It’s the 50th Anniversary of the Nashua River Watershed Association! Together, over the past five decades, we have had tremendous impact. This Timeline highlights our progress. NRWA has always served as a forward-thinking, regional leader, with both the deep-rooted knowledge of our watershed, and the connections and expertise to collaborate with hundreds of partners — state and federal legislators and agencies, local communities, schools, businesses, land trusts, outdoor sporting groups, and water organizations. We have also helped to organize and launch independent entities from greenway committees, to land trusts to trail groups — always with a clear view of our mission. The breadth of this work cannot be accomplished alone. To read about our many, many successful projects, visit www.NashuaRiverWatershed.org. We are deeply grateful to the thousands of members and volunteers — like you — who make these achievements possible. Thank you!!

Celebrate what we’ve accomplished together!!

Thank you to our 50th Anniversary Sponsors!

Funding provided in part by
**1960s**
- Nashua River Watershed Association founded October 16, 1969
- Nashua River watershed: water quality protected, land along the river deemed to have no value
- Marion Stoddart forms the Nashua River Clean-up Committee
- Clean-up effort brings Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, Senator Ted Kennedy, and Governor Volpe to visit Nashua River
- Clean-up Committee advocates for Class “B” river, suitable for fishing, swimming, and boating

**1969-1978**
- The first NRWA Nashua River Canoe Guide published
- First annual NRWA Town Meeting at Mine Falls Canal Park in Nashua establishes, first urban greenway on Nashua River
- First NRWA office opens at Fort Devens with donated space and staff
- NRWA publishes first regional plan for the Nashua River Greenway
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formed
- “Clean Water Act” becomes law
- US Fish & Wildlife Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge created, adds 8 miles to greenway
- Eleven wastewater treatment plants constructed or upgraded

**1979-1988**
- NRWA receives Environmental Merit Award from US EPA
- Drinking water for millions protected as Metropolitan District Commission begins land acquisition in Wachusett sub-basin
- United Nations names Marion Stoddart to the “Global 500 Roll of Honor”

**1989-1998**
- River Classroom® canoe-based educational experience becomes an NRWA trademarked program and continues in partnership with Nashua Schools
- Nashua River Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program
- National Geographic highlights Nashua River restoration in special Water issue
- NRWA purchases its River Resource Center in Groton
- NRWA publishes its 1995 to 2020 Vision for the Nashua River Watershed
- Central Nashua River Valley Area of Critical Environmental Concern designated (12,900 acres)
- NRWA key in developing MA Watershed Initiative, an acclaimed model

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**2009-2019**
- “Nashua River Gateway” Storm begins legacy projects in remote funding, 3,000 acres of land protected
- “Nashua, Squannacook, Nissitissit River Regional Aquatic Invasives Alliance” forms to address water chestnut infestation
- Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Act passes, NRWA leads Study Committee of riverfront communities, state, and federal partners
- NRWA’s Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program begins 25th continuous year
- NRWA publishes the sixth edition of *Nashua River Canoe and Kayak Guide*
- Greenway milestone achieved: 200 miles of permanently protected riverbank, 50% of goal
- Eleven MA and NH communities vote at Annual Town Meetings to support the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan and federal Wild and Scenic Rivers designation
- Education milestone achieved: hundreds of thousands of children and adults have experienced NRWA environmental education programs
- Nashua Wild and Scenic Rivers Act signed into federal law (2019), segments of Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers join the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
- NRWA celebrates its 50th Anniversary, October 16, 2019

**LOOKING FORWARD**
- Maintain and improve water quantity; advance sustainable water use
- Continue to expand the greenway
- Address impacts of climate change, support community resiliency
- Implement the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan
- Improve public access to waterways and trails
- Reduce invasive plants
- Promote low-impact development
- Promote positive correlation between resource protection and economic well-being
- Encourage stewardship of natural resources through educational programs for youth and adults
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50 Years of Accomplishments

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NRWA Mission

The mission of the Nashua River Watershed Association is to work for a healthy ecosystem with clean water and open spaces for human and wildlife communities, where people work together to sustain mutual economic and environmental well-being in the Nashua River watershed.

Nashua River Watershed Communities

Ashburnham  •  Ashby  •  Ayer  •  Bolton  •  Boylston  •  Brookline

Clinton  •  Devens  •  Dunstable  •  Fitchburg  •  Gardner  •  Greenville

Groton  •  Harvard  •  Holden  •  Hollis  •  Lunenburg  •  Lunenburg

Lancaster  •  Leominster  •  Nashua  •  New Ipswich

Paxton  •  Pepperell  •  Princeton  •  Rutland  •  Shirley  •  Sterling

Townsend  •  West Boylston  •  Westminster