



# 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

- Water quality has been monitored for decades by most of our member organizations. The data has been used to inform decisions on stormwater infrastructure upgrades, to target sources of pollution, and to win grants to install rain gardens and other stormwater treatment structures (JRWA, NepRWA, NSRWA, HPWA, HPWT, STB, BCWC).
- Raised and planted 120,000 oysters annually to improve water clarity and quality (BCWC).
- Partnered with the Town of Plymouth to create an extensive water quality plan for identifying and managing sources of pollution. (HPWA).
- Purchased land to act as natural buffer in riparian areas to protect water quality, reduce erosion and provide recreation (HPWA, NSRWA, JRWA, STB).
- 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 (NSRWA, NepRWA).
- Installed eight enhanced innovative/alternative septic systems as part of a demonstration project to assess nitrogen removal in groundwater and impact of these systems on water quality. (BCWC).
- Championed a revised discharge permit for a power station to reduce the use of bay water for cooling, which benefited fisheries. Ultimately, the plant was demolished. (STB).

## What Can Legislators Do?

The Watershed Action Alliance of Southeastern Massachusetts greatly appreciates your efforts to protect water resources in your district, and we want to help you! Our 14 member organizations are very knowledgeable about the environmental issues in your region, and we have subject matter expertise that we want to share with you. With our long histories of environmental success and our extensive local partnerships, we are uniquely positioned to help your constituents by efficiently using and leveraging the Commonwealth's financial investment in environmental protection. Please consider supporting our Top Five legislative priorities for FY23:

1. Prioritizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) investment in water infrastructure and climate resiliency projects.
2. Making non-profit organizations eligible for climate resiliency funding through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program (Energy and Environmental Affairs).
3. Supporting H.2198 An Act relative to the preservation of water resources in Chapter 40B projects.
4. Supporting H.898/S.530 An Act relative to maintaining adequate water supplies through effective drought management.
5. Supporting the Green Budget FY23, including line items for DCR, DER, DEP, EEA, and MVP program.