



June 21, 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

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

Please accept this letter as an expression of our support for the Wild and Scenic River designations recommended in the 2018 Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan. Brookline and Hollis are the two communities serviced by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission that are covered in the Stewardship Plan. The upper length of the Nissitissit River runs through them both and for the most part the river's shores are to a considerable extent permanently protected open space. In fact, this past year the Town of Brookline completed its purchase of two properties totaling 75 acres along ½ mile of the Nissitissit River.

Acquiring the parcels had been a priority of local conservationists for nearly fifty years, and Brookline residents voted overwhelmingly to approve a town bond to fund the purchase. The properties also feature over a mile of existing rail trail, and the town plans to create a new universally-accessible river walk and fishing pier. These towns not only protect and care for their natural features, they also prize their historical and cultural features, including old mill sites and the covered bridge at Lake Potanipo. Furthermore, private entities are doing their part as well: both Beaver Brook Association and the Nissitissit River Land Trust are long-term, true stewards of the lands abutting the river.

As with the above entities, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission is eager to see these rivers designated as Wild and Scenic and we are willing to help with implementing the well-articulated Stewardship Plan recommendations as we are able. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



Jay Minkarah
Executive Director