

PROTECTED LAND = CLEAN WATER

The Mattapoisett River Valley is home to one of southeastern Massachusetts' most important drinking water resources. Five towns (Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, Marion, Acushnet, and Rochester) are working together with Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) to protect important land that will secure the quality, quantity, and long-term sustainability of the public drinking water supply.

HOW WILL MY DRINKING WATER BE PROTECTED?

240 acres of land will be acquired and protected with permanent conservation restrictions. The land encompasses the underlying groundwater aquifer that supplies the drinking water for Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, and Rochester.

Up until now this parcel has been privately owned farm and forest land, and its location leaves it vulnerable to being sold for development. Any significant land use change would threaten the public water supply as well as natural fish and wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation opportunities.

WHO WILL OWN THIS LAND?

The Town of Mattapoisett Water Department will acquire the 103 acres of the project area north of Wolf Island Road, with a permanent conservation restriction on this parcel being held by other towns and BBC.

BBC will acquire ownership of 137 acres of the project area to the west and south of Long Plain Road, and each of the towns will hold a permanent conservation restriction over that parcel. (see map on reverse)



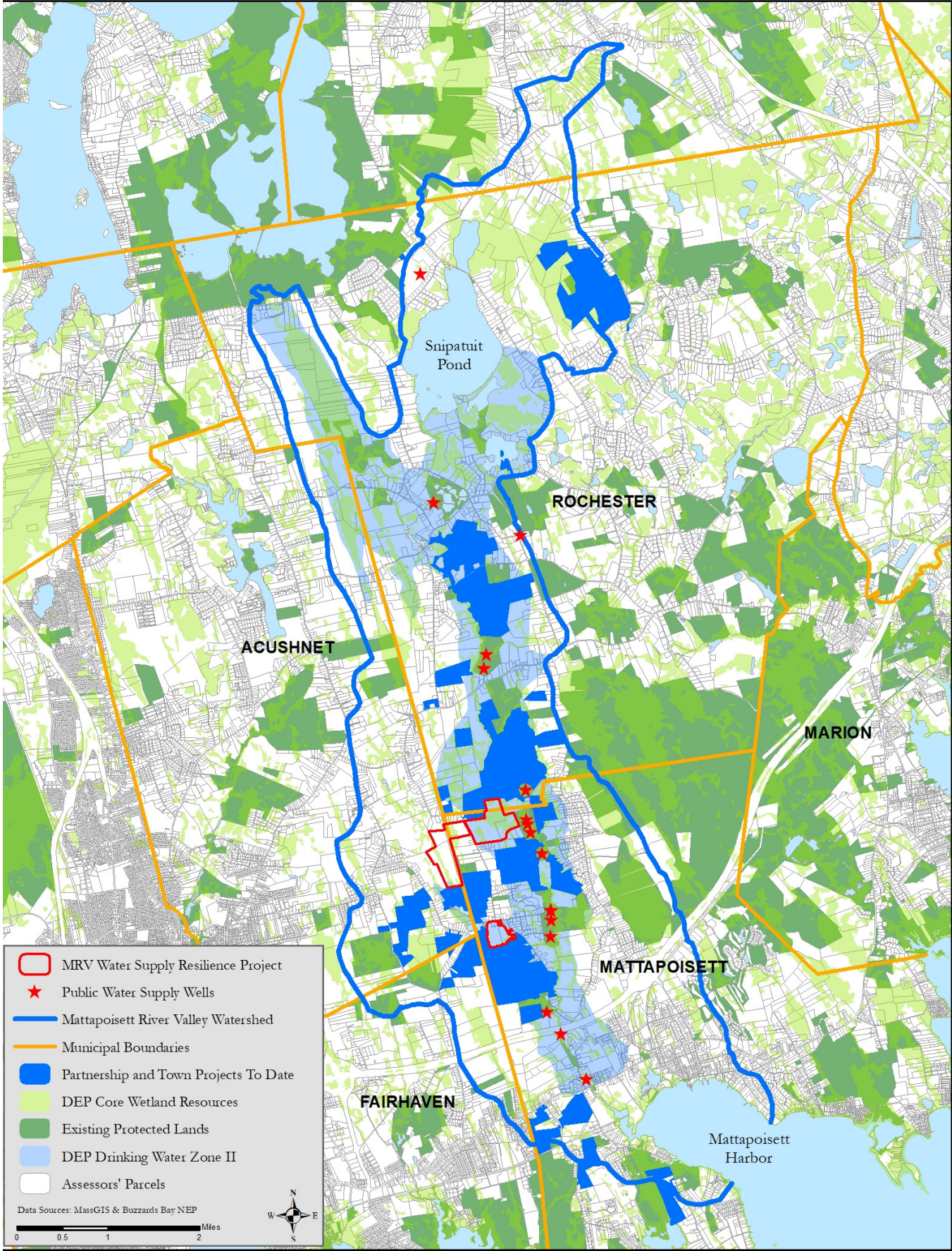
WHY NOW?

The towns have worked together for decades through the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District and Advisory Committee to protect the key lands over the public drinking water supply.

A variety of municipal plans established by each of the towns calls for the protection of this land as open space, including Community Preservation Plans, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plans, Open Space and Recreation Plans, and Master Plans. Each of the towns has partnered with BBC in the past to implement land conservation projects, and this proposed method of multiple towns working collaboratively to protect large, expensive pieces of land has proven successful on multiple occasions.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO THIS LAND BEING PROTECTED?

Public access for outdoor recreation will be allowed on all of the lands, and trails will be expanded from the existing trail system within BBC's Mattapoisett River Reserve lands to connect with this new area. The farm buildings at Red Brick Farm will be owned by BBC and used for its programs and community uses. The conservation restrictions will protect water and other natural resources but will allow for farming to continue where it is presently and will permit the installation of new public water supply well infrastructure if necessary.



PROJECT COST & FUNDING SOURCES

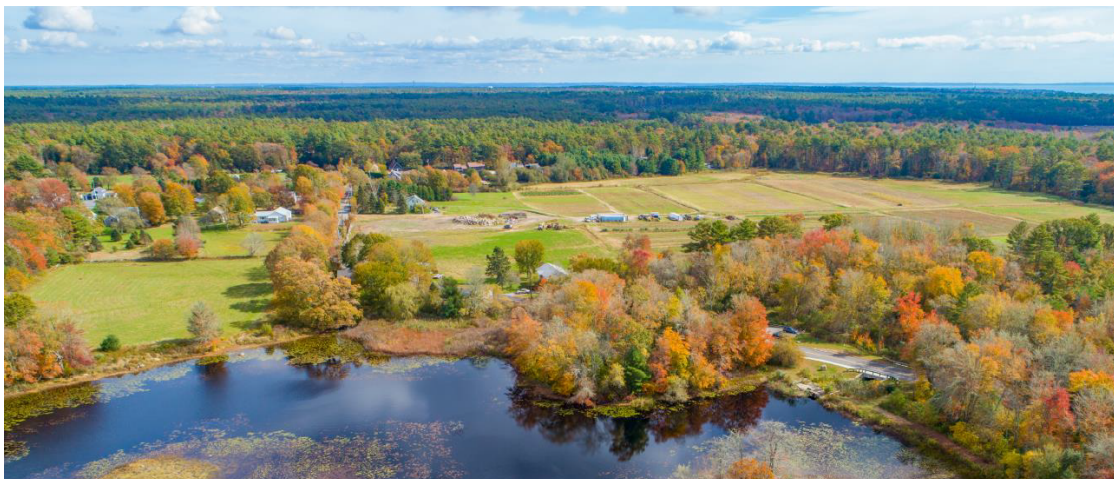
The total cost to acquire and protect this land is \$6,060,000. The project's financing is structured so that each individual town's contribution of \$85,000 will be leveraged to fulfill a matching requirement for already secured grants and gifts: Commonwealth of Massachusetts (\$4,500,000), private funds raised by the Buzzards Bay Coalition (\$1,000,000), and the Mattapoissett River Valley Watershed Protection Advisory Committee (\$150,000).

Funding Source

	<u>Amount</u>
Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Program Grant	\$4,500,000 (committed)
Buzzards Bay Coalition (private fundraising)	\$1,000,000 (committed)
Mattapoissett River Valley Advisory Committee	\$150,000 (committed)
<i>Town contributions</i>	
Acushnet Community Preservation Fund	\$85,000
Fairhaven Community Preservation Fund	\$85,000
Marion Community Preservation Fund	\$85,000
Mattapoissett Community Preservation Fund	\$85,000
Town of Rochester	\$70,000 (committed)
TOTAL	\$6,060,000

Community Preservation Funds are required annually to allocate funds to open space protection. Requests for Community Preservation Funds from each of the towns listed above represent less than 1.5% of the overall project cost.

The 240 acres of land has been secured by a purchase and sale contract with its current owner, Mahoney and Sons, for \$5,980,000. This price is supported by a recent, independent appraisal of the land's value. An additional \$80,000 is anticipated in project costs, including appraisals, surveys, environmental assessments, title review, legal, development of conservation restrictions, and recording costs.



Tinkham Pond and the lands to be protected on Long Plain Road in Mattapoissett.

PROTECTED LAND = CLEAN DRINKING WATER

For more information visit tinyurl.com/cleandrinkingwatermrvt
or simply scan the QR code



Information also available in Cabo Verde, Portuguese, and Spanish

In addition to ensuring a clean public drinking water supply, this project also:

- Preserves the Mattapoisett River and downstream Bay water quality
- Provides resilience to drought and flooding events associated with climate change by protecting natural wetlands, fields, and forests
- Maintains fish and wildlife habitat including state designated wildlife habitats
- Supports the scenic beauty and character of this rural part of our region
- Provides opportunities for outdoor recreation
- Is a key component of a larger regional effort to protect hundreds of acres of contiguous open space