



## Watershed Action Alliance

*of Southeastern  
Massachusetts*

watershedaction.org



Protecting water and  
natural resources in  
Southeastern  
Massachusetts



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### Members & Friends

Barnstable Clean Water  
Coalition

Herring Ponds  
Watershed Association

Jones River Watershed  
Association

Monponsett Watershed  
Association

Neponset River  
Watershed Association

North and South Rivers  
Watershed Association

Save the Bay –  
Narragansett Bay

Six Ponds Improvement  
Association

Weir River Watershed  
Association

# Improving Water Quality

When it rains, stormwater carries pollutants into our waterways. Improperly treated or managed wastewater is also a source of contamination to our surface and groundwater. Streams, bays, ponds and rivers are vital to a resilient environment, healthy fisheries, and water recreation. Watershed associations dedicate themselves to keeping our waters free from multiple types of pollution.

## Success Stories

- Monitor the long-term health of our waterways and provide data to inform decisions on stormwater infrastructure upgrades to target sources of pollution, and earn funding for the same. (Jones River, Six Ponds, Neponset, Herring Ponds, North and South, Monponsett, Barnstable, Save the Bay).
- Raised and planted 150,000 oysters to improve water quality (Barnstable).
- Purchased land to act as natural buffers in riparian areas to protect water quality, reduce erosion and provide recreation (Herring Ponds, North and South, Jones River).
- Implemented regional education program in 22 Southeastern MA towns to raise awareness about actions people can take to reduce pollution; reaches over 4,000 students annually (North and South, Neponset).
- Along with USGS and US EPA, drilled test wells and collected sediment core samples to determine best placement for installation of innovative/alternative septic systems in proposed residential development (Barnstable).
- Protected important fisheries through a revised power station permit, reducing use of bay water and temperature of cooling water discharge. (Save the Bay).

## What Can Legislators Do?

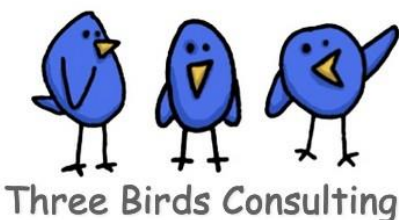
**Prioritize MassDEP Admin. funding** (item 2200-0100). While an increase of \$7.92M to \$40M (from \$32.08M in FY20) would be ideal, we urge at least level-funding. Adequate staff and resources are essential for watershed planning and permitting, safe management of toxics, law enforcement, hazardous waste cleanup, and preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

**Prioritize DCR Watershed Management Office funding** (item 2810-0100). While an increase of \$2.75M to \$50M (from \$47.25M in FY20) would be ideal, we urge at least level funding of this line item which is essential to safeguard our rivers, lakes and water supplies and provide public access for recreation.

**Support S.490/H.2139, An Act promoting awareness of sewage pollution in public waters**, to institute a statewide sewage discharge notification system to alert residents when sewage spills make waters unsafe for recreation or work.

**Support H. 3997, An Act relative to GreenWorks, which includes funding for climate resiliency efforts, including upgrading municipal stormwater infrastructure** that filters water before it enters the natural environment reducing negative development impacts, improving aquifer recharge, decreasing erosion, fortifying wetlands, and preventing damage to roads.

## Thanks to our sponsors



Thanks also to our donors - Wildlands Trust, Savery Pond Conservancy, Monponsett Watershed Association, Plymouth League of Women Voters, Taunton River Watershed Alliance, and Jones River Watershed Association.