



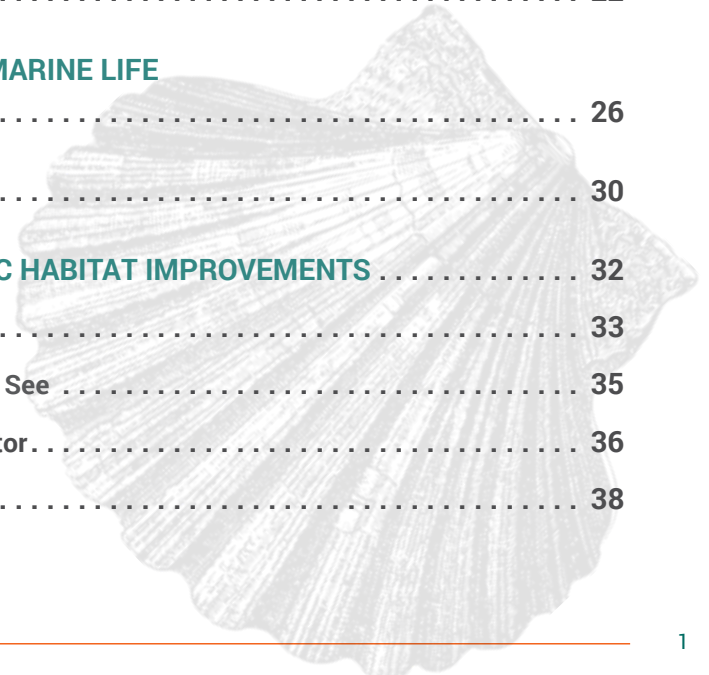
MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
ANNIVERSARY REPORT

PRESERVE THE TRUST



Established in 1988, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust is best known as the organization that created the ‘Whale Plate’ – still one of the most popular Specialty License Plates in the state!

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MESSAGE FROM R.J. LYMAN *Chair of the Board of Trustees*

PRESERVE THE TRUST!

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust continues to look far and wide for programs and policies to advance, for animals and ecologies to protect, for ideas and initiatives to fund and to foster. The Trust has remained unblinkingly focused on the words that have long captured our founders’ vision: Preserve the Trust.

For 30 years and beyond, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust – through its dedicated staff and distinguished trustees – has preserved, protected, and defended those precious species whose care has been entrusted to our concern. We owe all who have preceded us in this noble mission our thanks and our praise. We aim to continue their vibrant legacy.

Largely backed by dedicated surcharges on four specialty license plates, the Trust has funded work to guard against harms, both immediate and existential, that threaten right whales, brook trout, striped bass, and the oceanic and riverine systems that sustain them. It is the call to serve that trust, that sacred public trust, that all associated with the Trust listen for, and hear clearly, in all that we do.

Inspired by the Trust’s anniversary, I am inclined to focus for this moment of reflection with you on a different understanding of the phrase Preserve the Trust.

Here, Preserve the Trust is not merely an exhortation to us to do good works, although it is surely that, and that the Trust surely does. It is also a direction to all of you – the Trust’s supporters, its allies, our friends – to recognize the distinctive mission and benefit of this thirty-year old institutional innovation. The Trust is worth preserving in its own right.

The Trust seeks to incubate novel ideas and new initiatives – helping government agencies and non-governmental organizations innovate and improve their work, without diverting from their on-going, baseline operating priorities. The Trust promotes innovation and improvement for other environmental mission-driven actors without distracting from their on-going efficiency and effectiveness.

I end as I began: we seek to Preserve the Trust. I am confident that, with your support, we will both for the protection of our oceanic and riverine ecosystems and for the promotion of this marvelous, innovative institution.

Yours in Trust,

R.J. Lyman
Chair, Massachusetts Environmental Trust

MESSAGE FROM REBECCA L. TEPPER *Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs*

On behalf of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is proud to release this special anniversary report celebrating the contributions of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) during their decades of environmental conservation and restoration efforts.

Massachusetts has long led the nation in environmental action, and MET is an incredible example of our early work. Established in 1988, the Trust was part of the Boston Harbor cleanup efforts to support pollution remediation and water quality improvement projects, quickly becoming a model for other states to emulate. Today, it is an independent grantmaking entity that funds critical programs designed to protect and conserve Massachusetts’ species and natural systems.

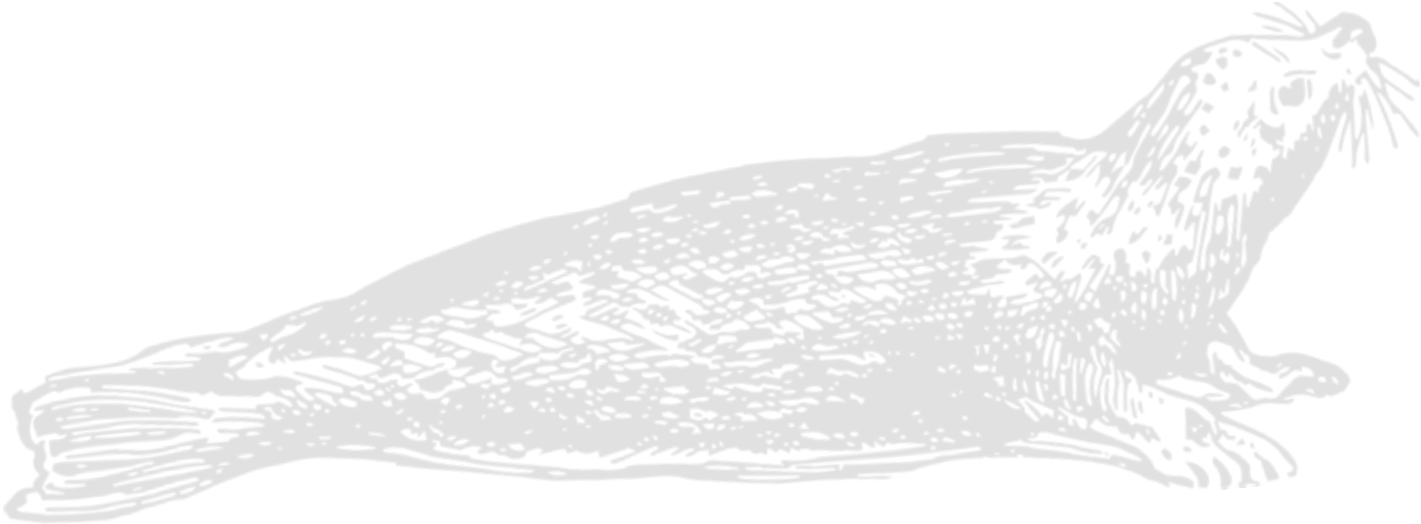
The Trust is the success it is today thanks to the support of Massachusetts residents. In partnership with the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, MET is solely funded by the sales of its four environmentally-themed license plates, including the Right Whale. The purchase

of these license plates brings awareness about our endangered species and the ecosystems on which they depend. As a result, the Marine Animal Entanglement Response Program (MAER) was created to develop techniques to protect, monitor, and rescue whales and sea turtles and provide valuable data on how right whale ecology and demographics overlap with human use. The program has since evolved as a platform for innovations in whale disentanglement techniques and to advance our understanding of how right whale feeding behavior affects entanglement and ship strike risk.

As we look back on MET’s illustrious past, we also look ahead. The Trustees, the MET staff, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs are eager to continue addressing threats to our environment and building on the legacy of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Owner of Holiday Brook Farm, President of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance, Board Chair of the Woodland Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts

John P. DeVillars
BlueWave Holdings, Former EEA Secretary and Administrator at EPA Boston

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Former Board Chair and Retired State Senator, Served as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture and as Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WHO PROVIDED INVALUABLE GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP TO MET:

- Alan Wilson, Esq., *Legislative Sponsor of the MET's Enabling Act*
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 - Charles H.W. Foster, *Former Chair, First Secretary of EEA **
 - Edward Teague, III, *Former House Minority Leader*
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 - Stephen Brewer, *Former State Senator and Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means*
 - Thomas M. Finneran, *Former Chair of House Ways and Means Committee*
- *Deceased

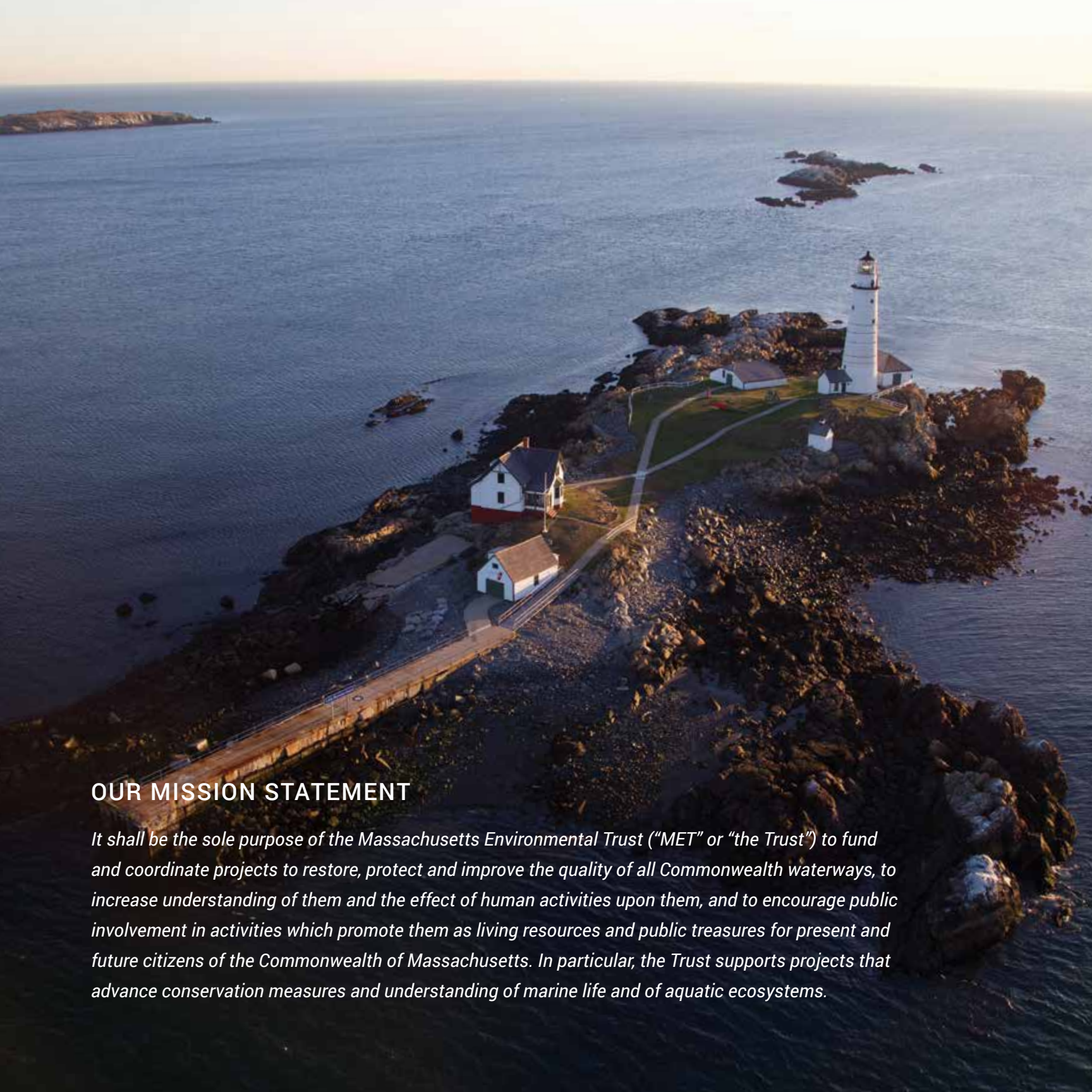
MET Former Directors

- William Hinkley
- Robert O'Connor
- Robbin Peach
- Dorrie Pizzella

*Marion Fremont-Smith

In memory Marion Fremont-Smith (1926-2021), a respected national expert on nonprofit law and a prominent business leader. Marion was one of the state's "distinguished citizens" chosen by Governor Dukakis for MET's original board in 1988 and served as chair of the board for more than a decade and remained a dedicated trustee through 2019.

For additional information about the Trust please visit [MASS.GOV/EEA/MET](https://mass.gov/eea/met)



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It shall be the sole purpose of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust ("MET" or "the Trust") to fund and coordinate projects to restore, protect and improve the quality of all Commonwealth waterways, to increase understanding of them and the effect of human activities upon them, and to encourage public involvement in activities which promote them as living resources and public treasures for present and future citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In particular, the Trust supports projects that advance conservation measures and understanding of marine life and of aquatic ecosystems.



SEEKING JUSTICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

“The Massachusetts Environmental Trust continues to have a meaningful impact on the Commonwealth’s environmental resources and natural habitat. Funding projects that aim to preserve and protect marine wildlife and environmental resources are consistent with our Administration’s commitment to working closely with local partners around the Commonwealth to improve natural habitats and promote environmental stewardship.”

— Stephanie Cooper
Undersecretary of Environment, EEA

WHAT IS THE MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST?

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET/Trust) is a grantmaking organization housed within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). It was originally established to ensure that \$2 million in settlement funds, generated by the landmark federal lawsuit filed against the state for violating the Clean Waters Act, went directly to pollution remediation and water quality improvement projects in Boston Harbor and nearby coastal waters.

The Trust operates as an independent entity without tax dollars or legislative appropriations and is governed by a board of influential private citizens — many of whom are former public sector leaders and committed business executives. Through an annual competitive application process, MET awards grants to organizations whose programs support our mission to protect and conserve threatened marine animals and to preserve and restore river and estuarine ecosystems throughout the Commonwealth.

“The Massachusetts Environmental Trust has been an invaluable partner, providing critical funding support for important environmental projects that would otherwise go wanting for funding. MET invests in thoughtful and creative work that needs to be done that both protects critical resources and reflects a long view and an imperative strategic investment in the environment. There is no other organization like MET, and it is critical to the protection and enhancement of the environment and quality of life in the Commonwealth”

— Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director, Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Today, programs funded by the Trust are as diverse as the ecosystems they help to protect and restore. From the preservation of at-risk marine mammals, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, to reducing nutrient pollution and controlling invasive species in our rivers and ponds, to supporting educational programs that shape our schoolchildren into tomorrow’s environmental stewards, a significant amount of Massachusetts’ progress in protecting our waterways and natural resources over the past 30 years can be traced back to the Trust.

At the time, our founding board members and trustees could not have imagined the lasting, widespread impact of the Trust on all the Commonwealth’s watersheds, rivers, bays, wildlife and marine life. What began three decades ago as a channel for funding to restore Boston Harbor has become an incredible source of connection, inspiration, and collaboration.

If you live, work or play near a Massachusetts river or stream; swim, fish or boat on Massachusetts’ harbors or bays; bike along our lakes and reservoirs; enjoy the beauty of our marshes and estuaries; or have seen a whale breach, you are a beneficiary of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

1988



The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET/Trust), originally called the Boston and Lynn Harbors and Massachusetts, Buzzards and Cape Cod Bays Environment Trust Fund, was established by the Massachusetts State Legislature to disburse \$2 million in settlement proceeds for violations of the Clean Water Act

MET allocates \$1.6 million of the settlement to the establishment of the Massachusetts Bays Program to address the mounting environmental threats to the health of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays

1995



The Trust is first in the state to partner with the RMV to introduce non-profit affinity license plates: the Right Whale Tail/Roseate Terns environmental plates

Updated legislation allows the Trust to award grants to expand funding to Central and Western Mass

1996

Grants issued to support Conservation Commission Training in support of the Rivers Protection Act

MET awards MASSBAYS significant grant to seed creation of Massachusetts Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The CCMP serves as the blueprint for coordinated action among government and partners to restore and protect the diverse natural resources of the Bays

Community Foundation Partnership program established to amplify environmental grantmaking at the local level

1997

Threatened & Endangered Species Grant Program funds the Whale Conservation Working Partnership between MET, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and several marine mammal groups to develop an emergency right whale surveillance program

1998

Trout plate introduced to represent the rivers, streams, and lakes of Central & Western Mass

Major focus on water quality monitoring grants

Threatened & Endangered Species Grant Program funds six water bird projects

1999

Blackstone Valley Mill plate issued symbolizing the need to restore our state's urban waterways and riverfront communities



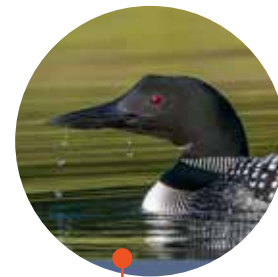
2001

The Trust funds the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium (NARWC), a collaborative data sharing group from various research and conservation organizations, shipping and fishing industries, technical experts, U.S and Canadian government agencies; all of whom are dedicated to the conservation and recovery of the right whale



2002

The Trust establishes new grant programs: Environmental Education, Youth in Environmental Philanthropy, Environmental Monitoring and the Biodiversity Grant Program



MET provides seed funding to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Coastal Zone Management (CZM) for the development of the Massachusetts Ocean Plan with importance placed on marine protected species, the right whale in particular

2003

2005

Major \$685,000 settlement disbursed to Town Line Brook Pilot Project, The Household Hazardous Waste Handling and Disposal Project and The Greater Boston Water Quality Improvement Project



"BOB", is created as the Trust's spokesperson to spread awareness about the programs funded by MET license plate holders

2006

MET hosts landmark environmental briefing at the Massachusetts State House to honor legislators and highlight grantee successes

2008

Established Secretary's Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Annual Awards

The Trust celebrates its 20th Anniversary

2009

The Trust charged with distributing monies from U.S. vs. Exxon settlement. \$1 million awarded to Mystic River Watershed water quality and wetland restoration projects

2011

MET commits to continuing long-term support of the North Atlantic Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Response Program

2012

MET vigorously invests in river restoration projects and monitoring the physical and biological benefits of dam removal

2016

MET Trustees direct funds to establish the Boston Harbor Island Alliance to preserve, protect, and enhance public understanding and enjoyment of the Boston Harbor Islands

2019

MET and the Division of Marine Fisheries introduce the new Striped Bass license plate and grant program to protect and preserve striped bass



2020 AND BEYOND

Trout plate funds are now shared with MassWildlife to target high-priority restoration efforts in trout streams

The Division of Marine Fisheries and MET establish a panel of experts to provide oversight to the Striped Bass Conservation grant program

For 30 years and beyond your contributions have made it possible to continue our mission



“We salute the Massachusetts Environmental Trust for its 30 years of support for organizations committed to protecting and promoting the Bay State’s aquatic resources and programs. Since 2000, the Trust’s generous awards have enabled research and habitat restoration on Cape Cod, environmental education for Merrimack River Valley and North Shore students; ecosystems enhancements within the Taunton River and Blackstone River watersheds; and low-impact development initiatives in Central Massachusetts. This assistance has been instrumental in Mass Audubon’s efforts to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife, and we offer congratulations.”

— Gary Clayton
President, Mass Audubon (2015-2020)

FUNDING THE PROGRAMMING

“Grants provided by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust help restore the health of our wetlands, strengthen aquatic ecosystems, protect wildlife and help us take a proactive approach to prepare for the impacts of climate change. I encourage residents across Massachusetts to consider buying a special environmental-themed license plate from the RMV, which is a terrific way to support this important work and help protect the Commonwealth’s vital and unique natural resources.”

— Vandana M. Rao, Ph.D.
Director of Water Policy, EEA



THE ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT GRANTS

Grants exceeding \$5.5 million were awarded for environmental remediation and education projects resulting from nearly 30 settlements.

Following are descriptions of several grants that disbursed monies received from some of the largest settlements:

1988 – MassBays Program: \$1,600,000

A significant portion of the Trust’s founding settlement was used to establish the Massachusetts Bays Program to support scientific research on Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays and to focus public attention on the state’s coastal resources. Seed money from the Trust helped to leverage federal support when the bays were added to the National Estuary Program in 1990 and launched an initiative to develop the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). The MassBays Program continues to receive federal support and is housed at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

1990 – Belle Isle Marsh Restoration: \$154,000

MET oversaw EPA fine money to lead the restoration at Belle Isle Marsh with the municipalities of Boston, Lynn, Revere, Saugus, and Winthrop. Funds were used to cover the cost of heavy equipment to remove mountains of debris including 25 tons of concrete, 225 tires from the pond, and a significant amount of trash. The Belle Isle Marsh, Boston’s last remaining salt marsh, and much of the Rumney Marsh, are managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

1992 – Commonwealth vs. General Electric Company: \$75,000

MET awarded funding to, Goldman Environmental Consultants, to develop a statewide information program on the proper disposal of photochemical waste for small printing and graphic arts shops. This program became a catalyst for the industry’s work with the EPA to develop standardized practices and compliance procedures.

2000 – Commonwealth vs. Global Petroleum Corporation: \$500,000

MET awarded settlement funds to GEOSYNTEC Consultants, Saugus River Watershed Council, and the City of Revere to provide planning, design, construction, operation, monitoring, and evaluation of measures to control discharges of contaminated stormwater to the Town Line Brook and to assist in the remediation of pollution because of under-regulated discharges of pollutants while also finding solutions to correct the problem without draining the public coffers. Town Line Brook flows through the cities of Revere, Malden, and Everett and serves as the headwater of the Pines River which is located within the Rumney Marsh and is designated as an area of critical environmental concern.

2000 – Commonwealth vs. Mass Bay Transportation Authority: \$305,000

From this Supplemental Environmental Project grants were awarded to the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) for their “Find It and Fix It” project. This project identified problems in the watersheds caused by non-point source pollution through visual monitoring and water quality monitoring and it guided the remediation of non-point source pollution by working with municipalities and other landowners while educating the public on the impacts of stormwater runoff and on ways to help protect the river. Remediation solutions were instituted in numerous locations and today these activities continue to benefit the water quality of the watershed and Boston Harbor.

2001 – MassPIRG vs. ICI Americas, Inc.: \$225,000

This settlement funded a collaborative education initiative by the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension, Bridgewater State College and the Taunton River Watershed. These entities worked together to develop and implement a pollution prevention curriculum involving 55 teachers and 17,000 students in 22 middle and high school systems in the Taunton and Mount Hope Bay watershed areas.

2009 – US vs. Exxon: \$1,000,000

On April 30, 2009 the ExxonMobil Pipeline Company pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges related to a 2006 spill of diesel fuel and kerosene into the Mystic River. The plea negotiated with the United States Attorney, The U.S. EPA, and the U.S. Coast Guard specified community service payments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service and to the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. The \$1 million payment to the Trust was mandated to support water quality improvements and/or wetlands restoration in the Lower Mystic River Watershed. Funds were directed to four organizations:

1. Charles River Watershed Association was awarded \$350,000 to construct and monitor several stormwater improvement projects in the Chelsea Creek sub-watershed.
2. Groundwork Somerville was awarded \$150,000 for the mechanical and hand harvesting of invasive Water Chestnut in areas of the Mystic River in Medford and Somerville.
3. Mystic River Watershed Association was awarded \$325,000 for the “Find It & Fix It” program, an integrated water quality monitoring and improvement program in the Lower Mystic River Watershed.
4. Mystic Valley Development Commission was awarded \$175,000 for the implementation of the restoration activities as outlined in the US Army Corps of Engineers Malden River Habitat Restoration Study.

The Trust not only proved the value of its model, it also helped bring awareness to a rising tide of concern on the state of Massachusetts’ natural resources. In response, the Trust began to expand its funding reach to support a wider and broader set of water related environmental challenges.

Kinne Brook Restoration,
Westfield River



Massachusetts’ First Philanthropic License Plate Program

“MET, along with every owner of a Whale Tail license plate, is a key partner in the Center for Coastal Studies’ efforts to protect and preserve the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. Not only does MET provide much needed funding to our right whale aerial surveillance and habitat monitoring programs in and around Cape Cod Bay, it also plays a crucial role in building public awareness of the uncertain future of these incredibly rare animals, and of the important work that the Center does to improve the chances of survival for individual whales and the population as a whole.”

*— Dr. Charles “Stormy” Mayo
Co-Founder and Director of the Right Whale Ecology Program
at the Center for Coastal Studies*

While many of Massachusetts’ citizens may not be familiar with the Trust, most all recognize our North Atlantic Right Whale and Roseate Terns environmental license plates and more recent Leaping Brook Trout, Blackstone Valley Mill, and Striped Bass license plates.

Issued in 1994, MET was the first philanthropic organization in the state to partner with the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to develop specialty plates. Today, all our revenue comes from our license plate program with the “whale plate” generating a large percentage of the Trust’s total annual income.

In addition to enabling our mission and funding, The Trust’s four environmental plates create community among Massachusetts drivers who share both a love and sense of responsibility for our natural resources, marine animals and wildlife. By purchasing a plate, each driver is taking an active role in supporting the endangered North Atlantic right whales, restoring our fragile rivers and fish populations, and maintaining the life-sustaining link between our waterways and all who live in Massachusetts.

LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM
QUICK FACTS

- The whale tail plate was the first Specialty/Vanity license plate in Massachusetts
- The RW/RT plate is celebrating 30 years of providing grant funding!
- All plates numbered 1-999 are reserved for for an upcoming auction
- Approximately 15,000 plates are renewed each year
- Preserve the Trust refers to our responsibility to safeguard the Bay State’s environment now and for future generations
- Since 2012, car owners who choose MET plates are the sole funders of the grants
- \$40 of every \$100 renewal fee is directly donated to the Trust as a tax-deductible contribution
- The whale plate initially had only numbers, not RW or RT embossments. Though corrected soon after, all-number plates are still on the road



Photo by Chris Bilodeau

The **Blackstone Valley**, which runs through the central part of the state, was the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. By featuring the historical and economically significant waterways of Central Massachusetts, the Blackstone Valley Mill (BV) plate reminds us of the importance of restoring our urban rivers and streams to enhance their ecology and to improve the health of our riverfront communities.

The **Whale Plate** features the fluke of a North Atlantic right whale (RW) and two roseate terns (RT). The North Atlantic right whale is the state marine mammal and the world’s most endangered large whale. Roseate terns are native to Massachusetts and are also endangered. Both animals are federally recognized as endangered species and depend upon healthy ecosystems for their survival.

The **Brook Trout** (FW) license plate was introduced in 1998. Native to the state’s western streams, they symbolize both the pristine water in which they thrive and the recreational benefits of a healthy environment. Brook trout survive in only the coldest and cleanest water and serve as indicators of the health of the watersheds they inhabit. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and MET are actively working together to fund programs that protect and restore brook trout populations.

Striped Bass are native to the United States and have been prized in Massachusetts since colonial times. Today, stripers support both recreational and commercial fisheries and are by far one of the most important fish to local anglers. The Mass Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and MET developed this plate that depicts a striped bass in pursuit of alewives to support new programs to research, protect, and preserve striped bass populations to ensure that future generations of anglers will have the opportunity to experience the unmatched thrill of fishing for this iconic species.



THE GRANTS

“The Massachusetts Environmental Trust is an important source of funds for our work protecting and restoring the Connecticut River watershed. This funding has allowed us to find environmental problems and solve them using the talents and energy of Massachusetts residents, scientists and government. We know that when drivers purchase a conservation plate they are investing in their environment and MET works hard with its grantees to deliver them a positive return.”

*— Andrew Fisk, Ph.D.
Northeast Regional Director, American Rivers, Former Executive Director, Connecticut River Conservancy*

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE TRUST HAS FUNDED NEARLY 1000 PROJECTS AND AWARDED OVER \$28 MILLION.

Funds generated from the “Preserve the Trust” specialty license plates and from environmental litigation settlements have provided awards in excess of \$28,000,000 to nearly 1,000 state-based environmental conservation efforts from more than 300 organizations.

For more than a decade, MET grants have ranged from \$500 to \$200,000 with an average of \$600,000 annually directly supporting non-profit organizations, educational institutions, municipalities, and state agencies in partnership with the Trust. Trust monies have helped advance the agendas of watershed alliances, conservation commissions, marine fisheries and habitat associations, and health and wellness programs in urban areas affected by polluted rivers, streams and waterways.

Over the years, grant awards have prioritized Ecosystem Health and Biological Diversity, Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation, Human Health and the Environment, Environmental Education, Youth in Environmental Philanthropy and Environmental Monitoring. More recently the Trust has streamlined its grant focus to supporting at-risk marine animals and improving the natural systems that marine animals and freshwater wildlife rely on for survival.

The Trust is all about forging partnerships, supporting creative solutions for pressing environmental issues, ensuring a voice for Massachusetts on environmental policy decisions, and guaranteeing that Massachusetts water resources will be protected and managed wisely for the benefit of its citizens. The Trust is also one of

the few state-based environmental philanthropies in the nation working as a non-partisan environmental advocate to ensure partnerships between the public and private sectors are developed and fostered while sustaining a cooperative and mutually supportive relationship with EEA and its divisions. And, of course, we would be nowhere without the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Specialty Plate Department!

The Trust also exercises strategies for amplifying grants in which many recipients have used our grants as seed money to establish and expand programs that have inspired additional funding from federal, state, public and private entities. Trust awards provide matching funds whereby our grant recipients essentially double the size of their grant. These practices have created strong, collaborative funding partnerships that have reduced the need for state support while significantly increasing the

return to the Massachusetts economy on every dollar invested by the Trust.

For example, from 1996-2000, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution received \$136,791 from MET to implement a collaborative northern right whale health assessment program to improve the understanding of factors that threaten the survival of these endangered whales. Studies involved nutritional and genetic aspects and the use of acoustic tags to measure the responses of whales to approaching vessels.

Starting in 2000, MET launched the Community Foundation Endowment and Partnership Program providing \$1 million for funding and capacity-building support to organizations like the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Environmental Endowment Program where MET funds were matched by individuals in Berkshire County creating a reliable source of funding

for small community-oriented projects related to water quality. The Crossroads Community Foundation Endowment Program used Trust funds to expand the Crossroads Environment and Community Initiative, creating \$1.5 million in endowed funds to support environmental organizations.

Since 2005, UMass Amherst and Groundwork Lawrence received grants for the Spicket River Revitalization Project. Monies helped build community awareness of urban waterways and revitalization efforts, including the development of a bilingual People’s Guide to the Spicket River by area graduate students.

In 2014, MET helped the Town of Greenfield and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments leverage MET funds to secure additional funding to establish the Resilient Communities Coalition. The coalition worked to institute green infrastructure to manage stormwater and to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Report based on impacts from climate change on both a watershed and local scale.

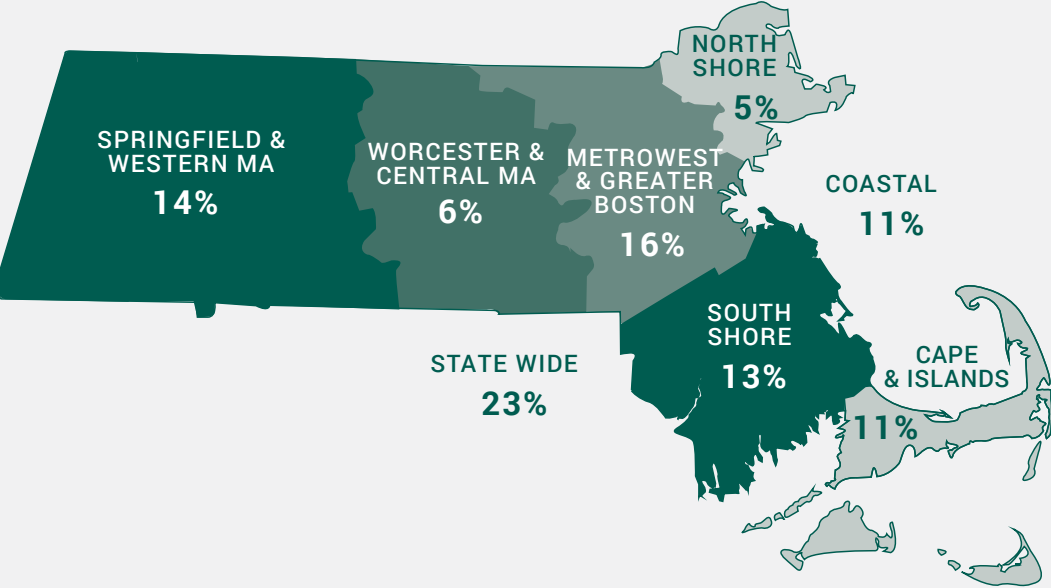
As part of a statewide effort to help protect the North Shore coastal communities from flooding, drought, and destructive storms, MET and the MassBays Program awarded \$60,000 in 2018 to the Ipswich River Watershed Association to support a field assessment of the resiliency of dams and culverts in tidal areas. Now there is a statewide manual: The Tidal Crossing Handbook.

In 2019, MET awarded a seed grant of \$59,810 to the Falmouth Rod & Gun Club and the Sporting, Safety, Conservation and Education Fund for the Upper Childs River Restoration Project to restore abandoned cranberry bogs to their natural state as wetlands habitat for waterfowl, brook trout, and other fish and wildlife. Many partners came together to ensure the success of this \$3 million project.

HOW WE DETERMINE WHICH PROGRAMS RECEIVE GRANTS

There are many worthy initiatives throughout the Commonwealth focused on preserving and restoring our waterways, marine life and natural habitats. Each application for a grant is carefully reviewed by the Advisory Committee drawn from academia, government, private industry and philanthropic organizations. It is comprised of scientists, educators, environmentalists, policymakers and experts specializing in the environment and water resources. Unfettered by restrictive guidelines on the missions or foci of the organizations or initiatives to be funded, the Advisory Committee considers the promise and value of each project that directly or indirectly leads to water-related environmental and/or health betterment and ensures that the process is fair and inclusive.

GRANTS DISTRIBUTION





\$7,540,694
Threatened & Endangered Marine Life Protection Conservation
Starts at the coastline, extends into bays, and offshore areas



\$13,354,160
River Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Improvements
Begin at a watershed that flows into the ocean via rivers, streams, and estuaries



\$7,862,738
Environmental Education & Training
Grants are crucial in promoting awareness and understanding of environmental issues and solutions

THE VALUE OF MET’S PARTNERSHIPS

City of Fall River Department of Public Utilities Water Division, Treatment and Resources

“Happy 30th Birthday Mass. Environmental Trust and thank you for helping the City of Fall River attain some of its environmental goals. In 2001, before the Southeastern Mass. Bioreserve became a reality, MET provided the local match and other acquisition cost funds to help leverage a grant for the Fall River Conservation Commission to purchase and protect 63.2 acres in the Copicut Reservoir watershed. This parcel, now called the Miller Brook Conservation Area, protects the city’s water supply and provides public access to miles of woodland trails. The project also cultivated an important partnership between the Buzzards Bay Coalition, the Greater Fall River Land Conservancy and the city to continue land conservation work in the area. In 2013, MET provided a key \$50,000 grant to be used toward our Rattlesnake Brook Restoration Project in Assonet. The funds helped with the cost of planning and design work required to breach the failing Rattlesnake Brook Dam, rebuild 500’ of downstream river channel and re-establish an impaired coastal river fishery. The project is complete thanks to your help and expert leadership and expertise from our conservation partners including DER’s Riverways Program and The Nature Conservancy. The city is grateful to MET for its commitment to environmental protection and offers best wishes for continued success.”

*— Mike Labossiere
Watuppa, Reservation Superintendent*

The Tidmarsh Farms/Beaver Dam Brook Restoration Project

“Once a prosperous cranberry growing operation, Tidmarsh Farms is the largest freshwater restoration ever accomplished in Massachusetts and among the largest on the East Coast. The initial awarding of a MET grant to the project led to a phenomenal partnership of funders and conservationists. The Division of Ecological Restoration adopted Tidmarsh Farms as a priority project. The state made numerous awards to advance the restoration and conserve some of the uplands. Additional funding followed from the USDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (\$300,000), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$800,000). The famed MIT Media Lab is documenting the restoration of the site through numerous advanced sensing technologies and the owners have opened Tidmarsh to all manner of ecological researchers. Now completed, the property is a Mass Audubon Sanctuary, fully open to the public with trails, education, and programs. Ultimately, the success of this program began with you – the Trustees of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. The \$75,000 grant MET approved early on for a project that was anything but a “slam dunk” is what pushed it to become something extraordinary. This is an investment that I am proud of and one that will benefit the Commonwealth for many, many years. This is the project that will serve as the guide for all future landscape-scale restorations. Many new techniques were tested here and will be the new standards for this sort of work. Untold numbers of people will experience the beauty of this space and they will absolutely be moved by it. Sometimes it is easy to forget that what we do here really matters. This project matters. Thank you for all that you do for the Commonwealth.”

*— Glorianna Davenport
Trustee of Tidmarsh Farms and Founder of Living Observatory*

Coonamesett River Restoration Project

“Sleep, creep, leap tells the story of the Coonamesett River Restoration Project (CRRP). In Falmouth, it sleepily began with visions of the local residents: a local NGO that started monitoring physical, biological and chemical characteristics in the early 2000s; simultaneously, the local land bank slowly acquired parcels to form a greenway of contiguous conservation land along the entire three-mile length of the river. The project began to creep and acquire additional partners (e.g., DER) when the Town began to actively pursue grants in 2009. An initial grant from FishAmerica/NOAA resulted in conceptual plans to improve river passage for fish through the most serious barriers located in the lower Coonamesett. The Massachusetts Environmental Trust then played a key role in maintaining momentum for the next six years: MET awarded the Town of Falmouth a grant to develop engineering plans for restoration of the lower bog and removal of the lower dam, built in the 1700s to supply water. A 2015 grant supported engineering oversight for the construction phase. These partnerships and monetary support were critical when the Town applied for competitive national funding, which proved successful in 2016. The project has been able to leap forward with construction funding from both NOAA and NFWF. Phase 1 is complete and seventeen local, regional, state and national partners have combined to achieve project goals: (1) a healthy, self-sustaining river and wetland ecosystem; (2) improved coastal resiliency by removing blockages and creating connectivity of the floodplain; and, (3) increased recreational and educational opportunities for people of all ages to discover the environmental, land use, and cultural history surrounding the Coonamesett River. Phase 2 (removal of two more barriers, restoration of an additional 39 acres of buffering wetlands, and construction of a more sinuous channel with complex habitat) is well underway, supported by additional project partners. The project is opening 30 miles of high-quality habitat for American eels and river herring and will be completed in 2020.”

*— Betsy Gladfelter
Falmouth Conservation Commission*

In 2022, The Environmental Business Council of New England (EBC) awarded the Town of Falmouth and its project partners with the Nicholas Humber Outstanding Collaboration Award for the Coonamesett River Restoration Project in recognition of the successful transformation of 56 acres of abandoned cranberry bogs which established a thriving, self-sustaining ecosystem supporting wildlife, increasing coastal resiliency, and providing educational opportunities.





"The Parker River Clean Water Association would like to express our appreciation of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and its many years of service to the environmental community. Through MET's funding, PRCWA has been able to increase awareness of the importance of the rare turtle habitat in our watershed. We are especially proud of hundreds of children that have been involved in our projects and the hands-on learning opportunities. May the MET program endure for the benefit of the Commonwealth!"



"Housatonic Valley Association and the Berkshire Environmental Action Team installed two rain gardens at Churchill Brook crossing in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. These rain gardens will help to filter out the stormwater pollutants and allow cleaner water to enter the Brook, which is a designated coldwater resource stream."

*— Dennis Regan
HVA*

WORDS FROM THE GRANTEES

"Funding from the MET will allow us to complete our ambitious scientific study to measure storm water phosphorus loads and develop a definitive estimate of reductions required for healthy waters. This is critical science for understanding how the Mystic River watershed functions and development of strategies for keeping it healthy for people and fish!"

*— Patrick Herron
Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA)*



"We are thrilled to expand and enhance our Climate Science Learning Project (CSLP), the Center's interactive elementary school science teaching model with a grant from MET. The many years of funding we have received from MET will go a long way to educate students and community members alike."

*— Rachel Stronach
The Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies*



"We are incredibly grateful for MET's investment in youth programs on the Harbor Islands. Thank you for your partnership and cooperation to better collaboration among stakeholder groups, assessing youth programs, and applying key lessons learned to serve more youth and improve the quality of programs in the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park."

*— Rebecca Smerling
Boston Harbor Now*



MET funding is helping us restore the endangered Brook Floater mussel to the Connecticut River watershed. It has also helped us engage citizen scientist volunteers to help with this work, connecting them to their local river and to the Connecticut River Conservancy. This work and the relationships it has created are incredibly valuable. Anne Novosel-Mileski saw the call for CRC citizen science volunteers to help with mussel restoration work.

"This was an amazing opportunity for me, I never imagined that the experience would be so infectious, exciting, educational and fun. The hands-on activity of finding and counting mussels was labor intensive but I loved every minute of it. After a day's worth of training, I could find different mussels. I understood which ones were rare and threatened. I learned they have a parasitic relationship with fish, who knew? I can't make good, sound decisions if I don't understand how and why something affects me, my family, my local and state environment, and my world, as I know and understand it. This hands-on activity allowed me to understand real world science in my back yard."

*— Angela Mrozinski
Outreach & Events Director,
Connecticut River Conservancy*



"We appreciate MET and all the folks who purchase conservation plates for supporting our work on Massachusetts' coldwater streams. Funds through the Trust have helped us reconnect and improve over 6 miles of high quality coldwater brook trout habitat as well as to continue monitoring dam removal sites across MA to ensure that we're facilitating positive ecological change."

*— Erin Rodgers, Ph.D.
Project Coordinator, New England Coldwater
Restoration Program, Trout Unlimited*



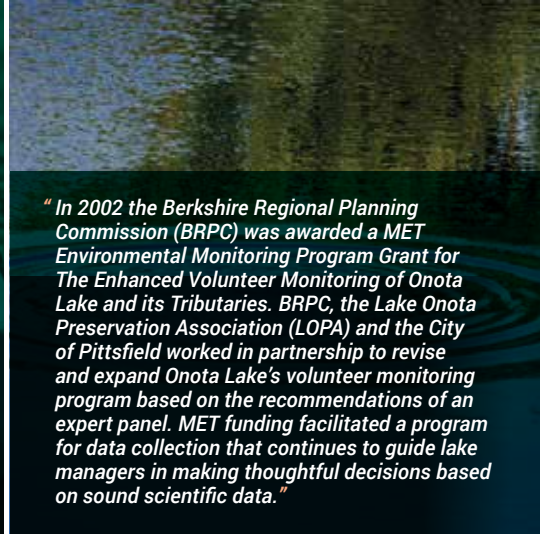
"We are immensely grateful for the support we have received from the MET. Funding from MET has been critical in supporting Silent Spring Institute's research on contaminants of emerging concern, including pharmaceuticals and consumer product chemicals. Our research on groundwater, drinking water and ponds on Cape Cod provides new insight into the role of septic systems as sources of groundwater contamination and our findings have supported local efforts to protect water quality. Thanks to MET and all the Massachusetts residents who have purchased license plates over the years."

*— Laurel Schaidler
Research Scientist, Silent Spring Institute*



"Since the inception of our coalition, we have not only received funding from MET to help achieve our goals, we have benefited from their guidance on how to achieve efficiency while seeking those goals. Simply by going through the application process, MET showed us how to sharpen our pencils, distill our mission and improve our potential for success in restoring migratory routes for searun brook trout and river herring."

*— Geoffrey Day
Executive Director,
Sea-Run Brook Trout Coalition*



"In 2002 the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) was awarded a MET Environmental Monitoring Program Grant for The Enhanced Volunteer Monitoring of Onota Lake and its Tributaries. BRPC, the Lake Onota Preservation Association (LOPA) and the City of Pittsfield worked in partnership to revise and expand Onota Lake's volunteer monitoring program based on the recommendations of an expert panel. MET funding facilitated a program for data collection that continues to guide lake managers in making thoughtful decisions based on sound scientific data."



"Over the course of more than 15 years, MET has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in Chelsea's waterfront and urban environment to help restore and enhance our urban estuaries and create public access to those resources. Through green infrastructure, habitat restoration, public engagement, youth leadership and environmental stewardship, MET has left a lasting impression on Chelsea and our environment that we will see for many years to come."

*— Roseann Bongiovanni
GreenRoots, Inc.*



"MET funding has been critical to support the Blackstone River Coalition and its campaign to restore the Blackstone River and its tributaries and develop outreach and educational programs to focus on protecting several coldwater streams and their fisheries."

*— Peter Coffin
Blackstone River Coalition*



"Funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust was instrumental in providing a match for federal funds used in 2016 to remove the Tack Factory Dam, the first dam from the ocean on Third Herring Brook, which opened up 8.4 miles of habitat for river herring and Eastern brook trout."

*— Sara Grady, Ph.D.
Watershed Ecologist, North and South Watershed Association*



"It's great to continue our valued partnership with MET, and if the grants to remove cars, dangerous debris, and clean up homeless encampments are an indication of the value placed on our work here in the Merrimack Valley—we are humbled."

*— Rocky Morrison
President and CEO, Clean River Project*




"Many thanks to MET for support of the Hamant Brook Dam Removal and River Restoration Project. The river is running beautifully, and the former impoundments are growing green. Congratulations MET for three decades of helping to restore and preserve our rivers!"

*— Amy Singler
American Rivers*

"With major support from MET since 2011, the Marine Animal Entanglement Response program at the Center for Coastal Studies has freed many whales and sea turtles caught in fishing gear and marine debris. Plate holders should be proud of their contribution – their support has directly benefited the conservation of these species."

*— Scott Landry
Director of Marine Animal Entanglement Response Team at CCS*





"The iconic and critically endangered North Atlantic right whale population continues to survive in large part because of MET's long-term support of disentangling and rescue operations (conducted by the Center for Coastal Studies) off the coast of Massachusetts."

*— Richard Delaney
President and CEO, Center for Coastal Studies*

THREATENED & ENDANGERED MARINE LIFE PROTECTION & CONSERVATION

When you buy or renew a whale plate, you're supporting the scientists and rescuers on the front lines of the long fight to save endangered and at-risk marine species.

Over the years, MET has invested millions of dollars to organizations working to protect marine life. Since 1997, the Trust has provided funds for emergency surface and aerial surveillance of Cape Cod Bay to determine the location, aggregations and movement of right whales and to identify broad-scale area preferences of individual right whales and changes in their distribution. Our grants continue to fund conservation activities including aerial and sea-based surveillance, vessel-based habitat studies, plankton monitoring (a primary food source for whales), whale beaching investigations as well as rescue and rehabilitation, research programs for the design of harmless fishing gear, marine debris removal, ship strike avoidance techniques, and around-the-clock whale and turtle disentangling/rescue operations.

In fact, MET is the primary sponsor and sole source of state funding for the Atlantic Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Network (ALWDN). The Trust and the ALWDN program fulfill a state mandate to protect and help ensure the survival of endangered marine life under the federal Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Our support of ALWDN brings together the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF); the only federally licensed whale disentanglement responder in New England and designated steward of these animals, the Center for Coast Studies (CCS) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in a cohesive, rapid response disentanglement partnership.

"We in the commercial lobster industry are committed to using the best available science to co-exist with the North Atlantic right whale."

*— John Haviland
President of the South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association*

However, the need for whale conservation efforts is increasing. The North Atlantic right whale is the state’s marine mammal and the world’s most endangered large whale. It has lost more than 10% from the total population of less than 400 animals. Since 2017, the Northeast Atlantic region has been experiencing unexpected and significant die-off of whales including right whales but primarily humpback and minke whales. While the causes of the die-offs are yet to be determined, the Trust recognizes that trans-boundary cooperation and collaborations for addressing these multispecies, large whale mortality events are critical to preventing further deaths.

In 2016, the Trust, with EEA support, demonstrated our commitment to protecting marine mammals while also supporting Massachusetts’ vital commercial fishing industry by awarding \$180,000 to the New England Aquarium’s Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life and \$19,000 to the South Shore Lobstermen’s Association. This funding helped in the development and field testing of specialized fishing rope designed to reduce whale and sea turtle entanglements using rope that features sections of reduced breaking strength in colors more visible to whales.

“Motivated by this finding, Aquarium Scientists have teamed up with engineers, rope manufacturers and fishermen to develop and test a new generation of ropes that hold up under the rigors of fishing but lead to fewer lethal whale entanglements. By working together on this challenging issue that impacts large whales throughout the world, we can lead the way in finding a solution that works for both whales and fishermen.”

*– Amy Knowlton
Whale Scientist with the New England Aquarium*

“You can’t see a whale for the first time and not remember it for the rest of your life.”
*– Roger Payne (1935-2023)
President, Ocean Alliance*



IN MEMORIAM

On July 10, 2017, Joe Howlett lost his life doing what he loved most: freeing an entangled whale in the Canadian Maritimes. Joe, a co-founder, of the Campobello Whale Rescue Team in New Brunswick, was a true hero and inspiration to those who share his love of whales and continue his legacy of conservation.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Education has always been a priority for the Trust. In 1996, MET funded a program called Leaving a Wake, an educational station aboard the Schooner Ernestina tailored to meet the specific needs of schools and other educational and cultural organizations. Aboard the Ernestina, students use the ship and its rich and varied history as a platform to study the marine environment and human impacts.

The same year, the Trust awarded a matched grant to the Boston Harbor Island Alliance to leverage funds for raising awareness of the importance of preserving the Boston Harbor Islands as a National Park. It also funded the development of a bi-lingual brochure by The Boston Harbor Association (TBHA) that highlighted the flora and fauna flourishing in and around Boston Harbor as a result of the cleanup.

In 2016, the Boston Harbor Island Alliance merged with The Boston Harbor Association to form Boston Harbor Now. In the spirit of cooperation, the Trust's board members awarded \$222,000 to Boston Harbor Now and its partners

to expand the impact and reach of the Boston Harbor Islands Discovery Camp Program. This collaborative endeavor with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the Department of Conservation & Recreation and the National Park Service, engages youth and young adults in five-day immersive programs on three of the harbor islands. Each summer, hundreds of children and teens from the YMCA of Greater Boston and the Boys and Girls Club of Boston enjoy free, multi day/multi-island adventures whose physical, intellectual and emotional experience leave a lasting impression on every young camper.

"Because of the generous investment in youth engagement on the Harbor Islands and waterfront by MET, Boston Harbor Now, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the National Park Service (NPS) partnered together to develop a strong youth engagement strategy for the park by increasing the number of participants and improving the on-island experience."


*— Kathy Abbott
President and CEO, Boston Harbor Now*

"For 30 years, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust has made important investments that have helped to restore Boston Harbor and protect the marine environment. Their support has increased public understanding of critical issues of environmental concern, strengthened coastal communities, fostered stewardship, and improved the quality of life for all the residents of the Bay State."

*— Bruce Berman
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay*

"Thanks to a MET education grant, thousands of kids and their families learned about the importance of our water resources and their protection through fun, hands-on activities. 'Watersheds, Water Quality, and You!' ran from 2005-2006 here at the Discovery Museum, developed in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and state and local watershed organizations."

*— Denise LeBlanc
Former Director, Learning Experiences, Acton Discovery Museum*



Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park education programs engage 500 children and young adults in 5-day summer programs.

In 2008, the Trust began funding the Secretary's Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Awards to recognize outstanding educators and to highlight the impactful and innovative programs that offer education around clean energy environmental protection and advocacy. Each spring, school programs dedicated to developing the next generation of environmental stewards submit applications and the winners are invited to the State House to be recognized for their work.

"I just wanted to thank you and your staff for all of your efforts in having the Environmental Education Awards. It is a highlight of my teaching to be honored. Thank you as well for the funds which we will use to purchase a compost bin and materials for students to use and study."

*— Anne McDonald
Toy Town Elementary School, Winchendon*

RIVER RESTORATION & AQUATIC HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS



“Since our first grant 22 years ago, the Mass Environmental Trust has helped launch almost every major new initiative to clean up and protect the Neponset River and its watershed. From finding and fixing sewer leaks, keeping the river and our water supplies from drying up, helping towns clean up polluted storm runoff and expanding habitats for the Neponset’s rare population of wild brook trout, the Trust has been there every step of the way.”

*— Ian Cooke
Executive Director of the Neponset River Watershed Association
and seven-time MET grant recipient*

Massachusetts’ rivers and streams powered the state and its economy through the Industrial Revolution leaving behind many dams and impacted freshwater fish and wildlife populations.

Dam initiatives have been of special interest to the Trust. Their ongoing removal not only allows fish and wildlife to return to our urban waterways, but it also brings families back to our rivers and streams, too. Massachusetts has 28 different watersheds and MET has funded restoration or protection related projects in all of them.

MET’s support of aquatic restoration has spawned collaborative partnerships that include the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Dam and Seawall Repair/Removal Program, established by the state in 2013, has also been instrumental in the success of many of these initiatives by providing final stage financing.

Teamwork ensures there is critical early-stage funding for technical assessments, engineering design activities and permits for removing dams for the organizations spearheading these important ecological projects. Our monies have funded the restoration of natural cranberry bogs, the removal of harmful aquatic debris, and supported public awareness campaigns on the consequences of flushing pharmaceuticals on fish. The Trust has awarded grants in support of a volunteer monitoring program for the River & Stream Continuity Project in the Taunton River Watershed where the University of Massachusetts and other public entities trained volunteers to inventory stream crossings and identify culverts and other structures that present a barrier to fish and wildlife.

BENEFITS OF DAM REMOVAL

- Opens up mainstream, tributary and pond habitats for migratory river herring, American eels, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife
- Improves water quality, public safety, and recreational opportunities
- Native plants return to floodplains to protect rivers from overflowing
- Natural flowing water picks up oxygen and releases heat; and it carries sand, silt, gravel and cobbles down-stream
- Blueback herring and alewife are diadromous fish that spend the greater part of their life cycles in saltwater but return to fresh water to spawn
- New floodplain wetlands provide habitat for amphibians such frogs, turtles and river otters

Rattlesnake Brook after restoration – SE Mass





The Shawsheen River Restoration Project, a collaborative effort overseen by the **Center for Ecosystem Restoration**, removed the obsolete Balmoral Dam and the Marland Place Dam in Andover on the Shawsheen River, a tributary of the Merrimack River that flows through 12 communities in the northeastern region of the state.

Buzzards Bay Coalition: Restoring the Weweantic River to improve passage and habitat for migratory fish and other aquatic species to allow coastal habitats to adapt to rising sea levels, which pose a particular threat to the important rainbow smelt spawning riffle just below the dam.



Friends of Herring River is replacing the Chequesset Neck Road dike and culvert while capturing baseline data on state-listed, rare freshwater fish populations to evaluate their response to the tidal restoration and rising sea levels.



Westport River Watershed Alliance project to assess nitrogen and bacteria pollution sources and sinks for the Westport River.



The Mill River is a tributary to the Taunton River that, in turn, flows into Narragansett Bay. Since 1997, **The Nature Conservancy** and the **Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)** have worked to remove the Whittenton, Hopewell Mills, and West Britannia Dams, opening over 50 miles of mainstem and tributary habitat and 400 acres of pond habitat and plants.

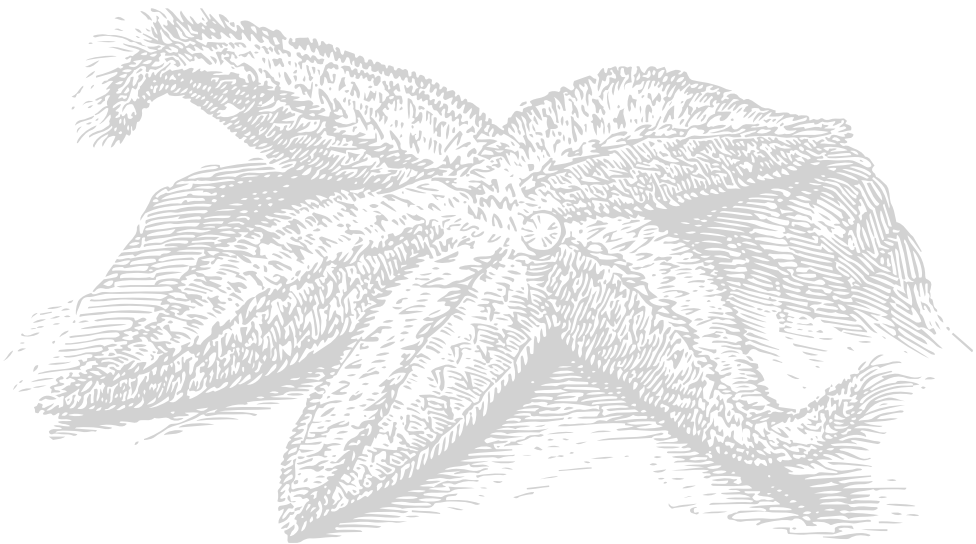
OUR FUTURE: AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN'T SEE

The Commonwealth’s marine life, bays, rivers and waterways have come a long way since the Boston Harbor legal settlement in 1988 that served as the impetus for establishing the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. In fact, Boston Harbor is today among the cleanest in the nation. And yet, while much has been accomplished, there remains much to be done.

The North Atlantic right whale and leatherback sea turtle are still endangered, and more species join the list every year. Rivers and lakes still struggle to recover from agricultural and industrial pollution, including acid rain. Climate change is gradually yet significantly impacting our coastlines and aquatic populations.

Starting from precipitation and ice melting into our rivers and streams to groundwater recharging lakes and ponds, to the flow and runoff into the ocean — keeping the water cycle healthy and moving sustains all life. This, in essence, is the foundational purpose of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

The Commonwealth is often among the first of the 50 states to recognize and address emerging challenges to our marine life, rivers and watersheds. We may not know what the next pressing need will be nor where it will come from, but we have every confidence there will be an organization or initiative determined to solve it. We will be there, along with every driver in Massachusetts who purchases one of our license plates, to help them.



MESSAGE FROM KIM TILAS, DIRECTOR

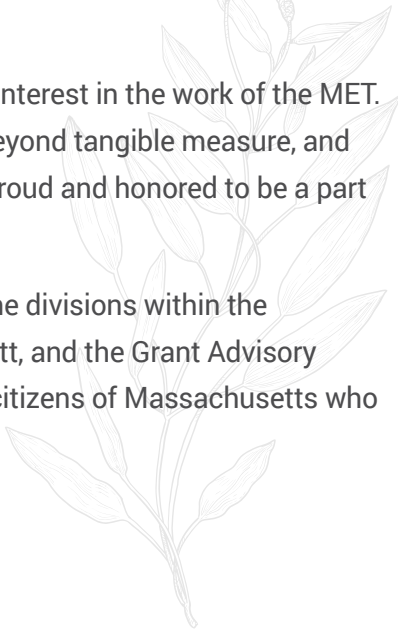
This comprehensive review of the Trust’s evolution and contributions to the environment serves as a testament to the critical work of our grantees over the past few decades and is intended to provide insight into the Trust’s mission and the pivotal role the license plate fees have in funding the grants.

At the heart of the Trust are the grantees and throughout this report, you will see their inspiring testimonials and photos. Bringing the grantee contributions to life are remarkable images provided by the following people, grantees and organizations: Chris Bilodeau (mill image); Biondi Arts (striped bass plate artist), Bill Bryne, Mike Jones/MassWildlife (frog, terrapin, bird, turtle, otter, loon); DMF (holding striper); Center for Coastal Studies (whale research/rescue photos, NOAA federal permits:14603, 19315, 18786); Center for Cetacean Research & Conservation (humpback whale with calf); Liz Cook (island lighthouse); Kelly Fike/USFWS (Coastal Wetlands at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge); Virginia Green (reusable bag design); Patrick Herron (herring); Iain Kerr (sunset whale, whale eye); Geoffrey Klane (Brook Trout); Thomas Largy (holding striper); Bob Lelle, Fred Swartz and Holland H. Henefield (concept designers of RW/RT, FW, BV license plates); David Mussina (canoeing in Mystic River); New England Aquarium (aerial survey, sea turtle – NMFS Permit 21301); Jeff Porter (humpback whale feeding); Trout Unlimited (dam, trout, Kinne Brook restoration).

In my capacity as a whale biologist and educator, I have a vested personal and professional interest in the work of the MET. As I have learned from my predecessors, the combined impact of EVERY grant awarded is beyond tangible measure, and taking this moment to acknowledge all that the Trust has helped to accomplish makes me proud and honored to be a part of this extraordinary organization’s future.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Secretary Tepper, and the divisions within the Department of Fish and Game, the MET Trustees and staff, Susan Lanza and Kate McDermott, and the Grant Advisory Committee, are all fundamental to MET’s grantmaking program. Moreover, thank you to the citizens of Massachusetts who recognize the rewards of buying one of MET’s license plates!

Thank you,
Kim Tilas



Parker River Estuary



30 YEARS OF MET GRANTEES




Alternatives for Community & Environment	Boston Natural Areas Fund	Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay
American Heritage Rivers Support	Boston Parks & Urban Wilds Program	City of Boston
American Museum of Natural History	Boston Public Health Commission	City of Everett
American Rivers	Bridgewater State College	City of Fall River
American Turtle Observatory	Bristol Community College Foundation	City of Gardner
Appalachian Mountain Club	Brookline Community Fund	City of Gloucester
Aquatic Conservation Society	Brown Elementary School	City of Medford
Associated Grantmakers	Buttonwood Park Zoological Society	City of Revere
Associated Scientists at Woods Hole	Buzzards Bay Coalition	City of Somerville
Association to Preserve Cape Cod	Buzzards Bay Project	City of Springfield
Athol Bird and Nature Club	Cape Cod Center for Sustainability	Clean River Project
Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee	Cape Cod Center for Sustainable Economy	Clean Water Fund
Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment	Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen’s Alliance	Coalition for a Better Acre
Barnstable County Resource Development	Cape Cod Commission	Coalition for Alternative Wastewater Treatment
Barnstable Land Trust	Cape Cod Community College	Codman Square Health Center
Barnstable Middle School	Cape Cod Stranding Network	Community Foundation of Cape Cod
Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission	Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative	Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts
Berkshire Environmental Action Team	Cape Outdoor Discovery	Concerned Citizens of Freetown
Berkshire Museum	Cardinal Cushing Centers	Concord Public Works
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Center for Climate, Health & the Global Environment	Connecticut River Conservancy
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Center for Coastal Studies	Connecticut River Watershed Council
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation	Center for Ecological Technology	Conservation Law Foundation
Berlin Memorial School	Center for Ecosystem Restoration	Coonamesset Farm Foundation
Blackstone River Coalition	Charles River Conservancy	Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association
Blackstone River Watershed Association	Charles River Watershed Association	Crossroads Community Foundation
Boston Harbor Islands Alliance	Chatham High School	Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Boston Harbor Now	Chelsea Public Schools	Dalton Community Cable Association
Boston Harbor Revival	Children’s Museums	Deerfield River Watershed Association

Department of Conservation and Recreation	Friends of WFCR	JSI Center for Environmental Health Studies
Department of Environmental Protection	Georgia Environmental Policy Institute	Lenox Institute of Water Technology
Discovery Museums	GeoSyntec Consultants	Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries	Gloucester Fishermen’s Wives Organization	Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners
Ecotarium/Worcester Natural Historical Society	Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center	Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
Elder Services of Cape Cod & Islands	Goldman Environmental Consultants	Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust
Environmental Careers Organization	Great Barrington Land Conservancy	Manomet Bird Observatory
Environmental Diversity Forum	Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility	Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
Environmental Grantmakers Association	Greater Fall River Land Conservancy	Marine Biological Laboratory
Environmental League of Massachusetts	Greater Lowell Community Foundation	Marine Conservation Biology Institute
Environmental Learning and Action Center	Greater Worcester Community Foundation	Marine Studies Consortium
Essex County Community Foundation	Green Futures	Mass Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
Essex County Greenbelt Association	GreenRoots	Mass Environmental Education Society
Essex National Heritage Commission	Groundwork Lawrence	Mass Lobstermen’s Association
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs	Groundwork Somerville	Mass Netter Association
Fairhaven Acushnet Land Preservation	Gulf of Maine Institute	Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants
Falmouth Conservation Commission	Hampshire Regional School District	Massachusetts 4-H Foundation
Family Services	Hands-On Boat-Based Education and Science	Massachusetts Aquatic Conservation Society
Farmington River Watershed Association	Harvard Forest/Harvard University	Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
Fort River Watershed Association	Harwich Conservation Trust	Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts
Franklin County Solid Waste Management	Hitchcock Center for the Environment	Massachusetts Audubon Chapters
Franklin Land Trust	Hoosic River Watershed Association	Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
Franklin Regional Council of Governments	Housatonic River Initiative	Massachusetts Forestry Association
Friends of Belle Isle Marsh	Housatonic Valley Association	Massachusetts Global Action
Friends of Chatham Waterways	International Fund for Animal Welfare	Massachusetts Historical Society
Friends of Herring River	International Wildlife Coalition	Massachusetts Marine Educators
Friends of the Malden River	Ipswich River Watershed Association	Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Friends of the Muddy River	Island Alliance	Massachusetts Oyster Project
Friends of the Wachusett Watershed	Jones River Watershed Association	

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance	New England Grassroots Environment Fund	Riverways Program	Taunton River Watershed Alliance	Tisbury Waterways	UMASS Boston
Massachusetts Watershed Coalition	New England Mountain Bike Association	ROCA	Tellus Institute	Town of Amherst	UMass Dartmouth
MassBays National Estuary Partnership	New England Naturalist Training Center	Salem Sound 2000	The Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation	Town of Athol	UMass Lowell
Merrimack River Watershed Council	New England Small Farm Institute	Salem Sound Coastwatch	The Boston Foundation	Town of Barnstable	UMASS School of Marine Science
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	New England Wild Flower Society	Salem State University	The Boston Harbor Association	Town of Cheshire	University of Massachusetts Foundation
Millers River Environmental Center	New England Wildlife Center	Saugus River Watershed Council	The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts	Town of Dartmouth	University of New Hampshire
Minuteman Technical High School	New Mission High School	Save the Bay	The Dunn Foundation	Town of Duxbury	Urban Ecology Institute
MIT Sea Grant College Program	North and South Rivers Watershed Association	Save the Harbor/Save the Bay	The Green Roundtable	Town of Falmouth	Urban Harbors Institute
Mount Holyoke College	Northeast Organic Farming Association	Schooner Ernestina Commission	The Katharine Nordell Lloyd Center for Environmental Education	Town of Grafton	Vineyard Conservation Society
Mujeres Unidas en Accion	Nuestras Raices	Sea Hull	The Lobster Conservancy	Town of Great Barrington	Wareham Public Schools
Mystic River Watershed Association	Ocean Alliance	Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition	The Medical Foundation Lead Action Collaborative	Town of Ipswich	Water Watch Partnership/UMass
Mystic Valley Development Commission	Ocean Explorium at New Bedford	Sheriff's Meadow Foundation	The Nature Conservancy Chapters	Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea	Western Lakes and Ponds Association
Nantucket Conservation Foundation	Office of Coastal Zone Management	Silent Spring Institute	The Orion Society	Town of Marshfield	Westport River Watershed Alliance
Nantucket Harborlife	Office of Dispute Resolution & Public Collaboration	Sippican Land Trust	The Sporting Safety, Conservation & Education Fund of Falmouth	Town of Oak Bluffs	Wetland Restoration & Banking Program
Nashoba Conservation Trust	Opacum Land Trust	Somali Development Center	The Thoreau Institute	Town of Plymouth	WGBH Educational Foundation
Nashua River Watershed Association	Organization for the Assabet River	Somerville Arts Council	The Trust for Public Land	Town of Saugus Conservation Commission	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	Oyster Pond Environmental Trust	South Shore Lobster Fisherman's Association	The Water Works Group	Town of Stockbridge	Whale Center of New England
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation	Parker River Clean Water Association	South Shore Natural Science Center	The Watershed Institute	Town of Wareham	Wheelock College/WHALENET
National Park Service, Cape Cod National Seashore	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance	The Wildlands Trust	Town of Wellfleet Conservation Commission	Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program/DFG	Planners Collaborative	Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District	Thompson Island Outward Bound Boston	Town of Winchendon	WOMR-92.1 FM Lower Cape Communications
Neighborhood of Affordable Housing	Policy Center for Marine Biosciences & Technology	Springfield Science Museum	Thornton W. Burgess Society	Toxics Action Center	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Neponset River Watershed Association	Quebec-Labrador Foundation	State University of New York	Three Bays Preservation	Trout Unlimited Chapters	Woods Hole Research Center
New England Aquarium	Railroad Street Youth Project	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary		Trustees of Reservations	Worcester County Conservation District
New England Board of Higher Education	Reading Public Schools	Sudbury Assabet Concord Watershed Coalition		Tsongas Industrial History Center	YWCA Chapters
New England Forestry Foundation	Regional Environmental Council			Tufts University	

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