



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service – Massachusetts

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February 22, 2023

Public Comment on Draft Watershed Project Plan-Environmental Assessment

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking public comment on the draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Allen Site Dam in Walpole, MA. This Plan-EA was developed with assistance from the Town of Walpole, the local watershed sponsor.

The project is a federally assisted action authorized by section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. Section 1012, as amended by section 313 of Public Law 106-472. This section authorizes NRCS to provide technical and financial assistance to local sponsors for rehabilitation of aging dams constructed under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566), the Flood control Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-534), the Pilot Watershed Program, and the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program. The draft plan supplement and environmental assessment and appendices can be found on the Massachusetts USDA-NRCS Website at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation/massachusetts/dam-rehabilitation-massachusetts>

The purpose of this project is to maintain an optimum level of flood control benefits and comply with current performance and safety standards. There is a need to protect downstream properties and infrastructures as well as reduce the risk of potential loss of life.

We are requesting that you review this project in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Protection Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190). The public comment period officially begins on February 22, 2023 and will last for a period of 30 days, and we request that comments be received by this office on or before March 28, 2023. If your comments are not received by the due date, we will assume you do not wish to comment.

The complete draft Plan-EA is available for viewing by going to NRCS Massachusetts website and scrolling down near the bottom: Paper copies of the document will be available for viewing beginning February 28, 2023 at the Walpole Municipal office, located at 135 School Street, Walpole, MA 02081.

The scope of this comment period specifically addresses the affected environments as a result of the Project. An opportunity for comments related to other aspects of the project will be available as the project progresses.

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Massachusetts State Office  
451 West Street  
Amherst, MA 01002-2934  
Phone: 413-253-4350  
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A public information meeting, for the public to offer comments to the Plan-EA, will be held at the Town of Walpole, MA Selectboard meeting on March 14, 2023, from 5:30pm to 6:15pm. The meeting will be held at the Town of Walpole Municipal Office, 135 School Street, Walpole, MA 02081.

If you would like to respond after reviewing the information, NRCS will receive public comments until March 28, 2023.

- Comments may be emailed to Mr. Deron Davis, P.E., at [deron.davis@usda.gov](mailto:deron.davis@usda.gov)
- Submitted in writing and mailed to the following address:  
Natural Resources Conservation Service ATTN: Deron Davis, P.E., State Engineer,  
451 West Street, Amherst MA 01002-2934.

A link to join the meeting will be emailed to you the day of the meeting after your registration request is submitted. If you need special accommodations to participate in this event, please contact Mr. Davis at (413) 523-4362, or [deron.davis@usda.gov](mailto:deron.davis@usda.gov) at least 7 days prior to the event.

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