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OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2020



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

MA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

The mission of the **Department** of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all. DCR fulfills its mission through the stewardship of over 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. DCR also promotes conservation efforts throughout the state, including water resource protection, beach renourishment, aquatic invasive



species management, and flood hazard mitigation.

DCR OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

The DCR **Office of Water Resources** (OWR) works on behalf of people and the environment to protect the water resources on which we all depend. By providing science-based policy, technical assistance, and resource management, our four program areas work to ensure that Massachusetts has plentiful water to support a healthy environment and economic development for generations to come, and that those generations will be better prepared to

face extreme weather and will have access to lakes, ponds, and rivers that are healthy.

On the following pages we invite you to learn more about our:

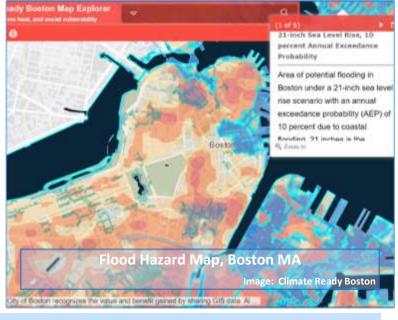
- Flood Hazard Management Program
- Lakes and Ponds Program
- Water Resources Assessment and Planning Program and
- USGS Cooperative Program



FLOOD HAZARD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Flood Hazard Management Program (FHMP) is the state coordinating office for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

- FHMP staff helps homeowners, professionals, and local officials to navigate the requirements of the NFIP.
- Staff provides technical assistance to NFIP communities on a wide range of matters, including floodplain management best practices, flood-resistant standards for construction, floodplain mapping issues, flood insurance questions, and mitigation options to reduce flood losses.



FY2020 FHMP HIGHLIGHTS

In FY2020, FHMP staff participated at the national level in the development and implementation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's new mitigation grant program, "Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities" (BRIC). Other accomplishments of the FHMP in FY2020 include:

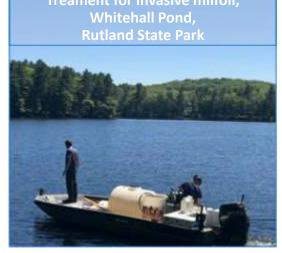
- 22 Community Assistance Visits and 16 training events
- More than 500 Technical Assistance contacts to help Massachusetts' 341 NFIP communities
- Development of an updated Massachusetts Model Floodplain Bylaw to assist NFIP communities with federal compliance
- Coordination with state, national, federal, and local partners to monitor and review floodplain development, mitigation projects, and local and regional resiliency efforts
- Coordination with other DCR leaders on agency-wide climate-adaptation measures



LAKES AND PONDS PROGRAM

The mission of the Lakes and Ponds Program is to protect, restore, and enhance the ecological integrity and recreational opportunities of the Commonwealth's lakes and ponds, including DCR's 300 lakes and 51 freshwater swimming beaches. Treament for invasive milfoil,

- Massachusetts has over 3,500 lakes, approximately 300 of which are on DCR property.
- The program works on behalf of visitors to DCR properties and all who use lakes and ponds, including municipalities, communities, and lake advocate groups.
- The program implements its mission through protection and restoration projects; public education, outreach and technical assistance; monitoring and assessment of lakes and their watersheds; and partnerships with stakeholders at the local, regional, state, and federal levels.



FY2020 LAKES & PONDS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PREVENTING AND MANAGING THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Early detection of aquatic invasive species in lakes and ponds is key for DCR staff to implement rapid response protocols and manage potential infestations as early as possible after introduction. **In FY2020**, staff began a pilot program to use environmental DNA tools, which are sensitive to detection of species and life stages that may be challenging to visually observe. These tools also allow rapid screening of water bodies. In the first season of the eDNA pilot program, neither *Hydrilla* nor Zebra Mussels, both top priorities for containment, has been detected at any new locations. Staff will continue monitoring with both traditional methods and this exciting new technology on an annual basis. **Also in FY2020:**

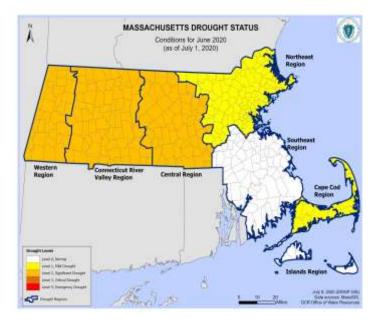


- Staff managed nearly 1,000 acres of aquatic invasive species at DCR properties throughout the Commonwealth
- Seasonal boat ramp monitors provided public education and boat inspections at seven high-use, high-risk water bodies
- Staff offered Weed Watchers training for groups at ten locations to educate residents about aquatic invasive species and to provide hands-on training in identification.

WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING PROGRAM

The WRAP mission is to provide sciencebased policy and technical assistance to decision-makers and the public to ensure that the long-term water needs of the Commonwealth's residents, communities, and environment can be met.

WRAP also provides technical and administrative staff to the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission. Established in 1956, the Commission is responsible for developing, coordinating and overseeing the Commonwealth's water policy and planning activities. To learn more about our work on Commission programs, see FY 2020 WRAP Highlights below and in the <u>WRC annual report</u>.



FY2020 WRAP HIGHLIGHTS

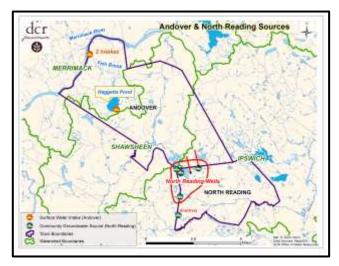
THE INTERBASIN TRANSFER ACT (ITA)

The ITA protects Massachusetts' vital water resources and the communities that rely on them. It ensures

that communities transferring drinking water and wastewater between river basins practice water conservation, and that the hydrology in the donor basin is protected. The process is transparent and includes robust public input.

In FY2020, staff reviewed both new and ongoing projects including:

- Reviewed North Reading's request to purchase water from Andover, including holding required public hearings and presenting a draft staff recommendation
- Initiated review of Burlington's request to join the MWRA



- Provided MEPA comments on Auburn's proposal to purchase water from Worcester
- Reviewed proposed changes to Aquaria's monitoring conditions, which were subsequently approved by the WRC, and initiated review of proposed changes to Foxborough's monitoring conditions
- Monitored continued compliance with conditions for 12 previously approved ITA projects

FY2020 WRAP HIGHLIGHTS

MASSACHUSETTS WATER CONSERVATION STANDARDS

The Commission established the Massachusetts Water Conservation Standards (WCS) in 1992, setting statewide goals for water-use efficiency and providing guidance for effective conservation.

In FY2020, staff continued developing design and content for a user-friendly, web-based water conservation toolkit. The website targets a wide range of water users, including residents, businesses, water suppliers, planners and other municipal officials, institutions, agricultural entities, and educators. Branded "Conserve MA Water," the website (www.mass.gov/conservemawater) features Massachusettsspecific guidance on actions users can take to reduce their water use. It features tools and outreach material that can be easily downloaded and shared.

Also in FY2020, in cooperation with the MA Division of Ecological Restoration and with outreach to water suppliers, staff developed a best management practices guidance document on managing and analyzing water use data for effective rate setting and water conservation program planning.



WATER NEEDS FORECASTS

WRAP staff works with public water suppliers to develop 15- to 20-year water needs forecasts, using a methodology approved by the Water Resources Commission. The forecasts are used by suppliers in applying for Water Management Act (WMA) permits and in long-range planning.

In FY2020, WRAP staff consulted with MassDEP and thirteen public water suppliers in seven river basins (Boston Harbor, Buzzards Bay, Charles, Concord, Ipswich, Islands, and Merrimack basins) to review, revise, or prepare new water needs forecasts.



FY2020 WRAP HIGHLIGHTS

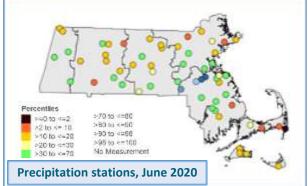
USGS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The U.S. Geological Survey and the state have had a water resources partnership since 1904, when the state's first modern stream gage was installed in the Connecticut River. The program currently maintains 148 monitoring stations providing data on:

- Streamflow— 58 real-time gages
- Groundwater— 37 manual and 44 automated gages
- Precipitation— 5 gages
- Tidal—3 gages
- Soil moisture—1 gage

In FY2020, in coordination with USGS and the

State Geologist, staff completed the last phase of a



3-year USGS grant to replace 34 groundwater monitoring wells. USGS and staff also started to adjust and transfer historical data from original to replacement wells, allowing for the continuation of records.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS, DROUGHT MONITORING AND PRECIPITATION PROGRAM

WRAP staff monitors and analyzes water conditions monthly and produces a <u>Hydrologic Conditions</u> <u>Report</u>, covering precipitation trends, rainfall deficits, river conditions, groundwater levels, and reservoir, lake, pond, and other impoundment levels. Staff uses these data to monitor for a potentially

developing drought or the deterioration of conditions during droughts and to advise the state's Drought Management Task Force (DMTF).

Of the hydrologic monitoring networks, WRAP staff manages the precipitation network, which has been in operation since 1956 and currently provides data from 50 active stations in Massachusetts. Other networks are operated cooperatively with the USGS. These data are critical to drought monitoring.

IN FY2020, WRAP staff, working with other agencies, completed a comprehensive review and update of the <u>Massachusetts Drought</u> <u>Management Plan</u>, including the drought indices, methods used to determine drought, communication, and state and local actions to prepare for and respond to drought.



Also in FY2020, WRC staff began work with the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University to develop a Drought Dashboard – a web-based tool to provide data and maps of drought indices, hydrologic conditions, and drought monitoring. This tool will enhance data processing capabilities and analyses for DMTF meetings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-office-of-waterresources

Photo credits:

Cover: No. Reservoir, Winchester, June 2020. E. Graham p. 2: A-1 Reservoir, Westborough. V. Curran

- p. 2: Cleveland Pond. T. Flannery
- p. 3, Whitehall Pond & Connecticut River. T. Flannery
- p. 7, Quabbin Reservoir, Cliff Read

Flood Hazard Ma	Flood Hazard Management Program			
City or Town	Service Provided			
Amherst	Meeting			
Abington	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Acton				
Adams	Technical Assistance/Meeting Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Amesbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Amherst	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Andover	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Aquinnah	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Arlington	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Ashland	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Ashland	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Athol	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Attleboro	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Auburn	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Aubum	-			
Barnstable	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Barnstable	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
County Becket	Technical Assistance (Meeting			
Bedford	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Bellingham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Belmont	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Beverly Billerica	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Bolton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Boston	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Bourne	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Braintree	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Brewster	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Bridgewater	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Brimfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Brockton	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Brockton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Burlington	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Cambridge	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Canton	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Canton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Carlisle	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Charlton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Chatham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Chelmsford	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Chesterfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Chicopee	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Cohasset	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Cummington	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Dartmouth	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Dedham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Dennis	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Dighton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Dover	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			

Development				
Duxbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
East Brookfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Eastham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Easthampton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Easton	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Easton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Edgartown	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Everett	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Fairhaven	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Fall River	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Falmouth	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Fitchburg	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Foxborough	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Framingham	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Framingham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Franklin	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Georgetown	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Gloucester	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Goshen	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Gosnold	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Granville	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Great	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Barrington				
Greenfield	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Greenfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Groton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Hadley	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Harwich	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Haverhill	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Hingham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Holden	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Holland	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Holliston	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
	-			
Hopkinton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Hull	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Ipswich	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Leominster	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Lexington	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Lowell	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Lynn	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Lynn	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Malden	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Mansfield	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Mansfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Marblehead	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Marion	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Marlborough	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Marshfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Mashpee	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Mattapoisett	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Middleton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Milford	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Millbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			

Monson	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Nahant	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Nantucket	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Natick	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Needham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
New Bedford	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
New	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Marlborough				
Newbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Newburyport	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Norfolk	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
North Adams	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
North Andover	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
North	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Attleborough				
North	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Brookfield				
Northampton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Northborough	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Norton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Norwell	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Norwood	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Oak Bluffs	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Oakham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Orleans	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Pembroke	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Pepperell	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Plymouth	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Plymouth	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Provincetown	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Quincy	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Reading	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Revere	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Rockland	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Rockport	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Rowley	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Royalston	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Salem	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Salisbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Sandwich	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Saugus	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Scituate	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Seekonk	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Shutesbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Somerset	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Somerset	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Southwick	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Stockbridge	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			

Stoneham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Stoughton	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Stoughton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Sudbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Sutton	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Swampscott	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Swansea	Community Assistance Visit/Contact			
Swansea	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Tewksbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Tisbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Topsfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Townsend	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Truro	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Tyngsborough	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Wakefield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Waltham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Wareham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Wayland	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Wellesley	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Wellfleet	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Wenham	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
West Boylston	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
West	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Bridgewater				
West	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Springfield				
West Tisbury	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Westfield	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Westford	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Weston	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Westport	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Weymouth	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Wilmington	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Winchendon	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Winchester	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Windsor	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Winthrop	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Worcester	Technical Assistance/Meeting			
Yarmouth	Technical Assistance/Meeting			

APPENDIX A (CONT.) LIST OF FY20 SERVICES PROVIDED AND LOCATIONS

Lakes and Ponds Program			
City or Town	Service Provided		
Boxboro	New England Fishing and Outdoor Expo		
Concord	Boat Ramp Monitor, Walden Pond		
Douglas	Boat Ramp Monitor, Wallum Lake		
Lake Placid, NY	Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society		
Lee/Lenox	Boat Ramp Monitor, Laurel Lake		
Lunenburg	Weed Watcher Training		
Melrose	Weed Watcher Training		
Pittsfield	Boat Ramp Monitor Grant, Lake Onota & Pontoosuc		
Portsmouth, NH	Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel		
Spencer	Weed Watcher Training		
Springfield	Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species panel		
Sturbridge	Weed Watcher Training		
Stockbridge	Boat Ramp Monitor Grant, Stockbridge Bowl		
Tolland	Weed Watcher Training		
Townsend	Weed Watcher Training		
Westfield	Boat Ramp Monitor, Pequot Pond		
West Springfield	Springfield Sportsman's Show		

Water Resources Assessment and Planning Program			
City or Town	Service Provided		
Auburn	Interbasin Transfer Act Pre-Application		
Brockton (Aquaria)	Interbasin Transfer Act Review of Monitoring Conditions		
Burlington	Interbasin Transfer Act Pre-Application		
Chelmsford, North Chelmsford Water District	Water Needs Forecast review, Concord River Basin		
Danvers/Middleton	Water Needs Forecast, Ipswich River Basin		
Dover	Water Needs Forecast review, Charles River Basin		
Foxborough	Interbasin Transfer Act Review of Monitoring Conditions		
Holliston	Water Needs Forecast review, Charles River Basin		
Hudson	Water Needs Forecast review, Concord River Basin		
Leicester	Interbasin Transfer Act Applicability Review		
Marlborough	Water Needs Forecast review, Concord River Basin		
Merrimac	Water Needs Forecast review, Merrimack River Basin		
Millis	Water Needs Forecast review, Charles River Basin		
Nantucket	Water Needs Forecast review, Islands Basin		
North Reading	Interbasin Transfer Act Pre-Application		
Plymouth (Pine Hills)	Water Needs Forecast, South Coastal Basin		
Walpole	Water Needs Forecast, Boston Harbor Basin		
Wareham (Onset)	Water Needs Forecast review, Buzzards Bay Basin		
Wayland	Water Needs Forecast review, Concord River Basin		
Weymouth	USGS Well Replacement		

APPENDIX B LIST OF LAKES AND PONDS PROJECTS AND LOCATIONS

City or Town	Location	Waterbody	Service Provided
Abington	Ames Nowell State Park	Cleveland Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Andover	Harold Parker State Forest	Field Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Becket	October Mountain State Forest	Buckley Dunton Lake	Aquatic Plant Management
Clarksburg	Clarksburg State Park	Mausert's Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Clinton	Wachusett Reservoir Watershed	South Meadow Pond System	Aquatic Plant Management
East Otis	Tolland State Forest	Otis Reservoir & Big Pond	Aquatic Plant Survey & Mapping
Framingham	DCR Water Supply Protection	Stearns Reservoir	Aquatic Plant Management
Georgetown	DFG Office of Fishing & Boating site	Rock Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Groton & Pepperell	J. Harry Rich State Forest	Nashua River	Aquatic Plant Management
Marshfield	Town of Marshfield	Marshfield Ponds	Aquatic Plant Management
Natick	Lake Cochituate State Park	Lake Cochituate & Fiske Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Newton	Charles River Reservation	Charles River Lakes District	Aquatic Plant Management
Newton	Charles River Reservation	Ware's Cove, Charles River, Lower Basin	Aquatic Plant Management
Norfolk	Bristol-Blake State Reservation	Stony Brook Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Somerville	Mystic River Reservation	Mystic Lakes & River	Aquatic Plant Management
Spencer	Spencer State Forest	Thompson Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Topsfield	Willowdale State Forest	Hood Pond	Aquatic Plant Management
Westminster	Leominster State Forest	Crow Hill & Paradise Ponds	Aquatic Plant Management
Ashby	Willard Brook State Forest	Damon Pond	Beach Bacteria Reduction Pilot Project
Concord	Walden Pond State Reservation	Walden Pond	Erosion Control Plans & Permits
Douglas	Douglas State Forest	Wallum Lake	Stormwater & Erosion Control Design & Permitting
East Taunton	Massasoit State Park	Middle Pond	Aquatic Plant Management & Beach Restoration Permitting
East Otis	Tolland State Forest	Otis Reservoir	Erosion Control Construction at Camping Beach
Framingham	DCR Water Supply Protection	Stearns Reservoir	Boat Ramp Permitting
Natick	Cochituate State Park	Lake Cochituate & Fiske Pond	Baseline Water Quality Monitoring
North Adams	Natural Bridge State Park	Natural Bridge Pond	Sediment Removal, Phase II
Newburyport	Maudslay State Park	Flowering Pond	Post-dredging Monitoring
Plymouth	Myles Standish State Forest	Fearing Pond	Construction of Stormwater Control Measures
Multiple Locations	Multiple Locations	Multiple Beaches	Beach Sand Replacement Permitting
Multiple Locations	Multiple Locations	10 Lakes & Ponds	eDNA Analysis of Lakes at High Risk for Zebra Mussels
Cheshire	Town Route 8	Cheshire Reservoir	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Egremont		Prospect Lake	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Great Barrington		Lake Mansfield	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Lee	Town Route 20	Laurel Lake	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Monterey	DCR Route 57	Lake Buel	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Pittsfield	City - Burbank Park & Hancock Road	Lake Onota & Pontoosuc Lake	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Richmond	Town - Beach Road	Richmond Pond	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Stockbridge	Town Route 183	Stockbridge Bowl	Zebra mussel dive inspection
Westfield	Hampton Ponds State Park	Pequot Pond	Zebra mussel dive inspection