

River Ambassador's Report

SuAsCo Wild & Scenic

RSC Meeting

March & April, 2026

MA Ready Act Passes Senate (the Environmental Bond Bill)

Includes:

Drought Management: Grants the state authority to coordinate water savings when rivers and water supplies are at risk

Rodenticides: Allows cities and towns to restrict or ban the use of anticoagulant rodenticides on public and private property

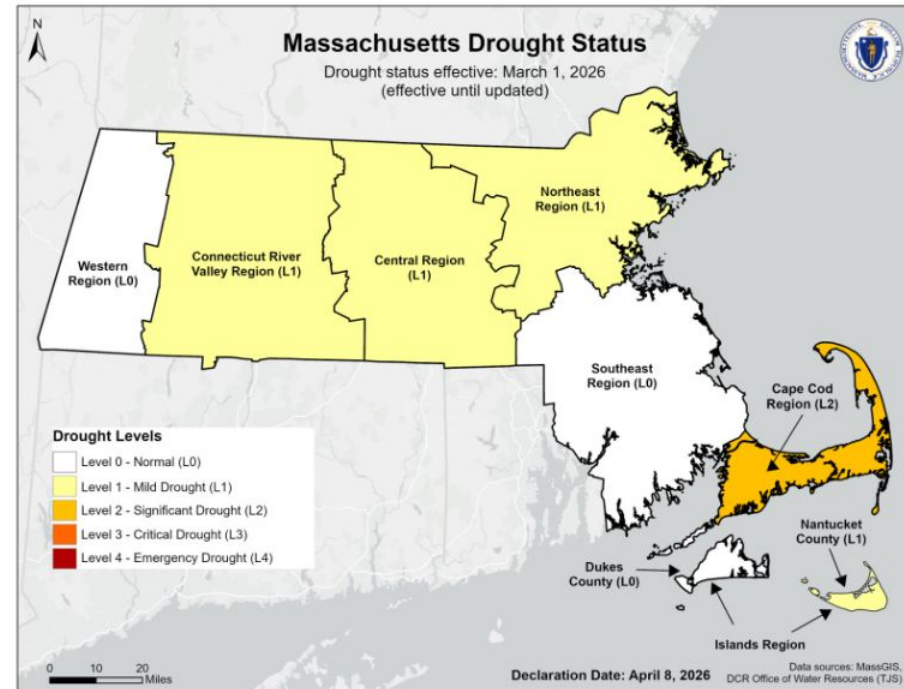
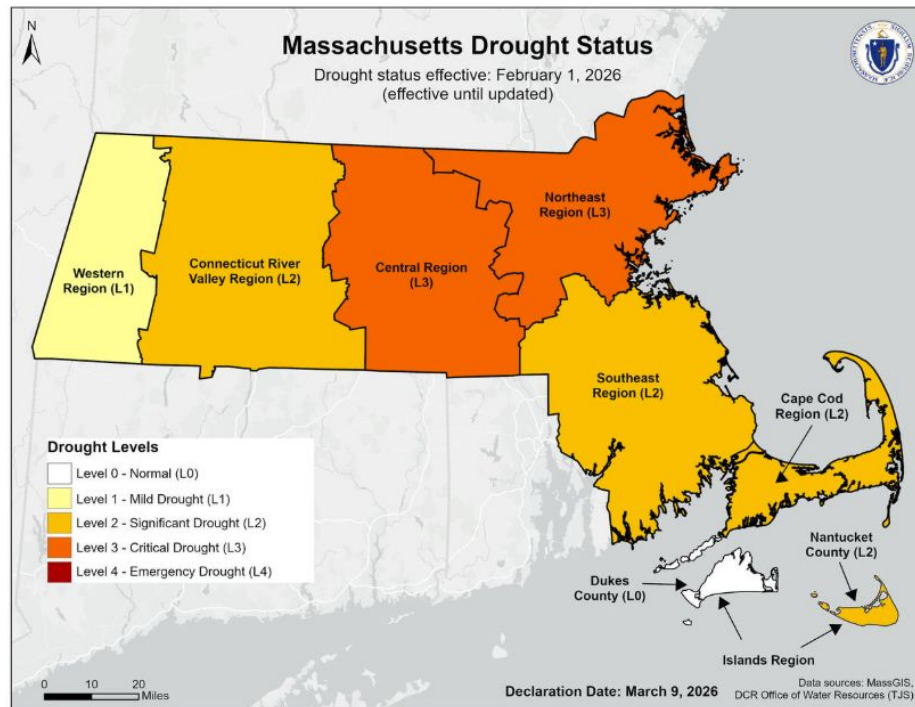
Resiliency: Creates a new non-budgetary fund to provide loans to municipalities and public water and wastewater districts for climate resiliency infrastructure projects including dam removal, hazard mitigation for inland flooding and other projects like seawalls, jetties and nature-based solutions

Trees: Provide funds for grants for natural resource conservation and open space preservation and parks

Drought Status

Issued March 9, 2026

Issued April 8, 2026



*The drought levels shown in the map above are in effect until the next drought declaration

Bedford - Carlisle Route 225 Update

MassDot is planning a full bridge replacement for RT225



Concord Updates

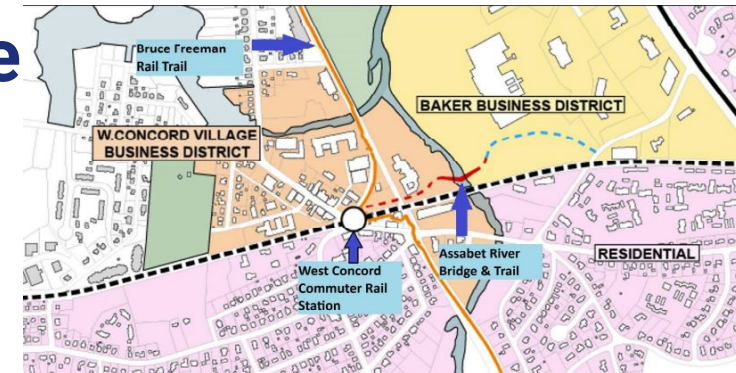
Town Meeting Being Held Tonight Community Preservation Act Funding Requests -

- Assabet River Bridge - \$240,000
- Conservation Fund - \$500,000

To protect water resources, biodiversity and agriculture

Projects - Gas Station/Convenient Store

166 Commonwealth Ave @ Nashoba Brook
Minor stormwater and planting improvements



Warners Pond

Warners Pond Management Committee is developing an **Adaptive Management Plan** as outlined in 2025 Draft Generic Environmental Impact Report

Currently Developing:

- Conceptual Pond Model
- Public Outreach Plan
- RFP for Pond Consultant



Preliminary – Work in Process for Committee Review and Deliberation; Subject to Change
v1_3/22/2026

Draft – Work in Process
Warner's Pond Conceptual Model
Preliminary Consideration of Conceptual Model, Pond Issues and Associated Causes for Committee Deliberation

Town of Concord Warner's Pond Management Committee

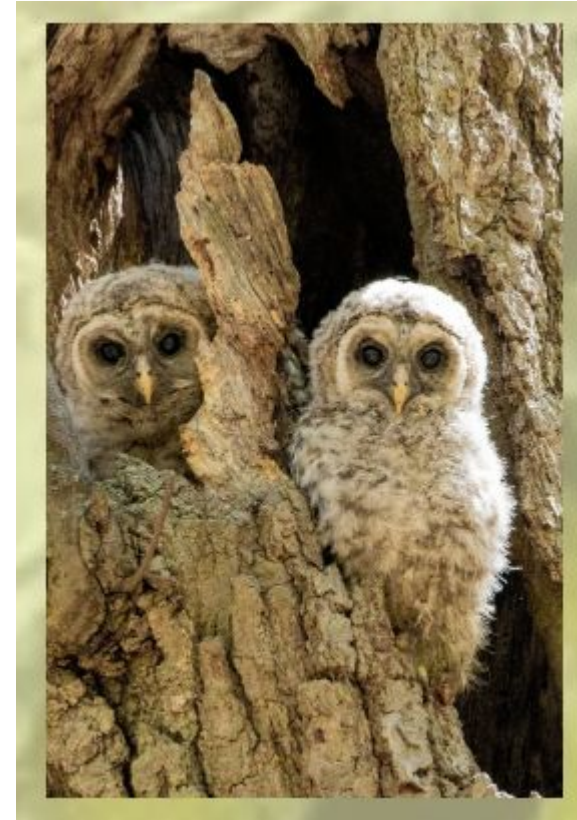
Lincoln Updates

Town Meeting Voted to Support

- Dark Skies Zoning Amendment
- Banning of Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides



Photo by Eric Kilby



Wayland Updates

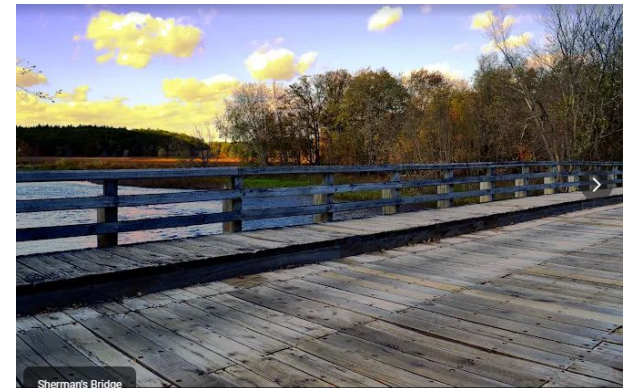
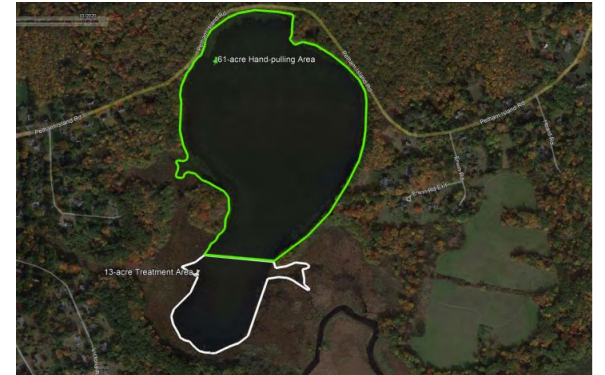
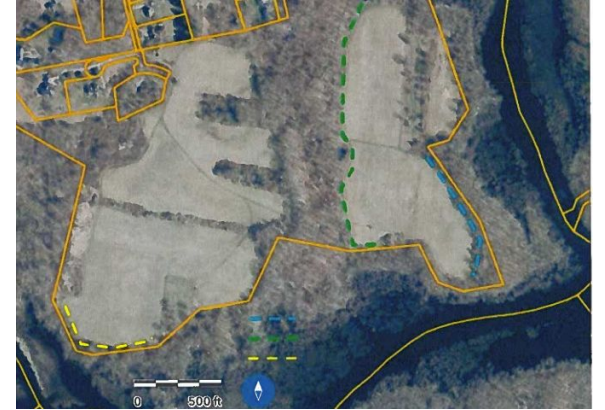
Town Meeting will be held on May 4 Community Preservation Act Funding -

- Heard Farm Tree Preservation
 - Save large trees from bittersweet vines
- Heard Pond Herbicide Treatment
 - 13-acre South Cove
- Pine Diversity Initiative - Sedge Meadow
- Dudley Pond Water Mgmt Plan

Sherman's Bridge Town Meeting Warrant Articles -

By Petition

- Second Pedestrian Walkway
- 5-ton Weight Limit
- Renegotiate Neighborhood Agreement
- 20 MPH Speed Limit and other safety improvements
- Vehicle Road User Law Improvements



Wayland - Truck in Sudbury River

At approximately 8:15 P.M. on Tuesday, April 21, the Wayland Police and Fire Department received a call for a motor vehicle that entered into the Sudbury River at Sherman's Bridge.

The vehicle's occupant was able to exit before the car entered the water. The vehicle floated approximately 200 feet down stream. The occupant was not injured.

Due to safety concerns, a decision was made to delay removal of the vehicle. As of 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 22, the Wayland Fire Department and the Fire District 14 Dive Team have been activated to recover the vehicle.



Wayland - Snake Brook Dam Rehab

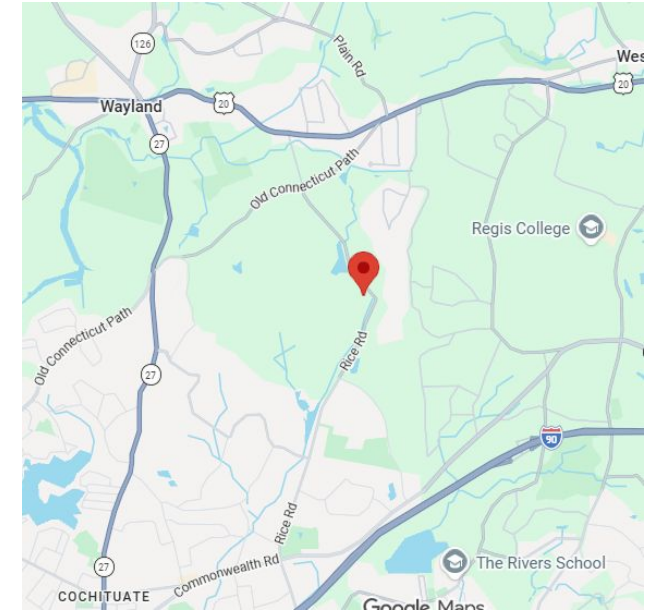
Snake Brook Dam

Town was awarded \$1.4M from FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Snake Brook Dam Rehabilitation Project.

Snake Brook Dam impounds water along Snake Brook to form the Old Wayland Reservoir and is part of the Hamlen Woods Conservation Area

The funding will assist with

- addressing several structural deficiencies
- bringing the 150-year-old dam into compliance, including,
 - rebuilding the existing stone retaining wall
 - renovating the gatehouse to improve access
 - upgrades to the dam spillway system and dam overflow system to include the construction of an approximate 465-square-foot wetland impoundment,
 - a new drawdown diversion line
 - a weather/water monitoring system



Sudbury Updates

Community Preservation Act Funding (Town Meeting to be held May 4)

- \$26,600 requested for Hop Brook Watershed Water Chestnut Removal - Herbicide Treatment
- \$270,000 Improve accessibility to Hop Brook Marsh Restoration and SVT-owned Memorial Forest via BFRT



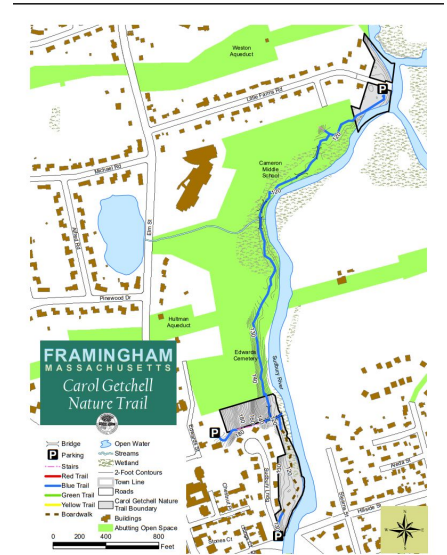
Framingham Updates

Community Preservation Act Funding Carol Getchell Trail - Middle Section

\$215,000 requested to supplement
Mass Trails Grant of \$100,000

Mobilization/General Conditions	\$20,500.00
Erosion Control Installation	\$35,490.00
Furnish and Install Trail	\$85,800.00
Furnish and Install Timber Boardwalk	\$50,000.00
Furnish and Install FRP Bridge	\$31,500.00
Construction Estimate Total:	\$223,290.00
Contingency, permitting	\$91,710.00
Total:	\$315,000.00

Simpson Park Access Improvements \$300,000



Other Meetings/Events

Attended

- Concord Conservation Coffee
- Concord Land Use Working Group Meeting
- MACC Dam Removal Impacts on Mussels
- SuAsCo Climate Collaborative
- Metrowest Conservation Alliance Spring Meeting
- Aquatic Invasive Management Meeting
- Minuteman National Historic Park - Talk with Super and Patriot Vigil at Old North Bridge
- MACC Seminars on Lake Management and Dam Removal Permitting
- OARS 2026 Water Quality Training
- Paddling up the Assabet and Sudbury/Walking Adjacent Trails
- Organizing for Spring - equipment, maps, etc.

CISMA Annual Spring Meeting

Updates from Small Grant Recipients

- Town of Boxboro/Boxboro Conservation Trust
- Sudbury Conservation Department
- Sudbury Valley Trustees

Case Studies

- Stow Conservation Trust - The Challenges of Phragmites
- Weston Conservation - Testing Different Knotweed Treatments
- SVT - Bittersweet Management
- Westborough - Novel Approach to Knotweed Removal & Eradication

OARS 40th Anniversary River Celebration

Beavers - April 24

@ Historic Wright Tavern in Concord

3 Photographers

Photos and Video of Beavers

~25 attendees



OARS 40th Anniversary River Celebration

Wild & Scenic Film Festival - April 25

At historic Scout House in Concord

~50-60 attendees

Films

Food production in arctic

South Fork of the American River

Kelp farming in Maine

Oil Spill in Europe

Un-Damming of Klamath

Beyond Belief

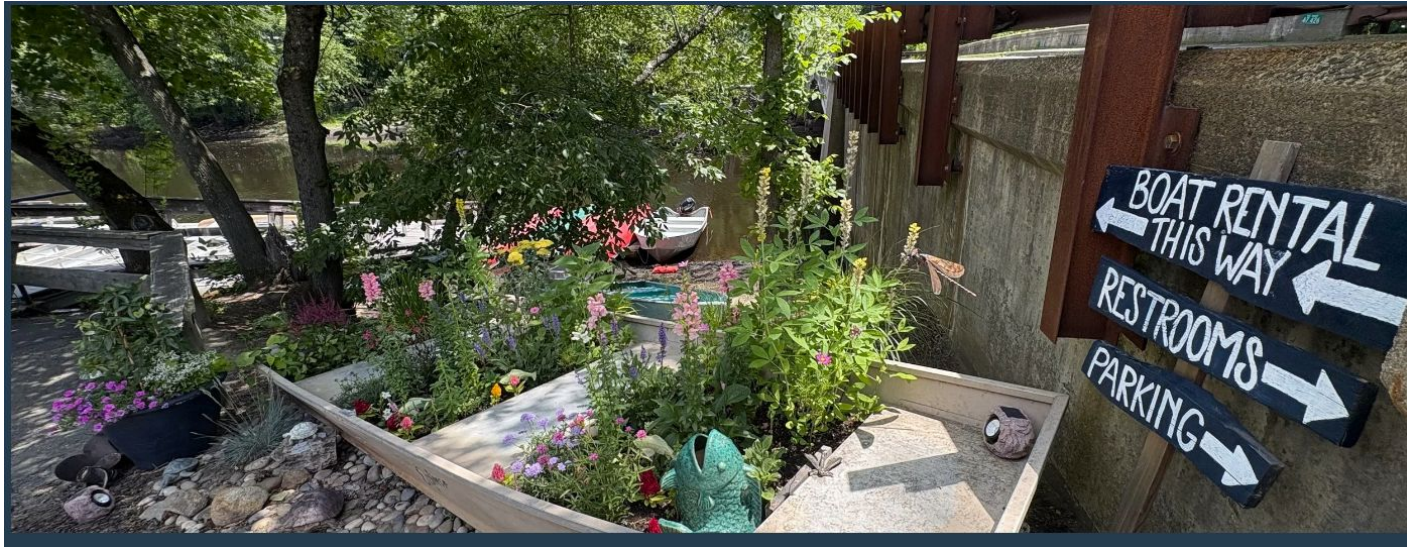
Yosemite Valley Under Fire



OARS 40th Anniversary River Celebration

Festival Closeout @ South Bridge Boat House

- ~12-15 people from 5 - 6 pm
- No awards



FYI - Rental rates: Single Kayak \$26/hr; Tandem Kayak \$34/hr; Canoe \$26-\$34/hr

Getting Ready for Spring

Checked southern launches

- Little Farms Road - Consider installation of map holders
- Wayland - Access road repair and trash removal assistance
- Lincoln - No issues
- Bedford - No issues
- Concord @ Lowell Rd - No issues
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Re-stocked Sudbury Library, responded to request for talk

River Crossing Signs

Framingham - need signs on Potter Rd

Wayland - no signs at Sherman's Bridge

Lincoln - signs in good condition at Rte 117, both directions

Other Meetings/Events

Future

- Lowell MA Fish Monitoring Training
- Carlisle Sustainability Day - May
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- Letter to Fairhaven Bay Dock Owner

Small Asks

- River Management Society Membership
- Summer Solstice
- Zoom Account