehoboth Coastal Water Quality Improvement Initiative

Funding: \$87,500

Recipient: Town of Rehoboth

The Town of Rehoboth will work to improve water quality conditions in the Palmer River and Palmer River Watershed. Much of the Palmer River and its tributaries have bacteria impairments and are subject to the Final Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Palmer River Basin. Through identification of bacteria and nutrient hotspots, the Town will improve loading calculations, and identify locations for green stormwater infrastructure. Additionally, the town will update stormwater and zoning bylaws to reduce stormwater impacts to the Palmer River, host green stormwater infrastructure maintenance trainings to build capacity amongst the municipality, and conduct outreach with residents and local farmers on stormwater management.

Habitat Assessment and Restoration for Diadromous Fish in the Ipswich River Watershed

Funding: \$137,053

Recipient: Ipswich River Watershed Association

The Ipswich River Watershed Association, in partnership with the Towns of Ipswich and Topsfield, and the MA Division of Marine Fisheries will develop a comprehensive habitat restoration plan to improve aquatic habitat and riverine conditions in the Ipswich River. Draining to the Great Marsh Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the Ipswich River is crucial habitat for diadromous fish species. This habitat is impaired due to low dissolved oxygen levels, bacteria, and barriers to flow. The project team will assess current habitat conditions and develop strategies and recommendations to improve habitat in the river.

Building Coastal Resilience within the Plymouth, Duxbury, Kingston (PDK) Bay Area

Funding: \$48,685

Recipient: Wildlands Trust

Wildlands Trust, in partnership with the Towns of Plymouth, Duxbury, and Kingston (PDK) will collaborate to develop a comprehensive habitat restoration plan for the PDK Bay area. Focusing on the 30 miles of coastline and numerous tributaries to the Bay, the project will assess existing data, management plans, and community knowledge and interest to identify opportunities to protect coastal habitat. The formation of the PDK Bay Coalition will bring together local leaders, experts, and community groups to lead development of the plan, coordination among municipalities, and share resources.

Saugus River Watershed Non-Point Source Pollution Assessment

Funding: \$56,700

Recipient: Saugus River Watershed Council

The Saugus River Watershed Council (SRWC) will assess stormwater runoff and pollutant loading from municipal properties to the Saugus River Watershed. Carrying pollutants and contaminants of concern, the Saugus River Watershed empties into Rumney Marsh, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and eventually Nahant Bay. Through GIS analyses and on-site field assessments, the SRWC will consider existing conditions, climate scenarios, and levels of impact to the Saugus River Watershed. This data will inform site selection and initial designs for green stormwater infrastructure to mitigate stormwater impacts in the region.