

River Ambassador's Report
SuAsCo Wild & Scenic
RSC Meeting
August 25, 2026

Drought Status

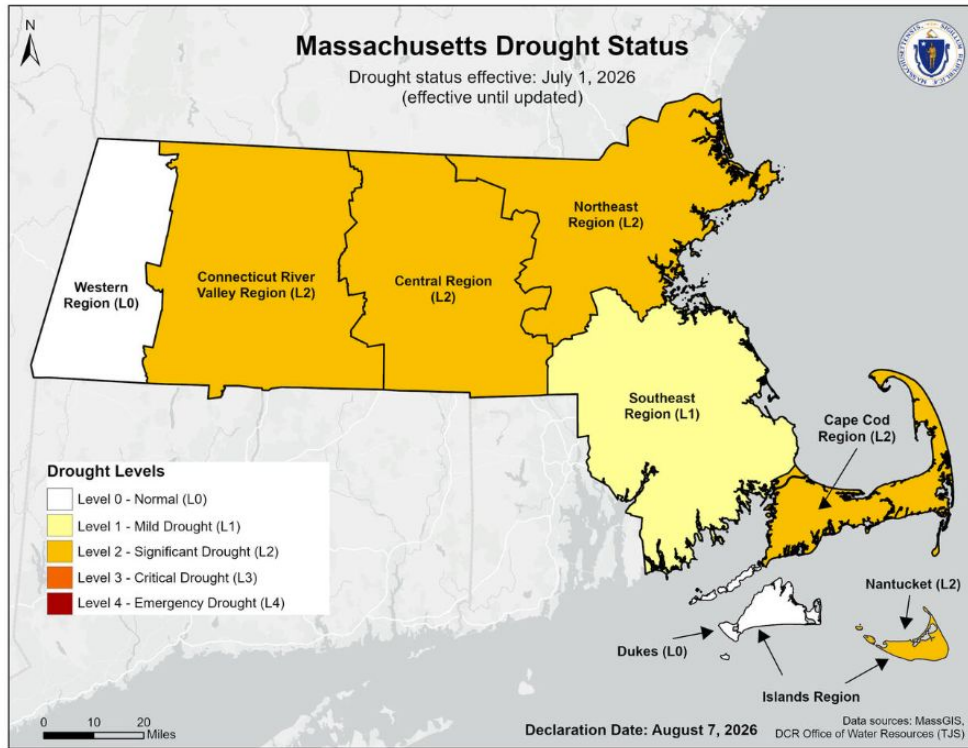
As of August 7, 2026

Massachusetts received between 4.5 and nearly 9.5 inches of rain during July, with most of the state receiving more rain than is typical for the month. The rainfall helped replenish rivers, streams, and soil. Even with that improvement, drought conditions remain in parts of the state because groundwater, which supplies wells, rivers, and wetlands, recovers more slowly than rainfall.

For Regions in Level 2 – Significant Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Follow local water use restrictions;
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use; and,
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.



New Draft MA Wetlands Regs

MA DEP has proposed amendments to the

- Wetlands Regulations (310 CMR 10.00)
- Water Quality Regulations (314 CMR 9:00: 401 Water Quality Certification for the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material)

Intended to streamline permitting for beneficial wetland restoration and other projects, including invasive plant management (upland only at this point), damaged tree removal, and limited construction and maintenance of unpaved paths. Also updates the wetland plant list and BVW boundary determination methodology, and revise the observation of flow requirements in riverfront.

Comment period ended 8/20/26.

New Draft MA Wetlands Reg

Filing will not be required in BZ & RFA

- **Construction of Unpaved Trails** - up to 30 inches (private) or 3 ft wide (public) provided 50 ft from BVW, MAHW
- **Maintenance of Unpaved Trails** - up to 30 inches (private) or 6 ft wide (public), within existing footprint, mowing no more than 12 inches on either side
- **Removal of Invasive Plants** - hand or mechanized hand-held equipment, no trees more than 6 in DBH, area replanted or stabilized within one growing season, limited herbicide use
- **Diseased or Damaged Tree Removal** - no more than 3 diseased or damaged trees per parcel, provided >10 ft from resource area, no disturbance to soils more than root ball

New Draft MA Wetlands Reg

Ecological Restoration Projects

310 CMR 10.11 – 10.14 Ecological Restoration (ER) Projects (i.e., general permits) Streamlined permitting process for wetland restoration projects whose purpose is restore or otherwise improve wetlands that have been degraded or destroyed by anthropogenic influences

- Projects need Restoration Order of Conditions (ROOC)
- Many ER Projects will not need an individual 401 Water Quality Certification, unless dredging 100 cubic yards (if not in ORW)
- Many projects will have streamlined MEPA process
- Issuing Authority only confirms general procedures and eligibility criteria and issues a Restoration Order of Conditions (no additional conditions)
- Appeals limited to general procedures and eligibility only

New Draft MA Wetlands Reg

Invasive Plant Management

The removal of plants identified as Invasive Plants in Massachusetts to improve wetland functions and contribute to Interests of the Act.

Highlights of Eligibility Criteria:

- minimize disturbance to native plants
- no work in open water (no aquatic)
- no permanent alteration to topography or wetland hydrology
- no expansion of lawns, planting beds, or recreational uses

Highlights of Conditions:

- avoid vehicle crossing and protect soils
obtain WM04 (herbicide application), if necessary
- no herbicide within 25 feet of wetland or waterway if no WM04 permit

New Draft MA Wetlands Reg

Retired Cranberry Bog Restoration

Intended to assist the ecological recovery of a formerly cultivated cranberry bog by restoring natural physical, chemical, and biological processes, primarily through hydrological changes, and removal or mitigation of ecological stressors

Highlights of Eligibility Criteria:

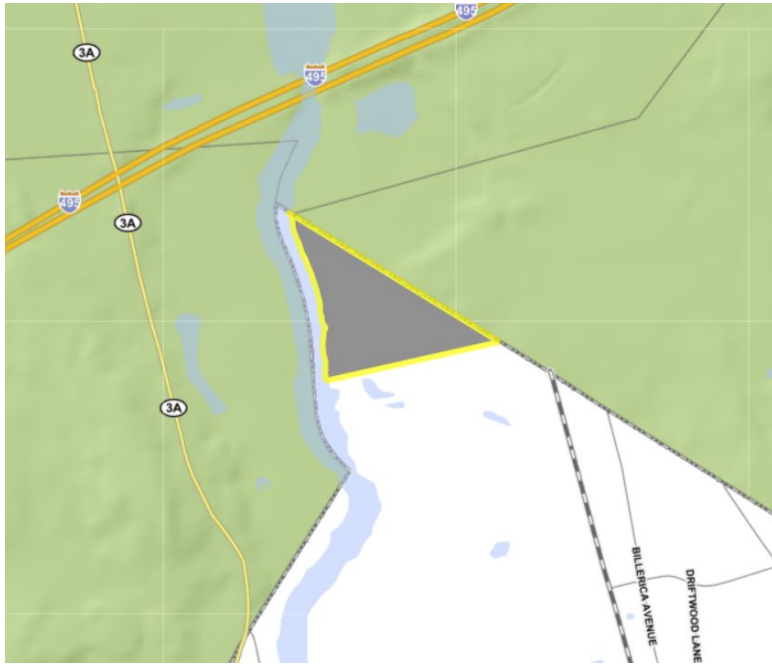
- minimize disturbance to native plants
- no work in open water (no aquatic)
 - no permanent alteration to topography or wetland hydrology
- no expansion of lawns, planting beds, or recreational uses

Highlights of Conditions:

- avoid vehicle crossing and protect soils
- obtain WM04 (herbicide application), if necessary
- no herbicide within 25 feet of wetland or waterway if no WM04 permit

Billerica

- Talbot Mills Conservation Commission NOI continued to September 14th
- 495R Billerica Avenue NOI - ???



Carlisle - Greenough Pnd

Water Chestnut Update

Jonathan DeKock - August 21, 2026



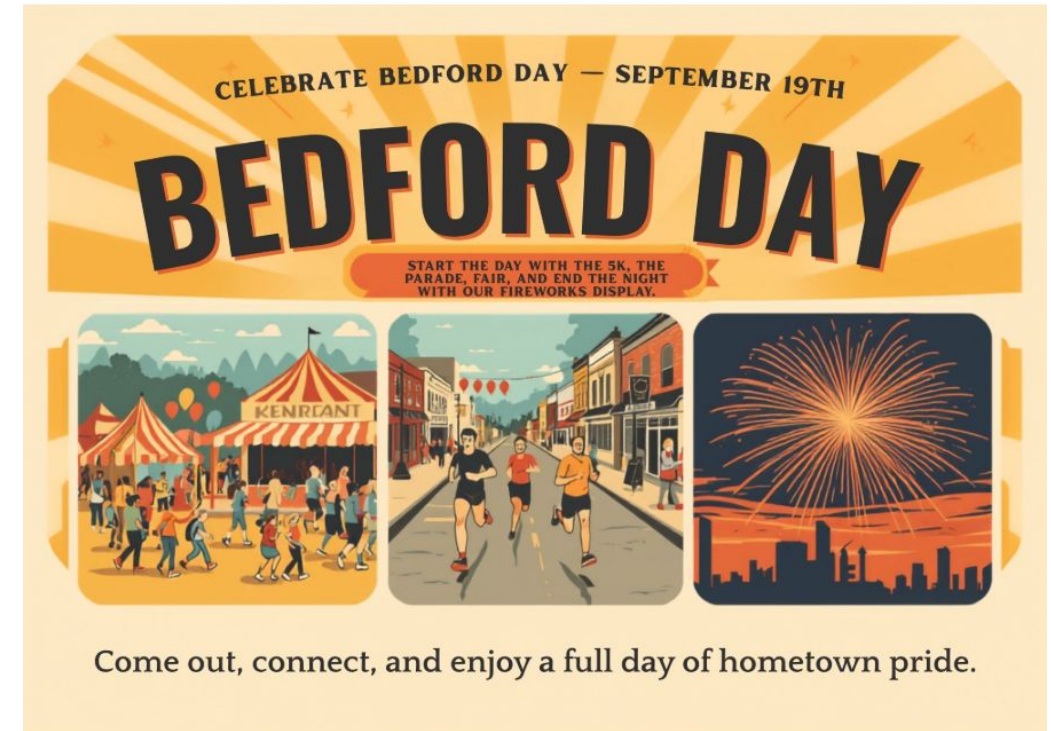
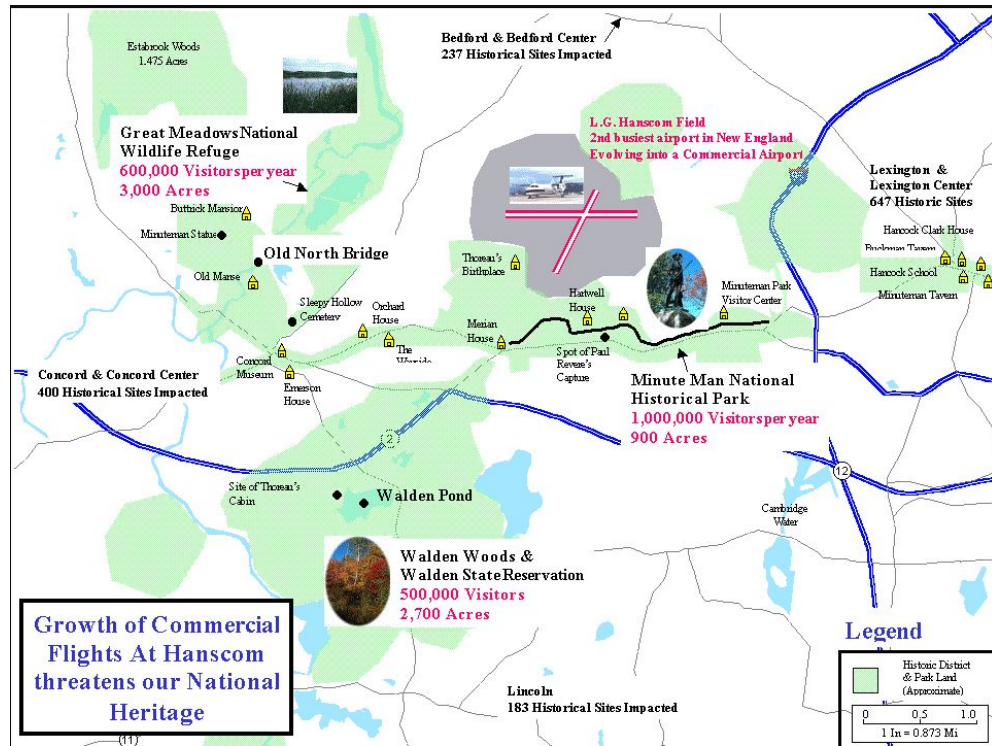
Figure 4: Water Chestnut after one week of drying



164 full laundry baskets

Bedford

**Stop Private Jet Expansion
SDEIR (Supplementary DEIR).** The SDEIR
has not yet been filed, but is now expected in
the fall of 2026.



Carlisle / Bedford

Route 225 Bridge Replacement

From MassDOT Website

Estimated Total Contract Cost \$42,812,550

Estimated Total Federal Participating Construction Cost \$44,398,200

This project is in preliminary design

Project Need Form submitted 8/22/2025

Project Initiation Form submitted 8/22/25

Project Review Committee Approved 9/24/2025

Observations as of 8/23/26

- Initial survey appears complete
- Wetlands delineation appears complete



Concord

Reimagine MCI Concord Master Plan



State Departments Involved



Massachusetts Department of Correction

[Learn more](#)



Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance

[Learn more](#)



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

[Learn more](#)

You're invited —
Reimagine MCI Concord

MASTER PLAN & ZONING UPDATE

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9**

6-7:30PM



Concord-Carlisle Regional High School
Auditorium and Cafeteria



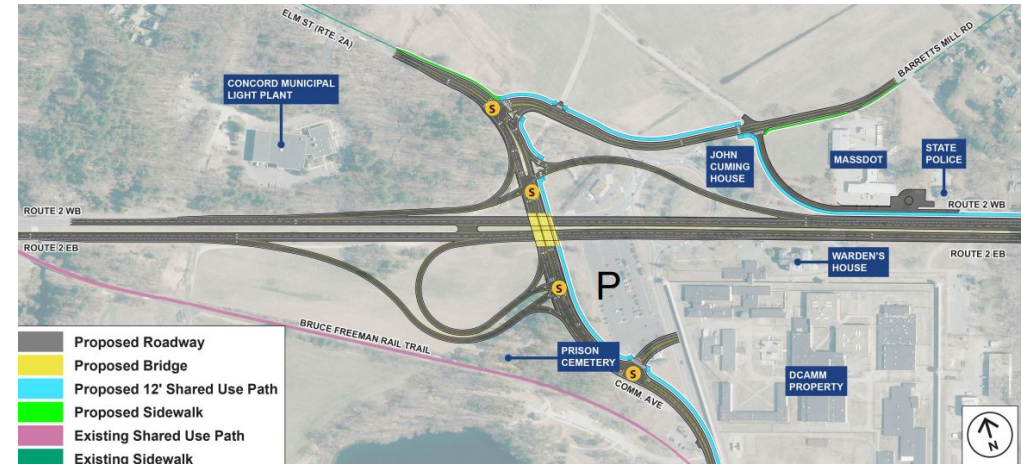
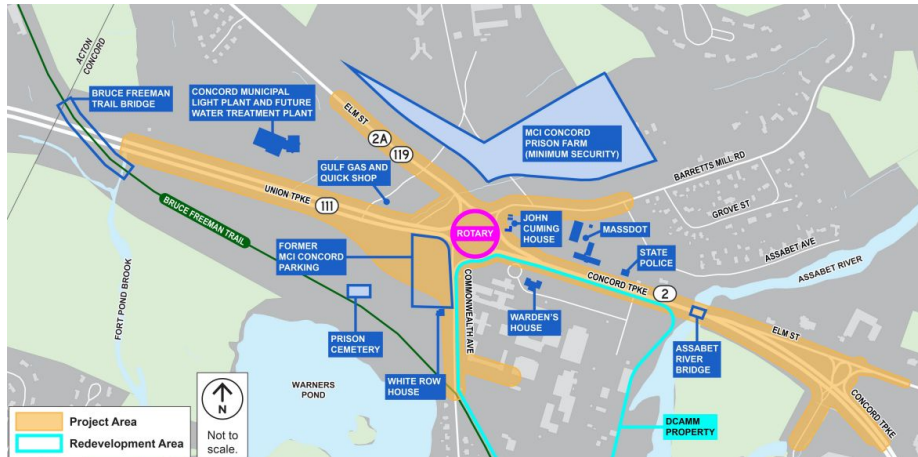
- See the revised illustrative plan for the site's redevelopment.
- Hear highlights about transportation and fiscal impact analyses.
- Learn about next steps in the planning and zoning process.



Visit the project website to learn more:
<https://www.mci-concord.org/>

Concord

Route 2 Rotary Redesign/Assabet River Bridge Rehab



Shared Use Path



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Assabet River Bridge

- All concepts include replacement of the bridge carrying Route 2 over the Assabet River
- Replacement bridge will be longer, wider, and have increased clearance between high water and bottom of the structure
- River user access will be improved

Warners Pond Update

Conservation Committee has advertised for applications for a new member, application deadline extended to 8/28/26.

The Committee is preparing a RFP for a pond consultant - draft available on WPMC Website - to provide professional services to develop an Adaptive Management Plan for Warner's Pond. Services will include review of existing data, identifying any data gaps, preparing an Adaptive Management Plan including metrics and developing monitoring recommendations for implementation.

Lincoln

Confirmed infestation in Lincoln

Attacks grapevines, maple trees,
and many other plants

The insect leaves “honeydew”
behind that can lead to “sooty
mold”

Report to MDAR - Introduced
Pests Outreach Project

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY**



Spotted lanternfly has now been confirmed in several parts of Massachusetts. This invasive insect can be found on tree-of-heaven, grapevines, maples, and many other plants. In summer and fall, SLF can become a nuisance, gathering in large numbers and leaving behind a sticky waste product called honeydew.

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THIS PEST:



Egg masses
(Sept.-June)



Early nymphs
(April-July)



Late nymphs
(July-Sept.)



Adults
(July-Dec.)

Wayland

Sherman's Bridge Rehab Update

Sherman's Bridge rehabilitation project is fully permitted by

- Army Corps of Engineers,
- Massachusetts Historical Commission,
- both Sudbury and Wayland Conservation Commissions,
- both Sudbury and Wayland Zoning Board of Appeals.

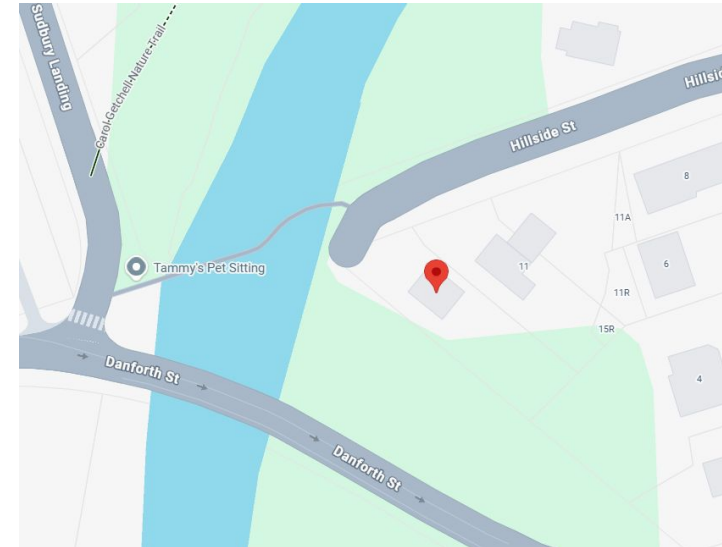
The MassDOT timber delivery is expected in late October and construction starting in November.



Framingham

Carol Getchell Trail NOI for construction of middle section - Scheduled for 9/2/26

17 Hillside Street NOI - construction of an addition, porch, and deck at a single family residence



Miscellaneous

Attended

- Met with Concord Select Board Member re: MCI Concord and Warners Pond
- Helped with Dragonfly Mercury Project at Old North Bridge
- Attended webinar on Thoreau's Language of Trees
- Attended Farmer's Market in Carlisle and Acton/Boxborough

Administrative

- Purchased supplies for Bedford Day and other events
- Made business cards

On the River

- Bacteria monitoring in the Upper Sudbury
- Trash removal, Map Re-Stocking
- Checking on aquatic invasives and shoreline activities
- Joined RSC and SVT on paddle from Bedford to Billerica