

Neponset River Restoration and Revitalization



Neponset



RIVERWAYS PROGRAM
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Mary B. Griffin, Commissioner

Presentation Overview

- Riverways mission
- Getting started
- Why Fish?
- Holistic approaches
- History: studies
1999-2008
- Next steps



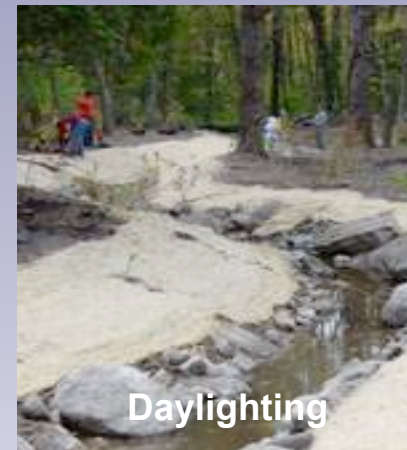
Riverways Mission

To promote the restoration, protection & ecological integrity of the Commonwealth's rivers, streams & adjacent lands.



Culvert Project

Partners



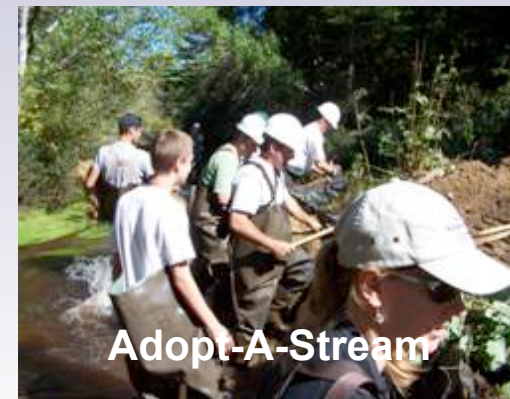
Daylighting



RIFLS



Becket Dam
Removal 2006



Adopt-A-Stream

The Neponset project began with shad and river herring



Why Fish?

- Neponset River could provide 17 miles of spawning and nursery habitat
- River herring, a base of the food chain, supports a \$ 1 billion recreational fishery for striped bass
- Opportunity to improve and expand one of the strongest runs of rainbow smelt in MA



Watershed folks asked for holistic approach

- Ecological river restoration
- Fish passage & habitat restoration
- Healthy river for the greenway
- Human health & safety
- Recreational benefits
- Elimination of long term maintenance
- National—holistic-- model for river restoration & revitalization



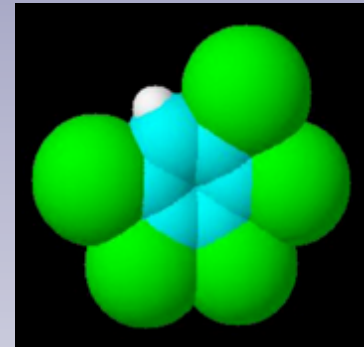
In response to these citizen requests

1999: MDC, DFWELE and EOEA requested a s. 206 Army Corps Study to look at alternatives for fish passage

2002: Army Corps finished draft study

2003-7: Riverways sponsored

- USGS to examine PCBs in the river
- TJC to look at remediation alternatives
- MMI to conduct feasibility study and alternatives analysis for restoration and remediation
- A TAC to review alternatives technically
- Neponset River Revival (Neponset Literacy)



Goals of Riverways Studies

- Ecologically restore an urban river
- Restore anadromous fish passage
- Improve habitat
- Manage contaminated sediments
- Maintain flood control
- Be compatible with goals of DCR, NepRWA, BNAN and community partners
- Recognize historic and cultural resources
- Develop aesthetically pleasing and cost effective restoration solutions

Alternatives Considered by MMI

- No action
- Construction of fish ladders
- Installation of rock ramps, and at T&H, bypass channel
- Relocation of stream channel at T&H
- Removal or alteration of dams & remediation and management of sediments



Project Lead



Depending upon the preferred solution

- If holistic ecological restoration-remediation: Riverways can be the lead**
- If fish passage: DMF**
- Remediation alone: Another sponsor**
- A new solution: Lead depends upon goals**

Next Steps

- **Hear from the Community Advisory Committee**
- **Provide MEPA feasible alternatives**
- **Hear from citizens, agencies, municipalities and abutters through MEPA process**
- **If alternative selected,**
 - **Funding**
 - **Engineering plans**
 - **Construction**

Looking forward to the results of
the CAC

