



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

June 18, 2018

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program  
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee  
Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee  
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association  
592 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), I am writing in support of the proposed Wild and Scenic River designation of the Nashua, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers. MAPC is the state-designated Regional Planning Agency for 101 cities and towns in the Boston Metropolitan Area. The Town of Bolton is one of our member communities, and is our only town within the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Area.

We enthusiastically support the designation of the Nashua, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers, as this will have both local and regional benefits. Locally, the town of Bolton takes care to protect its critical land and water resources through planning, zoning, open space, wetlands and watershed protection measures. The Wild and Scenic designation would bolster and reinforce these important local initiatives. As a strong indication of local support, the Town of Bolton's Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission have all formally registered their support of the Wild and Scenic River designation in writing. Further, Bolton's citizens expressed their support of the Wild and Scenic River designation through a unanimous vote at the most recent Annual Town Meeting on May 7, 2018.

From a regional perspective, MAPC's regional plan, *MetroFuture*, calls for greater efforts to protect watershed resources, and for towns to collaborate on these efforts. There is already a long standing Wild and Scenic River designation for the nearby Concord River which has been successful over the last 20 years. Building on that success, the designation of the Nashua, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers would extend the same kind of regional stewardship further west into an area that is rich in still-unspoiled resources. These resources, such as the Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area and the Nashua River, are treasured regional resources deserving of the stewardship that would be made possible by the Wild and Scenic designation.

MAPC shares the enthusiasm of the Town of Bolton in support of the Wild and Scenic River designation, and, going forward, we will be alert to ways in which the Council can assist the town in resource protection efforts that may be pursued by a future Stewardship Council.

Sincerely,

Martin Pillsbury  
Director of Environmental Planning