



Mattapoissett River Valley

Mattapoissett River Valley Aquifer Project 418 Acres in Rochester, MA

The Mattapoissett River Valley Aquifer Project will protect 418 acres in Rochester and Mattapoissett and will increase the amount of protected land in the Mattapoissett River Valley Watershed by 64%. The Mattapoissett River is home to Buzzards Bay's most productive and historically active herring run and home to a number of rare and threatened plants and animals including the spotted turtle, the Mystic Valley amphipod, the brindle shriner, fresh water mussels, the fringed orchis and such grasses as the blue flag and false nettle.

The Mattapoissett River Valley is also one of Southeastern Massachusetts's most important water resources. The River's underlying aquifer is a regional water supply, providing drinking water to four municipalities — Mattapoissett, Fairhaven, Rochester and Marion. 100% of the municipal drinking water supply for Fairhaven and Mattapoissett and 60% for Marion is withdrawn from the Mattapoissett Valley River Aquifer, serving more than 24,000 people. The quality of this water is directly dependent on the use and management of land within the area above the aquifer. While the Mattapoissett and Fairhaven Water Departments have purchased some land for wellhead protection along the Mattapoissett River, the majority of the river watershed remains unprotected. Land development and associated pollution within the Mattapoissett River watershed pose the greatest long term threat to our water supply. This project serves to preserve additional acreage along the River, while at the same time expanding a greenway providing public access and enhanced recreational uses of the River valley.

