

D - 6 Childs River

– I fished here

Before the 1900's the Childs River was known as a world class sea-run brook trout river. It was sought out by many dignitaries such as President Grover Cleveland, Daniel Webster, and actor Joe Jefferson. By the 1950's, the brook trout had disappeared, due to dams and cranberry farming. By 2008, stream monitoring showed that the lower portions of the river had recovered enough to begin restoring the trout. The Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife moved trout from the Quashnet River into the Childs. The fish survived and have since become a small self-sustaining population. The upper portions of the river are still impaired by remnant cranberry bogs and dams, and cannot support brook trout. The Falmouth Rod and Gun Club and partners have begun a long restoration process of the upper Childs that will benefit brook trout and many other species.

D - 7 Quashnet River Corridor

– A Story of Success

The Quashnet River flows south from Johns Pond through abandoned cranberry bogs and past the Quashnet Valley Country Club (Map B). It continues south, passing through Atlantic white cedar swamps and pitch pine and oak woodlands. The lower portion of the river has been restored by hard working volunteers led by the Cape Cod Chapter of Trout Unlimited. South of the town line it becomes the Moonakis River, most of which is a tidal estuary flowing into Waquoit Bay. The flow of clear, cool water supports a variety of fish species, especially trout, river herring (blueback and alewives), and American eels. As the largest supplier of fresh water to Waquoit Bay, the Quashnet River is a vital link in an ecosystem which encompasses fisheries, recreational lands, beaches, and the bay itself.

D - 8 South Mashpee Pine Barrens

– Shaped by Fire

The European settlers found extensive areas of open pitch pine forest and heathlands throughout the Northeast. These "barrens" were maintained through burning by the native people. They are dominated by pitch pine and associated low shrubs such as lowbush blueberries and huckleberries. Suppression of wildfires has allowed forest vegetation to take over these once open habitats. The pine barrens ecotypes are now rare and imperiled globally. Many groups including the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Town of Mashpee, and several land trusts are working together to restore neglected pine barrens on Cape Cod. New England cottontails, Northern long-eared bats, eastern box turtles, hognose snakes, pine barrens buckmoth, whip-poor-wills, and other rare animals and plants can thrive in this restored, fire-dependent, ecosystem.

