

To: Shawsheen River Partners and Stakeholders
From: Tom Ardito, CER
Re: Massachusetts Environmental Trust

The purpose of this note is to inform you of the support that the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) has provided the Shawsheen River Restoration Project, and to request your assistance in supporting the Trust.

The Center for Ecosystem Restoration has received two separate grants from the Trust for the Shawsheen River Restoration Project. In 2010, MET awarded \$25,000 toward the restoration project, and in 2012, another \$50,000. The first grant was used to develop MEPA documents for removal of Balmoral and Marland Place Dams; legal fees related to establishing ownership; and paid some of our time for project management, which allowed us to secure municipal approval for the dam removals, particularly at Balmoral. The second MET grant is now being used for engineering, final design and permitting to remove the two dams.

I can't overstate the importance of the MET funds to the Shawsheen River restoration work. The MET grants have provided critically important funding for project tasks, and moreover, as they are non-federal, have allowed us to leverage federal funds, which typically require a 1:1 match.

The Shawsheen River Restoration Project is just one of many valuable environmental restoration, conservation, and pollution control projects supported by the Trust. A list of recent projects is on MET's website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/grants-and-tech-assistance/grants-and-loans/mass-enviro-trust/>

You are probably aware that MET derives much of its funds from sale of the special Trust license plates such as the right whale plate. There is more information on the plates on MET's website, and the plates can be obtained from the Mass. Registry of Motor Vehicles at:

<http://www.massrmv.com/>

I'd like to encourage you to support the Massachusetts Environmental Trust through purchase of a Trust license plate, and by encouraging your friends and family to do so. And please be sure to acknowledge the contribution of the Trust when discussing or writing about the Shawsheen River Restoration Project.

Thanks, as always, for your support of the Shawsheen River Restoration Project, and thanks in advance for supporting the Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

Regards,

Tom

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Thomas Ardito, Director
Center for Ecosystem Restoration

A Project of Earth Island Institute
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