

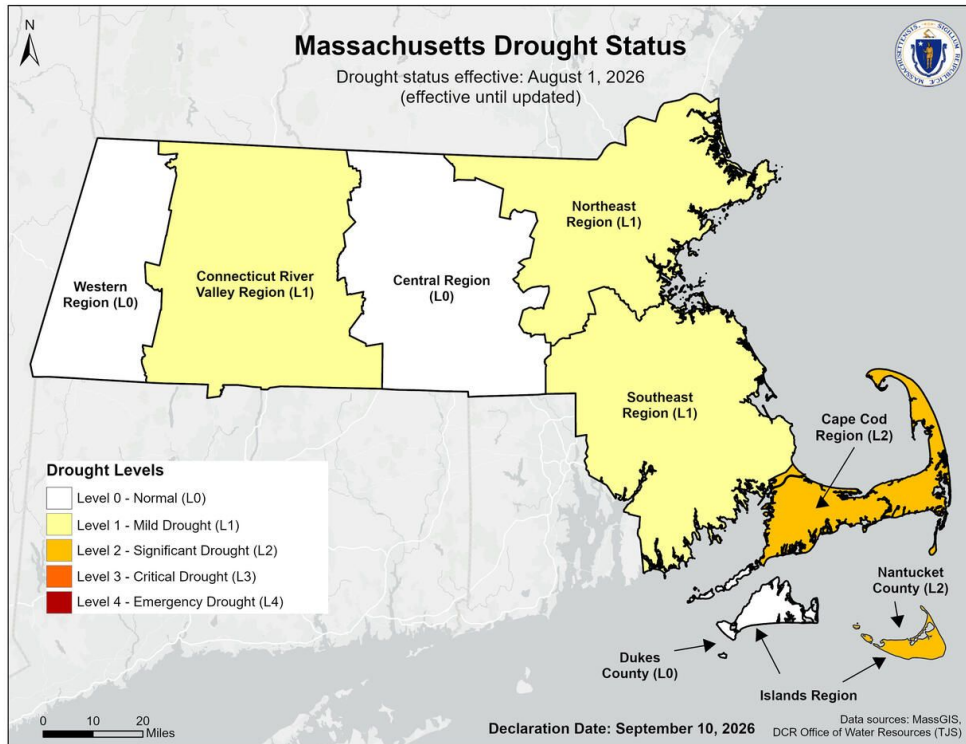
River Ambassador's Report
SuAsCo Wild & Scenic
RSC Meeting
September 29, 2026

Drought Status

As of September 10 2026

Drought status downgraded to Level 1 - Mild Drought

Drought Management Bill - Conference Committee is still finalizing the bill; Final report expected sometime after mid- October



Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife

The defoliating beetle *Galerucella californiensis* is voracious, prolific, and hardy. Our collection is in mid-to-late May. (Limited releases of other biocontrol species are available--call for information.)

Loosestrife defoliating beetle *Galerucella californiensis*: Larvae and adults feed on leaves, buds, shoots, and flowers. Feeding damage reduces loosestrife growth, flowering, seed production, and photosynthetic capability, negatively impacting overwintering energy, vigor, and native plant competition. Studies cite an impressive ability to relocate to loosestrife up to a kilometer away within a few days of adult emergence. Up to 500 eggs per female and multiple generations per year significantly accelerate establishment and control. This effective insect is easy to establish and easy to redistribute.

\$150 per release



damage on purple loosestrife: eggs and larvae, adult feeding, and eggs deposited after adult feeding.

Galerucella

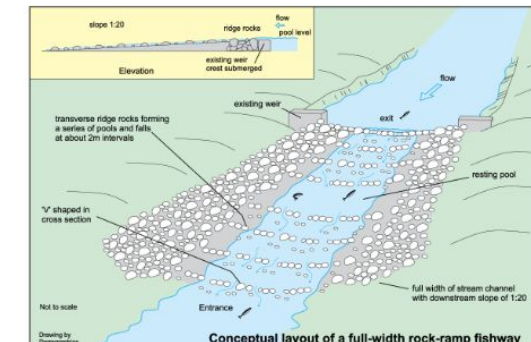
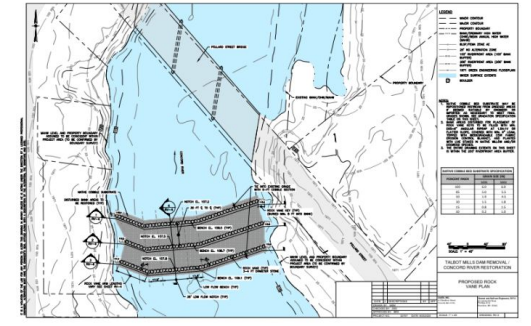
from Integrated Weed Control - Bozeman, Montana



The *Galerucella* beetle (*Galerucella californiensis* and *Galerucella pusilla*) is a natural biological control agent introduced to North America from Europe and Asia to suppress invasive purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Billerica

- Talbot Mills Ecological Restoration Project Conservation Commission NOI continued to October 26th; All documents available at:
<https://tinyurl.com/TalbotDamRemovalPublic>
- Under discussion is the design of a grade control feature in the river, upstream of the dam, to maintain water surface elevations at existing levels upstream of that point. A grade control is an engineered instream feature that establishes and maintains desired riverbed and water surface elevations and prevents the bed from eroding or cutting downward over time. The grade control will be constructed just upstream of the Pollard Street bridge, and will consist of several rock vanes of boulders that span across the river, with a natural cobble streambed between the vanes to create a solid feature that dissipates flow energy and maintains upstream water surface elevations. The grade control will include a low-flow notch, which will increase water depths over existing conditions and enhance aquatic organism passage and recreational navigation. The grade control will provide effective passage for diadromous and resident fish species.



Bedford

Update to Select Board by Brian and Angela - 9/14/26

Project Updates & Initiatives

1. KAYAK RENTAL KIOSK
2. ADA DOCK
3. Rte 225 BRIDGE REPAIR
4. BEDFORD'S INTEREST IN ROWING
5. ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANTS
6. 2026 ANNUAL RIVER CLEAN UP (OARS)



Self-Service Kayak Rental

- ▶ Similar to Bike Rental kiosks, an app unlocks equipment (~\$25/ 2hr)
- ▶ Kayaks come with paddles and lifejackets
- ▶ **Liability covered 100% by Vendor**
- ▶ Equipment maintained entirely by Vendor
- ▶ Revenue-sharing model



Photo of Kayak Rental at Ice House Landing, Maynard, MA



Example: Muldoon Park Accessible Kayak Launch (Concord R., Lowell) taken by RSC member Johnathan DeKock (September 2026)



Hart-Desiato Memorial Bridge

- ▶ Mass DOT completed bridge deck repairs (August 2026)
- ▶ One way restriction still in place → deterioration timber support piles
- ▶ Longer term plan is complete bridge replacement
 - ▶ Still in preliminary design phase
 - ▶ Wild and Scenic Rivers Act **Section 7 review**
 - ▶ RSC in partnership with NPS will assist w/advisement

(The Bedford Citizen, 19-AUG-2026)

<https://thebedfordcitizen.org/2026/08/hart-desiato-memorial-bridge-repairs-continue-as-one-way-traffic-pattern-remains/>



Rowing / Crew in Bedford

- ▶ Bedford is home to several rowing enthusiast individuals and families
- ▶ Initial research into Rowing organizations shows lack of nearby resources. Closest groups include:
 - ▶ Boston area, e.g. [Community Rowing Inc.](#) (Charles River)
 - ▶ [Westford Community Rowing](#) (Forge Pond)
- ▶ The Bedford Boat Launch has the potential to accommodate a Community Rowing organization
- ▶ The River Stewardship Council is launching a community engagement survey to gauge interest and assess feasibility.



RSC Community Small Grants Annual Program

- ▶ **Grant amount: \$500-\$X,000 per project**
- ▶ **Eligible applicants:** Municipalities, municipal-affiliated groups, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits. **Bedford** is one of the eight priority Wild & Scenic communities.
- ▶ **Eligible projects:** River access/recreation, habitat and ecological restoration, water quality, invasive species, education, research, historic resources, public art, youth engagement, and climate resilience.
- ▶ **Anticipated RFP:** Oct 2026
- ▶ **Example of past funding (2024):**
 - ▶ **Mass Audubon River School:** Attended by 2 BHS AP Environmental Science Classrooms
- ▶ **More info:** <https://sudbury-assabet-concord.org/the-organization/working-together>



Concord

Reimagine MCI Concord

MCI Concord Master Plan and Zoning



PREPARED BY
Stantec in association with **SPECK** **DEMPSEY** and **CommunityScale**

Planning Update
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Site Context

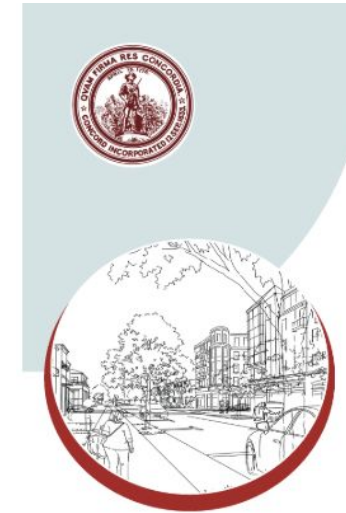
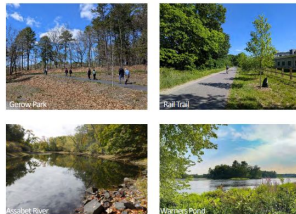
A 10-15-minute walk between
West Concord and site



Open Space – Site Context



Legend
■ Proposed Open Space
— Proposed Open Space Connection



Reimagine MCI Concord

**ZONING
INFORMATION
SESSION**

**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 6**

5:30-7PM

The event will be livestreamed on the
Minuteman Media Network YouTube
Channel. Check website for link.



Town House Hearing Room
22 Monument Sq.

Join us for an informal discussion about zoning for the MCI Concord site.

- Learn more about what local zoning can and cannot control
- Learn what a regulating plan is and how it complements zoning
- Bring your zoning-related questions



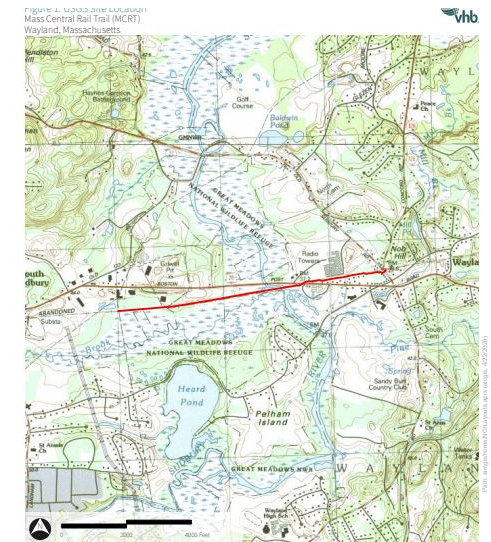
Visit the project website to learn more:
<https://www.mci-concord.org/>

Wayland

Notices of Intent

MWRA Interconnection and Happy Hollow Water Treatment Facility - submitted by DCR for construction of new water infrastructure in Wayland. The proposed work includes three connection to the MWRA water system, construction of a pump station and water treatment facility, and replacement of a water main.

Massachusetts Central Rail Trail - submitted by DCR for the construction of a 1.9 miles trail on an RR ROW. Work will be required in LUWW for structural modifications to the existing bridge structure over the Sudbury River. Work will be limited to removing and replacing portions of existing 12-inch wooden supports below the high-water mark which is considered dredge of approximately 3 cubic yards (CY) of material. No sediment dredging is proposed as part of the Project.



Framingham

Carol Getchell Trail - CPC Update from Ron

- 1) Trail extension from Little Farms Road to Weston Aqueduct
- 2) Accessible Connection from Cameron Middle School

Letters of support to CPC requested

Miscellaneous

Attended

- Attended Lincoln Farmers Market, Concord Ag Day, and Bedford Day
- Attended Concord Climate Resiliency Plan Update Meeting
- Attended Concord Conservation Coffee
- Attended River Management Society Webinar on Accessibility
- Attended MCI Concord Update Meeting
- Visited South Natick Dam site visit by MA Rivers Alliance

Administrative

- Coordinated with vendor for rep hats and street signs

On the River

- Paddled Sudbury River in Wayland
- Trash removal, Map Re-Stocking
- Researched signs
- Research recent purple loosestrife management activities
- Visited handicapped accessible Muldoon Park in Lowell