

Main Street  
204 Autumn Ridge Drive  
Ayer, MA 01432

June 20, 2018

Jamie Foshburgh, NPS  
Lucy Wallace, chair, Study Committee  
Nashua River Wild & Scenic River Study Comm. Ttee  
592 Main St.  
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Jamie & Lucy -

I am thrilled that the Nashua, Squannacook & Merrimack Rivers are on the verge of being designated as Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers! It was not so very long ago that the Nashua was considered one of the 10 most polluted rivers in the United States. In the 1960's when a group of us organized the Nashua River Clean up committee, the Nashua was considered to be dead with no chance for restoration. The highest form then of life in the North Nashua river were judge worms.

(2)

In Groton & surrounding communities the sludge was so thick that birds & small animals could walk across the top of the River without getting their feet wet. The River stunk so badly that it could be smelled one mile away.

Signs went up at River crossings: "Hold your nose. Nashua River Ahead." "Nauseous Nashua."

The FTA gave no value to land in Pepperell along the Nashua River citing the pollution condition of the River. Now, the most prized land lies along the River. Fish have returned along with bald eagle, Great blue heron & osprey. People have returned to the River, too, to enjoy such recreational uses as fishing, swimming & boating. We have created a Greenway along the Nashua, Squannacook & Nissiticut Rivers & their major tributaries protecting about one half of our river frontage, approximately

200 miles, and we are working hard to complete the rest of the Greenway for conservation, recreation + educational purposes. The River's restoration is a remarkable story & can be credited to the partnership + persistent work of local businesses, non-profit local, regional, state & federal agencies.

The work is never done! The "Washua, Squannacook + Westport Rivers Stewardship Plan" is a blueprint for future voluntary action that can be undertaken together. Let's get started Now! Let's designate these rivers as Partnership Wild + Scenic Rivers during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wild + Scenic Program. We started cleaning up the River shortly before the Wild + Scenic Program began.

-4-

Now, let's celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
by recognizing these 3 outstanding rivers!

Sincerely -

Uchim

P.S. I just celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday -  
can think of nothing I would like more  
than to see the Rivers designated WILD &  
SCENIC this year!!