

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL, 1999-2018

Healthier rivers and stronger connections

CLEANER WATER

Achieved major improvements in water quality thanks to OARS' monitoring program, supported by the River Stewardship Council, and municipal investment in advanced wastewater treatment and storm water management under the Clean Water Act.

RIVER EXPERIENCE

Enhanced the Wild and Scenic experience for visitors, through involvement in historic bridge renovations, improved boat access, new informational kiosks and recreation maps, and technical guidance on projects permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers.



Hosted 17 years of Riverfest —events in 12 communities bringing thousands out for hikes, paddles, and other family-friendly activities that explore the beauty, ecology and history of the rivers.



Funded the Mass Audubon's RiverSchools program, bringing watershed education to the classroom, and bringing youth and teachers to the rivers. Also developed the Junior River Ranger program for family exploration.

RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Combated invasive species in partnership with 35 organizations as part of the SuAsCo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

Initiated numerous studies on water flow, habitat, and native species.

PROTECTED LAND

Protected nearly 2,500 acres in close partnership with the Sudbury Valley Trustees and other local land trusts.

“The longer-term impact has been in shifted thinking... bringing greater attention and value to lands along the rivers.”

— Lisa Vernegaard
Executive Director,
Sudbury Valley Trustees

A NEW ENGLAND GEM

— WILD AND SCENIC SEGMENT

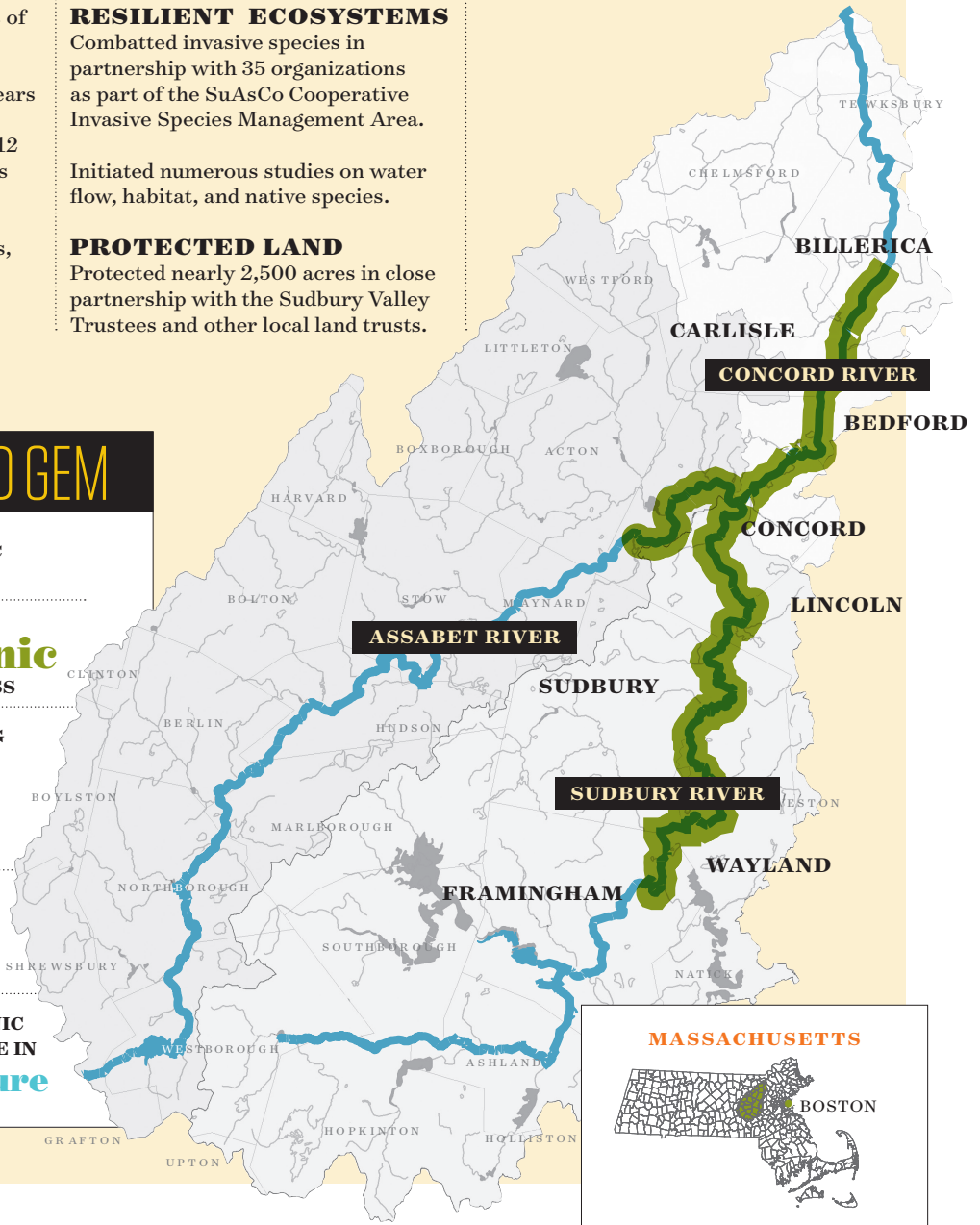
DESIGNATED
Wild and Scenic
IN 1999 BY U.S. CONGRESS

PROTECTING
29
RIVER MILES

CONNECTING
8
RIVERSIDE TOWNS

20
MILES TO BOSTON

THE ONLY WILD AND SCENIC RIVER NOTED FOR ITS ROLE IN
American literature



COVER AND PARTNERSHIPS PHOTOS BY DAVE GRIFFIN, RECREATION PHOTO BY ART ILLMAN, METROWEST DAILY NEWS

The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River

20 YEARS OF IMPACT

Presented by the
River Stewardship Council



“What a piece of wonder a river is”
—Henry David Thoreau

ABOUT THE SUDBURY, ASSABET AND CONCORD WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

In 1999, Congress granted the Wild and Scenic designation to a 29-mile segment of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord rivers (affectionately nicknamed the SuAsCo), recognizing their scenic, ecological, recreational, historical and —as unique among Wild and Scenic rivers—literary values.

The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord system is unique for its role in American literature and history, its proximity to Boston, and as a confluence that connects eight riverside communities and the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

The River Stewardship Council, representing all eight communities of the Wild and Scenic region, manages the conservation plan to protect and enhance the rivers, as well as the distribution of federal funding to support local conservation projects.



EFFECTIVE AND ENDURING PARTNERSHIPS

Designated a “Partnership” Wild and Scenic River, the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord are protected through the collaboration of local towns, agencies, and non-profits. Together, partnerships tell the real success stories behind the numbers, spearheaded by the River Stewardship Council:

Riverside towns of Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Concord, Lincoln, Carlisle, Bedford, Billerica
Sudbury Valley Trustees
OARS

National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Massachusetts Departments of Ecological Restoration and Environmental Protection

BY THE NUMBERS

Funding to the region: **\$1 million+**

Community small grant projects funded: **59**

Municipal partners: **12**

Partner groups benefitting from funding: **45+**

Land conservation projects supported by the RSC: **25**

Acres of land protected with RSC support: **2,401**

Bridge projects: **8**

Technical review comment letters: **50+**

Funded removal of invasive species from: **1,000+ acres**

Education and outreach: **4,000 maps distributed**

Mass Audubon RiverSchools: **Over 15,000 experiences, between 1 and 4 hours on the river, Partnerships with 9 teachers and 15 schools**

Number of free community events through 16 years of Riverfest: **800+**

People engaged along the River: **16,000+**

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

The Wild and Scenic Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River will continue to face many challenges from climate change, development, and water usage. Preservation of this national treasure will depend on the ongoing support and advocacy of all who appreciate the SuAsCo’s special meaning to its region.