



Quashnet River Catch-and-Release Area

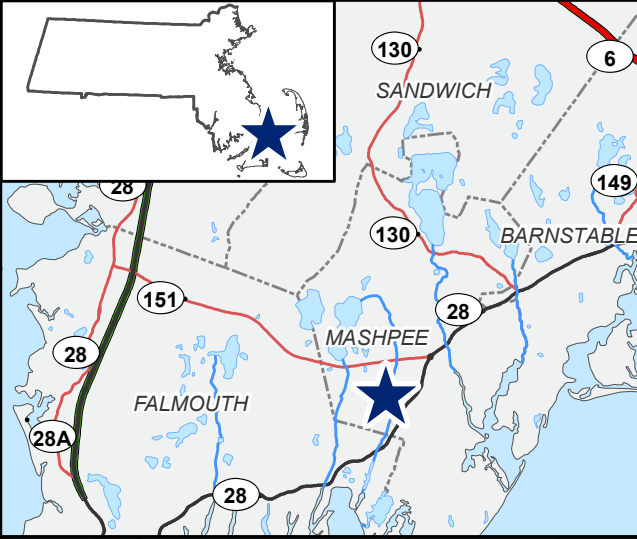
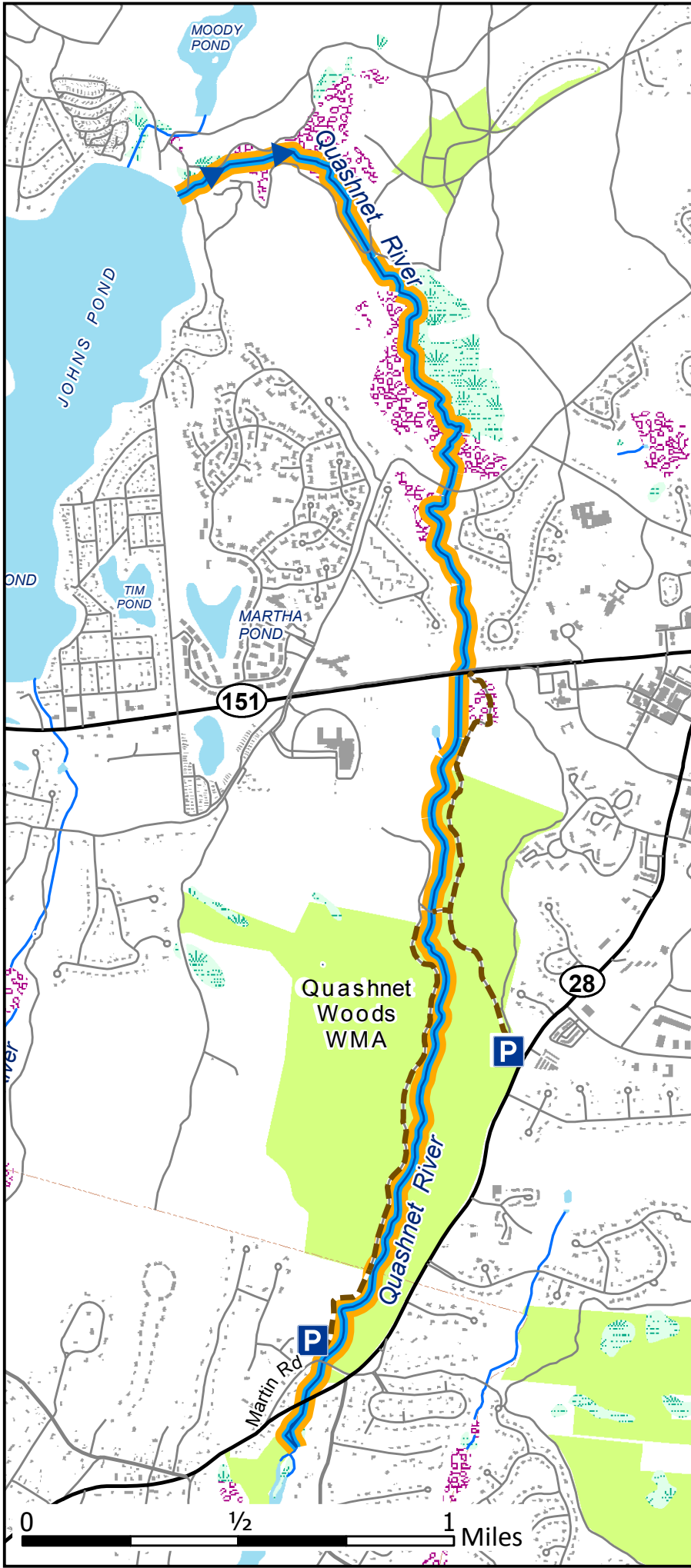
Mashpee/Falmouth, MA

Cape Cod Watershed

USGS Quads: Falmouth, Pocasset, Cotuit

Legend

- Catch and Release Area
- Stream-Flow Direction
- Access Path
- Wildlife Management Area
- Major Road
- Road
- Parking
- Pond, Lake
- Wetland
- Cranberry Bog





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Quashnet Catch and Release Area: Mashpee

General Information

The Quashnet River flows south out of Johns Pond in Mashpee and empties into Waquoit Bay 4 ¹/₄ miles downstream. The Catch-and-Release Area begins at the outlet of Johns Pond and runs the length of the river, ending just downstream of the route 28 bridge, shortly before the river enters the bay.

The river flows through a mostly undeveloped landscape including some abandoned cranberry bogs. Adjacent uplands are scattered with homes and buildings. The upper river runs through land owned and managed by the town of Mashpee. The lower Quashnet is managed by MassWildlife and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Riparian vegetation is mostly shrubs and regenerating forest. The overhanging shrubs and trees, combined with stream channel improvements, provide plenty of important cover for fish. The Quashnet is mostly fed by groundwater, meaning flows and water temperatures are generally stable year round.

The Quashnet is a historically important fishery and has been the focus of several habitat improvement projects. Work has been done by several groups, including Trout Unlimited, MassWildlife, and the Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition, to improve habitat for resident Brook Trout. The trout that inhabit these southeastern and Cape Cod waters represent a unique life history trait referred to as sea-run, or “salter” Brook Trout because some of the fish in a population will leave the freshwater stream and enter the saltwater environment to live and grow. If wading the Quashnet, and other coldwater streams in the area, during the October-November spawning season, please be mindful not to disturb the spawning Brook Trout.

Fish Populations

The Quashnet River and its headwater pond, are important habitat for anadromous fish such as Alewives and Blueback Herring, American Eel, and Brook Trout. The excellent water quality and cool water temperatures in the Quashnet support coldwater fish year round. Fish surveys conducted by MassWildlife have found Brook Trout, Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Eel, White Sucker, Mummichog, Tesselated Darter, and Fourspine Stickleback.

Recreational Access

There is good access to the downstream reaches of the Quashnet from a dirt parking area on Martin Road, just off of Route 28. From here, a gated dirt road runs north along the length of the river. The middle section of the river can be accessed on the east side along another dirt road, accessible from a parking area off of route 28.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed with artificial lures only and all fish must be released. The use of natural or artificial baits such as worms, shiners or other live bait, cheese, corn, or fish eggs is prohibited. With seasonal water temperatures ranging from 37 to 61 degrees, the Quashnet River is an excellent year-round wild Brook Trout fishery with opportunities to catch smaller resident Brook Trout as well as larger sea-run Brook Trout during certain times of the year. This river is not stocked with trout or any other species. Most of the river is wadeable, but there are also very deep holes that can be difficult to wade and fish. Casting can be challenging in the narrow channel and dense undergrowth.