

National Wild & Scenic Rivers

“It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

(Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968)

Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

The Act:

1. Protects against dams

The Congress declares that the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers ... in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

2. Provides for appropriate use and development

The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

Nationwide Rivers Inventory

More than 3,400 free-flowing river segments that are believed to possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance.

A river segment may be listed on the NRI if it is free-flowing and has one or more "outstandingly remarkable values" (ORVs).

- Chipuxet River, Worden Pond to Kingston Road (Segment includes Great Swamp, which is the largest swamp in New England and supports extensive swamp forest and marsh vegetation. The area is a National Natural Landmark.)
- Pawcatuck River, Bradford to Worden Pond (The topography, including outwash plains and depressions forming Kettle Hole Lake, is an exceptional example of glacial deposition of the late Ice Age.)
- Pawcatuck River, Nooseneck Hill Road to Bradford (Segment includes portions of the site where a decisive colonial battle was fought with the Narragansett Indians.)
- Wood River, KG Ranch Road to headwaters (Segment is in close proximity to the urban population centers of southeastern New England and includes significant and diverse recreation features including a trout fishery, a trail network, and Class II canoe waters.)
- Wood River, Alton Pond to I-95 (Segment is unique in that it contains a significant trout fishery and wildlife habitat in close proximity to major urban population centers of southeastern New England.)

Two Ways to Designate a River

- Act of Congress – requires an act for a “study” and then an act for designation.
- Locally initiated designation – A state designated river nominated by Governor and signed by Secretary of the Interior. These rivers are administered by the State (with local assistance).

Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers

Helps communities preserve and manage their own river-related resources locally by bringing together State, county, and community managers to preserve the outstanding and remarkable values for which the rivers were set aside.

Eightmile – CT

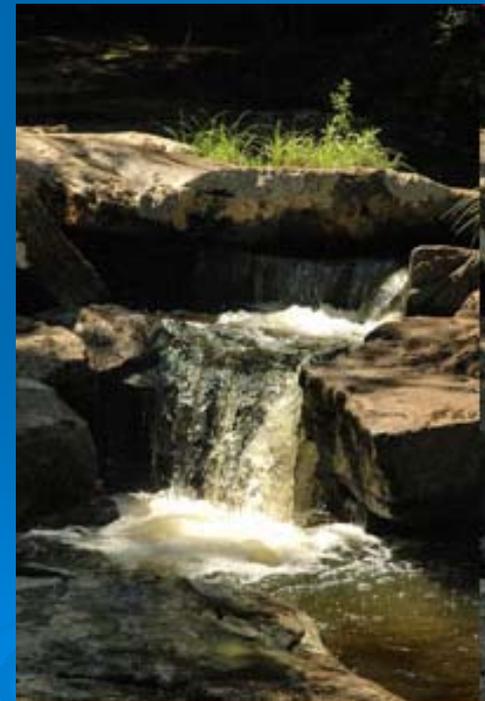
Farmington – CT

Sudbury, Assabet, Concord – MA

Taunton – MA

Westfield - MA

Lamprey - NH



Scope of the Act

As of 2008 (40th anniversary of the Act)

More than 11,400 miles of 168 rivers in 38 states and Puerto Rico; (a little more than one-quarter of one percent of the nation's rivers).

Omnibus Lands Package – 2009

Adds 86 more rivers in 8 states.

By comparison, more than 75,000 large dams across the country have modified at least 600,000 miles, or about 17%, of American rivers.

Outstandingly Remarkable

- Scenery
- Recreation
- Geology
- Fish
- Wildlife
- Prehistory
- History
- Cultural



Three Categories

- **Wild** — Free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.
- **Scenic** — Free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **Recreational** — Readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Wild & Scenic Designation

Effects of Wild & Scenic designation:

- Create coalition of agencies, non-profits, towns & National Park Service to implement the locally developed management plan
- Provide access to federal funding for implementing the plan and supporting the coalition
- Prohibits new dams or hydroelectric development
- Makes preservation of outstanding resources a paramount factor for all river-related projects that require federal permits.

Wild & Scenic Designation

Effects of Wild & Scenic designation:

What Designation WON'T Do:

- Designation will not stop development. Designation itself would only effect federally licensed or assisted water resource projects that would impact the river's outstanding values.
- Designation will not rezone private land or change property rights. Land use controls on private land are solely a matter of state and local jurisdiction.
- Designation does not require landowners to provide access to their land.

Buckeye Brook

- Fisheries
- Wildlife
- Archaeology/History
- Scenery
- Recreation



History



Scenery and Recreation



Taunton River Study

The Taunton River *Wild and Scenic River Study*

STUDY AREA BASE MAP

Goals of the Study

- *To understand and preserve the Taunton River corridor as an intact river ecosystem and regional resource.
- *To develop a strong coalition of municipalities, citizens, nonprofits, and agencies for planning and implementing public education, land use, recreation and conservation strategies for the Taunton River.
- *To secure a designation for the Taunton River as a National Wild and Scenic River.

The Taunton River, the focus of the Wild and Scenic River Study, flows for approximately 40 miles from the confluence of the Town and Mattfeld Rivers in the Towns of Bridgewater and continues through the towns of Halifax, Ashburnham, Raynham, City of Taunton, Towns of Dighton, Berkley and Freetown to the confluence of Mt. Hope Bay at the City of Fall River and Town of Somerset.



Map Prepared by
SPVEDD
Jan 2004



This map was produced by SPVEDD (Southwestern Regional Planning and Economic Development District), Taunton, MA. Portions of the map are digital data from files that are supplied to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Division of Marine Fisheries, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, DEP. State Government Services, Coastal and Estuarine Management, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Wildlife Trust, and the Taunton River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee.

The location of features has been determined from aerial photography and is intended for planning purposes only. The map is not intended as legal engineering or surveying information.

The funding for this project was provided by the National Park Service, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. For further information, please contact James Hurlough, National Park Service, james.hurlough@nps.gov.

For more information on the
Wild and Scenic River Study,
visit our web site at
www.tauntonriver.org



Photos courtesy of the Taunton River Stewardship Program, Kelly Stone and Henry S. Babin.

- 1/2 Mile (each side) Buffer Study Area for Taunton
- Buffer for Significant Tribs
- Rivers/Streams
- Lakes/Ponds
- Major Roads
- Study Area Towns
- Surrounding Towns

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

History of Taunton River Wild & Scenic

Local beginnings

Congressional Authorization of Study (2000)

Study Committee created

- Towns each appoint representatives
- State representatives
- Nonprofit representatives (MA & RI)
- National Park Service
- SRPEDD

Wild & Scenic River study

- What's special about the Taunton River? (*Identify “outstandingly remarkable values” and gather background info.*)
- How will we protect “what's special” about the river for future generations? (*Create Stewardship Plan/Stewardship Council*)
- Create maps and web site to study and present data
- Meet with and get input from towns and public
- Survey the tributaries and gather additional information

Taunton River

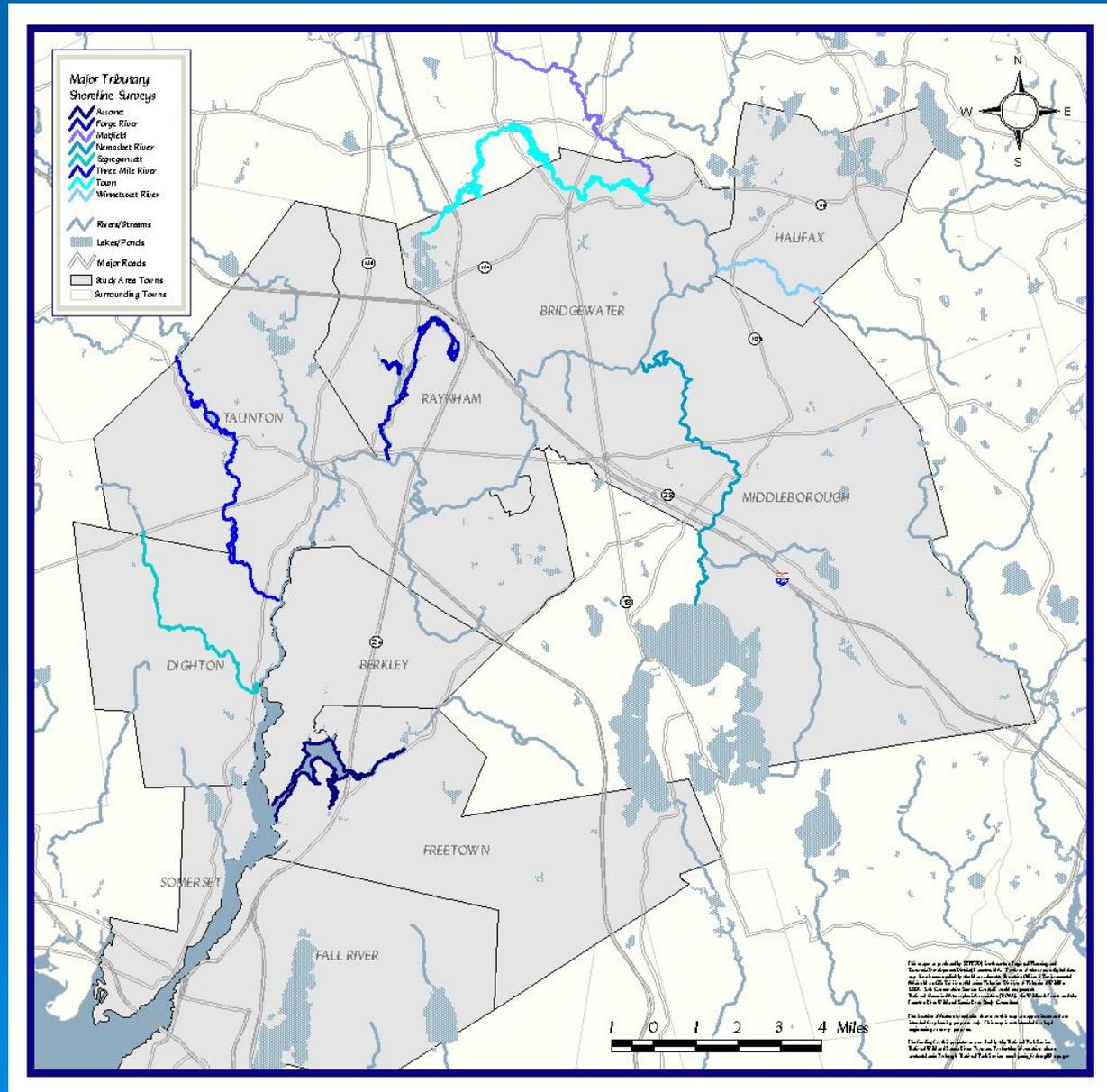
- Agriculture
- Archaeology and History
- Ecology and Biological Diversity
- Fisheries
- Recreation and Scenery
- Narragansett/Mount Hope Bay Estuary



Goals of Study & Committee

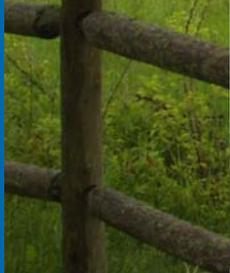
- To understand, preserve and restore the Taunton River corridor as an intact river ecosystem and regional resource
- To develop a strong coalition of municipalities, citizens, non-profits, and agencies for planning and implementing public education, land-use, recreation and conservation strategies for the Taunton River
- To secure designation of the Taunton River as a National Wild and Scenic River

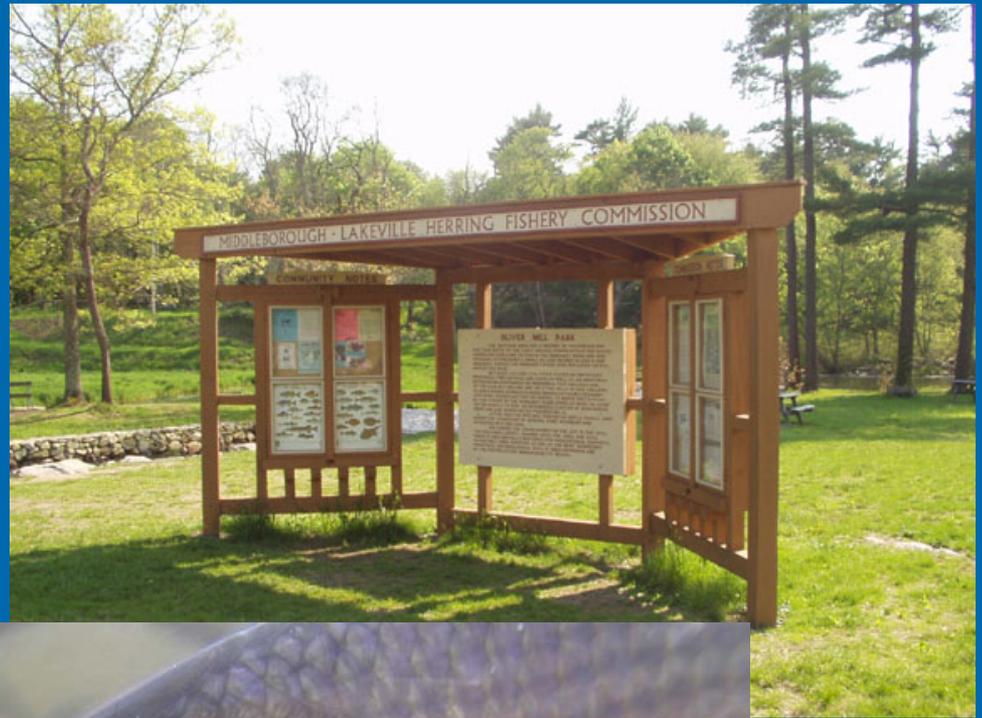
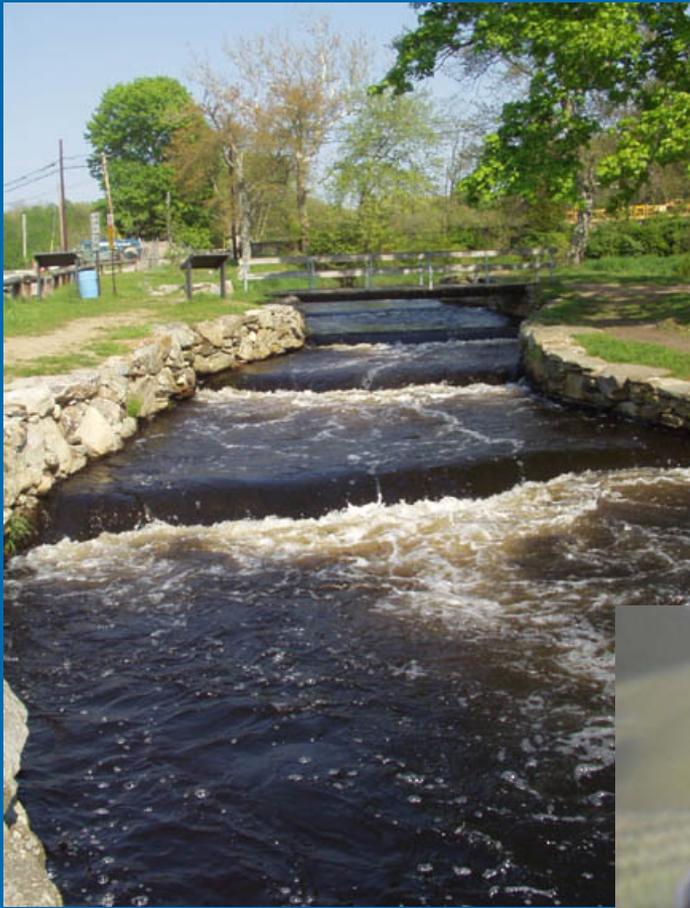
Tributaries



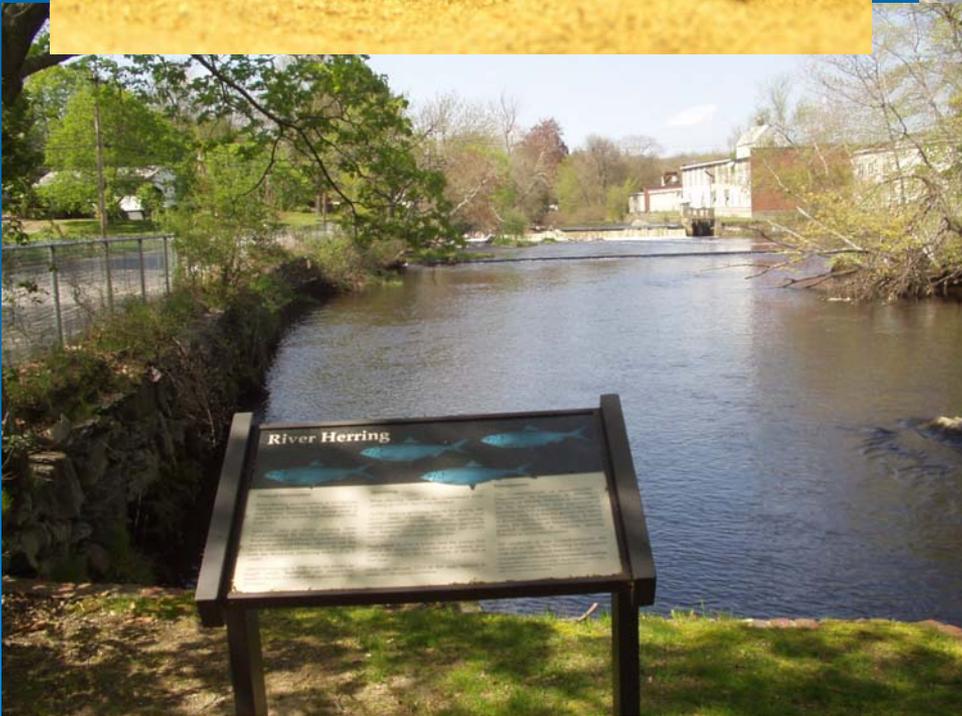
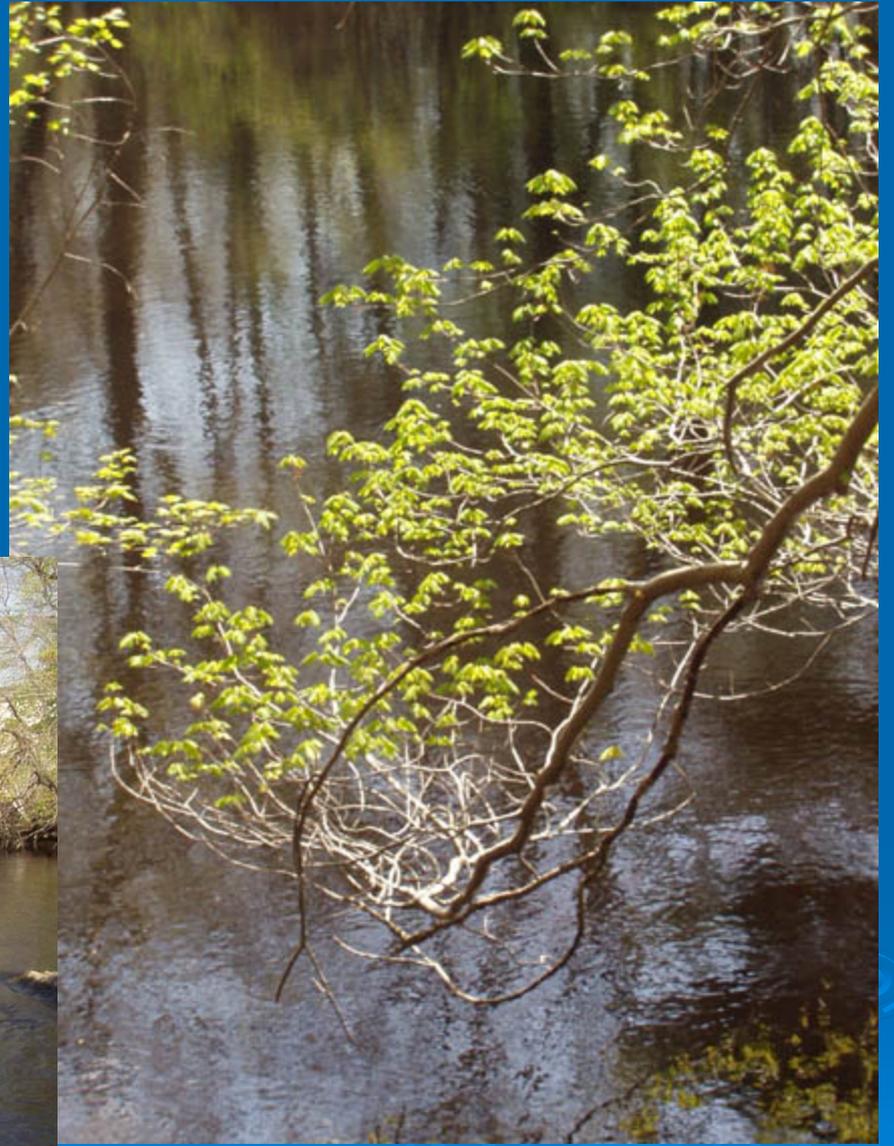




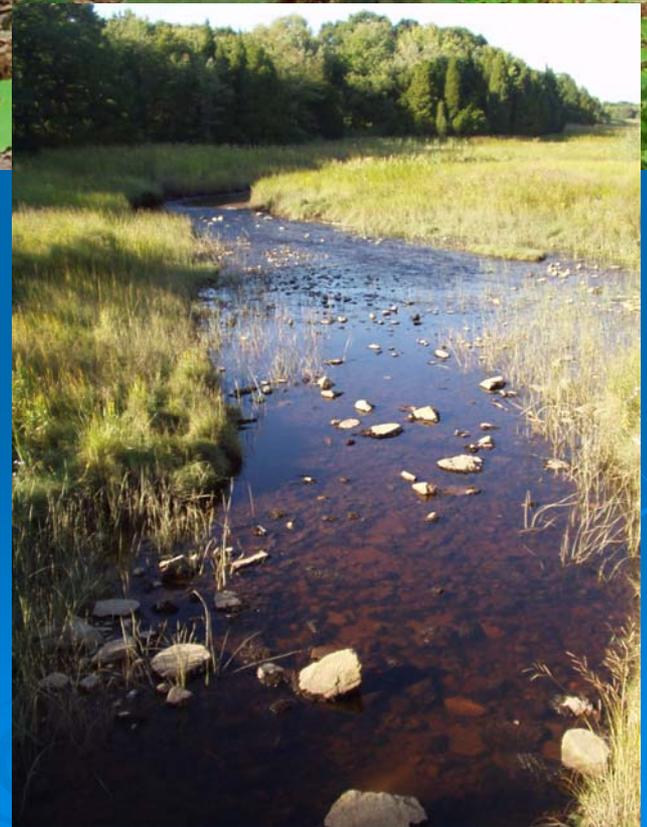










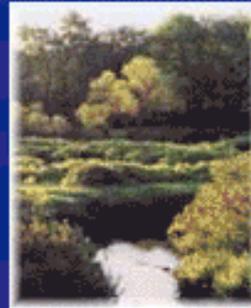
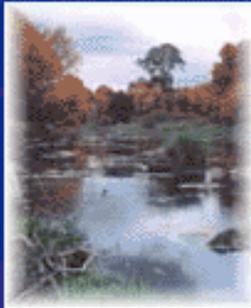


Stream Team Implementation Projects

- Johnson's Pond Kiosk – Eagle Scout Project
- Nemasket River Brochure
- Friends of Dighton Rock State Park
 - Educational Programs
 - Creative Theater
- Real Estate Appraisal Fees – Wildlands Trust
- Satucket River Macroinvertebrate Survey

www.tauntonriver.org

The Taunton River



Wild & Scenic Rivers Study 

