



NEWSLETTER

September 2022

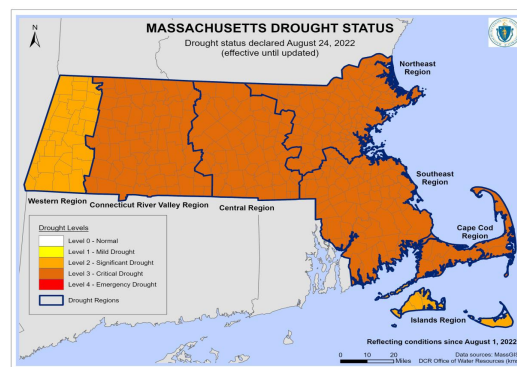
“It is our collective and individual responsibility, to preserve and tend to the world in which we all live.”

Dalai Lama

THE SUMMER DROUGHT AND WATER CONSERVATION IN ESSEX

Weather news continues to be bad worldwide. Water shortages and massive floods are frequently in our headlines. Climate change is considered a key factor in these often catastrophic weather events. We in Massachusetts have stayed relatively unharmed, but our ongoing drought remains at a critical level. September rains in our area have alleviated only a portion of our water deficit. Conserving water should be an ongoing habit in our daily routines.

For up-to-date assessments of local drought, check the MA drought management task force page: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status>



Photos from August reveal drought stress on plants and trees in our area. Most of us had brown, crunchy lawns this summer. Wildlife struggled to find consistent hydration with evaporating water sources, and dropping tree leaves made August look more like autumn than summer.



Rainy days have been more consistent in our forecast, but drought is expected to last until November. It is important to remember that we are in this together and can, as a community, conserve water resources. Homes and businesses can make simple changes to maintain water supplies.

Rain barrels can be a smart solution to managing water use. These ancient tools were once commonplace in the United States, particularly on farms. Given pervasive drought conditions on a global scale, rain barrels are making a comeback. Precious rainwater can be stored over time, and be used for outdoor watering needs during dry spells. Here are links to rain barrels and other strategies for smart water use:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/rain-barrels-and-other-water-conservation-tools>

<https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-barrels>



Another thing to keep in mind during drought is the hardship on pollinators. Bees and butterflies are already challenged by climate change and heavy pesticide use. Residents can support this fragile population by leaving out shallow bowls of water in yards and gardens. In addition, planting more drought-tolerant vegetation provides pollinators with options in dry conditions.

Check out this link for drought-tolerant perennials, many of which are native to our area: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/drought-tolerant-perennials>

On Our Radar:

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Apple Street Project Calendar

Calendar of Events and Meetings Pertaining to the Apple Street Roadbed Elevation and Culvert Replacement Project

Tues, October 4, 2022 - Town Administrator previews the project with the Essex Council on Aging, **6:00 p.m.**, Essex Senior Center, 17 Pickering Street.

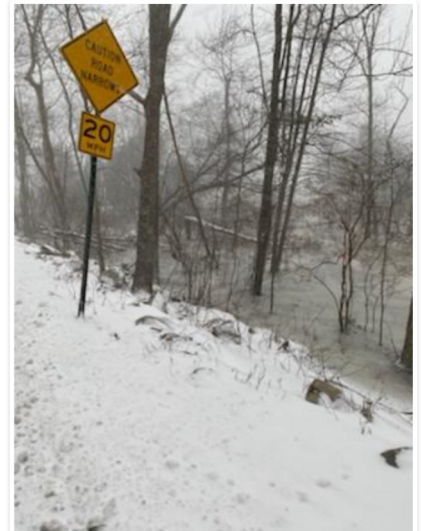
Weds, November 2, 2022 - Town Administrator presents the project to interested senior citizens (all other residents are also welcome), **10:00 a.m.**, Essex Senior Center, 17 Pickering Street.

Weds, November 2, 2022 - Town Administrator and Council on Aging Director co-lead a driving/walking tour of the Essex Causeway on Route 133 and of the project site on Apple Street. The event is intended to give attendees a better sense of what is being planned and both senior citizens and all other residents are welcome. Bus/van leaves from Essex Senior Center, 17 Pickering Street at **10:30 a.m.**

And, later that same evening...

Weds, November 2, 2022 - The Town's engineering consultant, TEC, provides an all-virtual public forum concerning the project. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions, provide input, and even suggest alternatives. Connect to this virtual forum starting at **7:00 p.m.** at the following link: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/bzubricki>

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Coastal Flooding Adjacent to Apple Street, January 2022

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Save Essex Landscape, Inc. - www.saveessexlandscape.com

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