



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

June 26, 2018

Mr. Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program  
Ms. 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

RE: Wild and Scenic designation of the Nashua, Nissitissit and Squannacook rivers

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Nashua River Watershed Association's application to designate the Nashua, Nissitissit, and Squannacook rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this designation not only for the Nissitissit River where it flows through Brookline and Hollis in New Hampshire, but also for the Squannacook and Nashua rivers in Massachusetts, which drain north into New Hampshire.

Federal designation of these rivers is consistent with and supportive of New Hampshire's Rivers Management and Protection Program, which recognizes and protects many of the same outstanding riparian values and characteristics that are promoted by the federal Wild and Scenic program. While neither the Nashua River nor any of its tributaries has yet been designated into New Hampshire's Rivers Program, the Nashua River flows into the state-designated Merrimack River, and federal Wild and Scenic River designation will ensure ongoing recognition of the Nashua River watershed's importance in protecting the resource values of the Merrimack River.

The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau and the Watershed Management Bureau have worked closely with Nashua River Watershed Association staff and volunteers over the years on surface and groundwater protection as well as on annual water quality monitoring. These partnerships, combined with less than 10% impervious area in the watershed, have resulted in good water quality in the Nissitissit River and downstream. NHDES looks forward to continuing its work with the Nashua River Watershed Association staff and the towns of Brookline and Hollis to maintain the good health and excellent condition that make the Nissitissit River eligible for Wild and Scenic status.

NHDES appreciates the time and effort that has gone into this nomination and congratulates you on your successes to date. Should you have questions about NHDES' support of the

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Nashua, Nissitissit, and Squannacook rivers' designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers, please feel free to contact me at [Robert.Scott@des.nh.gov](mailto:Robert.Scott@des.nh.gov) or 271-2958.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES