

Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Semi Annual Submittal under MassDOT's Impaired Water Program

Attachment 6: Unrelated Impairments Assessments

MA84A-22, Cobbler Brook, No TMDL

Impaired Waters Assessment for Cobbler Brook (MA84A-22)

Impaired Water Body

Name: Cobbler Brook

Location: Merrimac, MA

Water Body ID: MA84A-22

Impairments

Final Massachusetts Year 2010 Integrated List of Waters (MassDEP, 2011):

- Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Bioassessments
- (debris/floatables/trash*)

Final Massachusetts Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters (MassDEP, 2013):

- (debris/floatables/trash*)

Cobbler Brook (MA84A-22) is currently listed as a Category 4c water body, "Impairment Not Caused by a Pollutant", on MassDEP's final *Massachusetts Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters*. Cobbler Brook was previously listed as a Category 5 water body, "Waters Requiring a TMDL" on MassDEP's final *Massachusetts Year 2010 Integrated List of Waters*. MassDEP updates the Integrated List of Waters ("303(d) list") every two years to reflect changes to the water quality of Massachusetts' streams and lakes. A recent assessment determined that this water body is no longer impaired, and thus, does not require development of a TMDL.

Site Description

Segment MA84A-22 of Cobbler Brook begins at Hadley Road in Merrimac, MA and flows south, intersecting on with route 110 and I-495 before ultimately discharging to the Merrimac River. The total segment length of MA84A-22 is 4.4 miles.

The total watershed and subwatershed to Segment MA84A-22 of Cobbler Brook are located in a suburban area, particularly towards the middle portions of the reach where it crosses through the small town center of Merrimac, MA, intersecting State Route 110. The southern end of the reach ends at the confluence to the Merrimac River, approximately 3,000 feet after it crosses under Interstate I-495.

Assessment under BMP 7U

Since this water body does not have a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) developed, MassDOT planned to complete the assessment using the Impervious Cover Method, described in BMP 7U of MassDOT's Storm Water Management Plan (MassDOT, 2011). However, this water body is no longer listed as Category 5 which identified it as "impaired (i.e., not supporting one or more intended use), the impairment was related to the presence of one or more 'pollutants', and the source of those pollutants was not considered to be natural" (MassDEP, 2011). This water body is now listed as Category 4c which identifies it as "not impaired by a pollutant" (MassDEP, 2013).

Conclusions

MassDOT has concluded, in accordance with BMP 7U, that there is no required reduction in impervious area for Cobbler Brook (MA84A-22) because it is no longer listed as impaired according to the 2012 303(d) list. As such, further assessment of this water body is not warranted under the Impaired Waters Program.

References

- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). (2011). Massachusetts Year 2010 Integrated List of Waters - Final Listing of the Condition of Massachusetts' Waters Pursuant to Sections 305(b), 314 and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Retrieved from: [MADEP Massachusetts Year 2010 Integrated List of Waters](#)
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). (2011). Description of MassDOT's Application of Impervious Cover Method in BMP 7U (MassDOT Application of IC Method).
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). (2013). Massachusetts Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters - Final Listing of the Condition of Massachusetts' Waters Pursuant to Sections 305(b), 314 and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Retrieved from: [MADEP Massachusetts Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters](#)