

FY 2026: Coastal Habitat and Water Quality (CHWQ) Grants Project Summaries

Herring River Boat Ramp Stormwater Remediation

Funding: \$44,745

Recipient: Association to Preserve Cape Cod

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod, in partnership with the Town of Harwich, will advance final design for a stormwater best management practice (BMP) at the Herring River Boat Ramp to reduce nutrient and bacteria pollution entering the Herring River and Nantucket Sound. This project is in partnership with the Town of Harwich and builds on earlier planning and design completed with previous federal, municipal, and private funding. The design includes paving entrance/exit driveways, installing pervious pavers in the parking lot, two wet bioretention areas, and buffer plantings to protect the adjacent salt marsh.

Milford Restoration Planning

Funding: \$65,513

Recipient: Charles River Watershed Association

The Charles River Watershed Association and the Town of Milford will develop a habitat restoration plan for the 9.1-square-mile Upper Charles watershed, including six miles of key river habitat. The project will use field data, assessments, and community input to prioritize actions that improve habitat connectivity and water quality. Engagement activities will include the Milford Community Liaison Core Team and community feedback opportunities.

Developing a Comprehensive Restoration Plan for the Gulf River Estuary

Funding: \$117,340

Recipient: Town of Cohasset

The Town of Cohasset, in partnership with the Town of Scituate, will complete a comprehensive habitat restoration plan for the Gulf River Estuary to restore coastal habitat and water quality in Cohasset and Scituate. Facing climate change impacts and stormwater-driven nutrient loading, the project will establish baseline conditions, identify stressors, and prioritize restoration actions for the area. Building on previous assessments and plans, the work will synthesize existing data, collect new field data, and incorporate community input.

Comprehensive Habitat Restoration Plan for the Upper Bluefish River

Funding: \$94,415

Recipient: Town of Duxbury

The Town of Duxbury will complete a comprehensive habitat restoration plan for the tidally restricted upper Bluefish River wetland upstream of Harrison Street. The project will evaluate habitat and water quality to identify stressors—such as tidal restrictions, stormwater, invasive *Phragmites australis*, and impaired fish passage—and develop restoration alternatives to restore the upper Bluefish River. Engagement will include two public meetings and one selectboard meeting.

Kingston Stormwater Improvements - Rocky Nook

Funding: \$38,268

Recipient: Town of Kingston

The Town of Kingston will assess, design, and permit structural stormwater best management practices on Drew and Seaver Avenues. Kingston has been implementing stormwater management at sites identified in a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) 604b funded study indicating locations with high contaminant levels from stormwater runoff and potential green stormwater infrastructure designs identified by the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership. Due to steep slopes directing stormwater toward Kingston Bay, Drew and Seaver Avenues are the last remaining streets surveyed in the 604b project recommended for treatment. The project will develop stormwater BMPs to reduce pollutant loads impacting shellfish, aquaculture, and beaches, and to mitigate erosion.

Mashpee-Wakeby Boat Ramp Stormwater Remediation Proposal**Funding: \$250,000****Recipient: Town of Mashpee**

The Town of Mashpee, in partnership with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game Office of Fishing and Boating Access, will construct green stormwater infrastructure at the Mashpee-Wakeby Pond boat ramp, which drains to the Mashpee River and Popponesset Bay. FY26 funds will support bidding, contracting, construction, and maintenance overview workshops for Town staff. The work builds on previous planning and design funded by the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) and CHWQ Grants.

Implementing Small-Scale Infiltration Trenches to Reduce Nutrient Impairment in Anadromous Fish Habitat**Funding: \$147,250****Recipient: Mystic River Watershed Association**

The Mystic River Watershed Association, in partnership with the Town of Belmont, will complete site assessments, design, and construction for eight stormwater street trenches. This project expands previous efforts—funded by CZM and MassDEP and led by the Town of Arlington and the UNH Stormwater Center—to implement green stormwater infrastructure across the Mystic River watershed, restoring natural hydrology and reducing nutrient pollution. By targeting untreated stormwater runoff—the primary source of nutrient loads identified in the watershed—this work will improve water quality and habitat in Belmont and the Mystic River Watershed.

Weymouth Tide Gate Feasibility Study**Funding: \$143,500****Recipient: Town of Weymouth**

The Town of Weymouth will conduct a feasibility study of the tide gate at the Pearl Street–Philips Creek crossing that currently restricts tidal flow to Pratts Meadow, a 14-acre marsh. This location was identified by the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership (MassBays) as a top priority tidal gate in Massachusetts. The project will include field assessments, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, an alternatives analysis with 10% conceptual designs, and public outreach.

Yarmouth Stormwater Remediation - Advancing Design for Priority Sites

Funding: \$172,268

Recipient: Town of Yarmouth

The Town of Yarmouth will complete site assessment, design, and permitting for priority stormwater retrofits identified in stormwater assessment work funded through a previous CHWQ grant. In partnership with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod and subcontractor Horsley Witten Group, the project will advance designs for one site at Wings Grove Beach and six sites along Old Main Street and complete permitting and final design for a bioretention system on Grove Street. The work targets impaired water bodies south of Route 6 and prioritizes benefits to fish, shellfish, beaches, and Environmental Justice communities.