



July 11, 2018

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program  
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee  
**Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee**  
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association  
592 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Designating the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers as  
Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation manages several thousand acres of land adjacent to the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers, including the J. Harry Rich State Forest in Groton (679 acres), the Townsend State Forest (3,082 acres), and the Willard Brook State Forest (2,930 acres) which includes land in Townsend. The riverside trails are wonderful recreational assets for hikers and hunters.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) also manages the 11-mile Nashua River Rail Trail, which is an extraordinarily popular trail running through Ayer, Groton, Pepperell, and Dunstable. It's a multi-use trail, enjoyed by horseback riders, hikers, people pushing baby strollers & using rollers blades, dog walkers, and bird watchers. The stretch of the trail alongside the Nashua River is among the most beautiful stretches of rail trails in the Commonwealth. DCR also administers the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Program on behalf of the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. ACECs are identified and nominated at the community level, and then reviewed and designated by the Secretary. ACEC designation recognizes the quality, uniqueness and significance of the natural and cultural resources within a portion of the Massachusetts landscape. The Central Nashua River Valley ACEC, the Squannassit ACEC, and the Petapawag ACEC include stretches of all three rivers covered by this proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers designation, which highlights the exceptional natural, cultural and scenic attributes of the river corridors.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lt. Governor

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Leo Roy, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Nine of our Massachusetts communities have voted in support the purposes and goals of the “Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan” and its recommendation to seek designation as Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers. I, too, support the “Stewardship Plan” and the endeavor to designate the three rivers as Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leo Roy', written in a cursive style.

Leo Roy  
Commissioner