

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

Proposed for Segments of the Nashua, Squannacook & Nissitissit Rivers

Presentation to Partner Communities

Status report: on the work of the
Nashua River Wild and Scenic Rivers
Study Committee



Boards of Selectmen of
Ayer, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard,
Lancaster, Shirley, Townsend, & Pepperell
voted to endorse the Study.

Congress authorized the Study in December 2014 and
Congresswoman Tsongas publically announced
the Study in January 2015.

What is a Wild and Scenic River Study?

- Congressionally authorized Study to determine whether a river segment is eligible and suitable for designation.
- Based on 1968 Wild & Scenic Rivers Act to protect and restore the nation's best rivers. Presently, 160+ rivers designated.
- Conducted by Study Committee with much public input; ~3 years to finish Study.
- Develops a River Management Plan to protect and restore the outstanding resources of these rivers.

The Nashua River Study Committee consists of a representative and an alternate appointed by the participating towns' BoS.

Current Study Committee members are: [**** Note - Updated April 2017 ****]

Ayer	Beth Suedmeyer (rep) & Robert Pontbriand (alt)
Dunstable	Leah Basbanes (rep) & Judy Larter (alt)
Groton	Nadia Madden (rep) & Tim Newman (alt)
Harvard	Lucy Wallace (rep)
Lancaster	Bill Flynn (rep) & Susan Munyon (alt)
Pepperell	Paula Terassi (rep) & Mark Andrews (alt)
Shirley	Heidi Ricci (rep) & Betsy Colburn (alt)
Townsend	Bill Wilkinson (rep) & Karen Chapman (alt)

- Other voting committee members include representatives from National Park Service and Nashua River Watershed Association.
- Non-voting members include representatives from MA Div. of Ecological Restoration, MA Dept. of Fish & Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service and US Geologic Service.
- Participating guests include local and regional resource experts and stakeholders from Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

What Parts of the Rivers are Being Considered?

- River Segment 1:

Nashua River *Mainstem*: from the Confluence of the North and South Nashua Rivers in Lancaster to state line at Pepperell/ Dunstable with four mile stretch of Pepperell Pond informally participating.

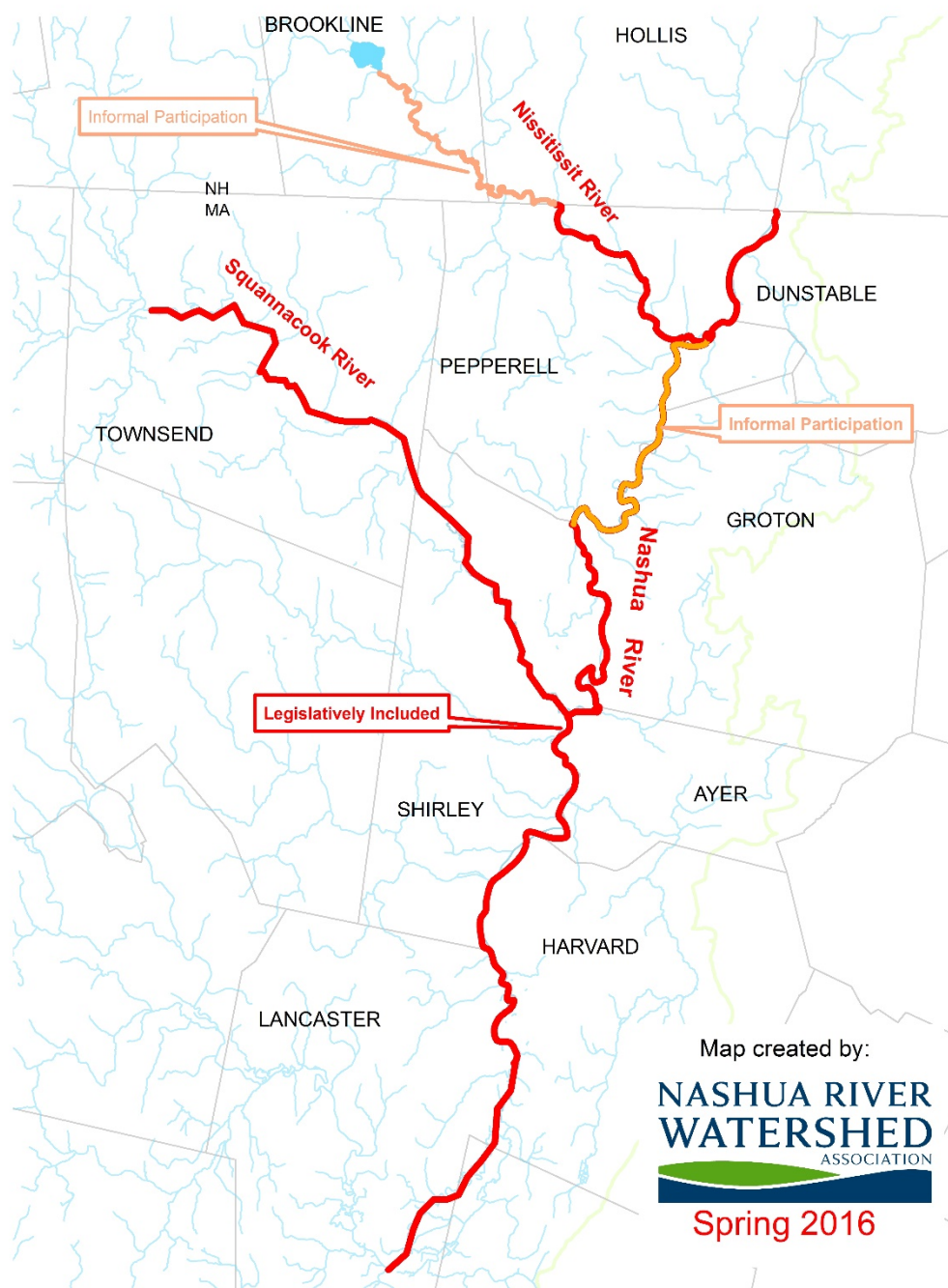
- River Segment 2:

Squannacook River: from the headwaters in Townsend to its confluence with Nashua River *Mainstem* in Shirley/ Ayer.

- River Segment 3:

Nissitissit River: from state line to its confluence with Nashua River *Mainstem* in Pepperell with upper reach from Lake Potanipo in Brookline, NH to MA state-line informally participating.

"Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee"



Map created by:



Spring 2016

What is so special about these rivers?

Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values

- Scenic & natural landscapes.
- Recreation e.g: boating, trout stocking, bass fishing tournament.
- Ecological values including cold-water fisheries, ACECs, biodiversity & habitat.
- Local cultural & industrial history e.g: reversal of Nashua from top 10 most polluted rivers in US.

Why is the Wild and Scenic River Study itself so valuable?

- Opportunity for towns along these rivers to work together to protect their shared regional resources.
- Provides towns with structure, expertise and funding to identify needs, set goals and implement the Management Plan to maintain & protect these rivers.
- Entirely voluntary & locally determined process.

What would Wild & Scenic designation achieve?

- Granted only if Study demonstrates both outstanding resources and local commitment to protect them.
- Prohibits new federally-licensed dams and harmful diversions. Ensures no adverse impacts from future federally-funded /-permitted water resource projects.
- Directed by a locally-based “coordinating council” overseeing river management plan implementation through voluntary measures.
- Qualifies these river segments for annual federal NPS funds. Wild and Scenic status often leverages additional funds (eg: priority status on grant applications).

What the Study and Designation

DOES NOT DO:

- Does not:
 - lead to federal acquisition, establish a federal park or put land under federal control, force any changes in the local process of land-use decision-making, nor change any existing land uses.
- No impact on existing dams.
- No affect on hunting and fishing laws.
- No restricted river access & does not require public access to private land.

Next Steps for the Study Committee

- Outreach & Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values sub-committees will reach out to town boards, interested individuals & local organizations to gather relevant information.
- Drafts of Study Committee's work--the draft Management Plan--will be publically shared for further input and feedback.
- Each town's BoS must vote to put the draft Management Plan on their town's meeting agenda along with the topic of Designation.
- Formal town spring 2018 Annual Meeting votes in participating towns to determine whether towns agree with Designation and accept the draft Management Plan.



CONTACT US

See <http://WildandScenicNashuaRivers.org>

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