# Natural Resources Volunteer Program

# To whom it may concern,

The Mashpee Natural Resources Department thanks you for expressing interest in our volunteer program. The Natural Resources Department performs water quality monitoring, shellfish propagation, and harbormaster duties in fresh and coastal town waters that often require assistance. It is not only our goal to have volunteers help the department complete tasks, but also to educate willing residents on what their town is doing to improve water quality.

Volunteers must:

* Be 18 years of age or older
* Have a valid driver’s license and/or reliable source of transportation
* Be able to attend one training session annually

Overview:

The shellfish program involves fieldwork in both Popponesset Bay and Waquoit Bay. Most shellfish work is going to take place in the water during all four seasons, so having the appropriate equipment is a must. The Natural Resources Department has a limited amount of gloves and waders available and is therefore not responsible for providing any equipment other than life jackets. During the late fall and winter months, most shellfish propagation is going to take place in Popponesset Bay, where the oyster fishery resides. This is going to mean sorting product from the Mashpee River, as well as the Popponesset sandbar, and bringing it to Mashpee Neck Landing for the recreational fishery. In the spring, preparation of the saltwater tanks, upwellers, at Little River for the arrival of quahog and oyster seed in June takes place. As summer approaches, the shellfish seed will need to be cleaned regularly in both the land-based upwellers and floating upweller systems (FLUPSYS). During this time, data collection on shellfish growth and mortality takes place, as well as grading the shellfish by size using a sorting machine. As the animals progress their growth, they eventually move from the upwellers out into the embayments in locations best suited for their growth. Other summertime fieldwork includes digging quahogs, cleaning shellfish bags, cages, and nets, and planting quahog seed into the ground under predator protection nets.

The water quality program performs summer water quality sampling where a large number of areas are sampled and various data is collected. During summer water quality sampling, the department relies on the help of volunteers to get access to all the sampling sites by use of their boats and extra assistance with taking the samples.

The volunteer program is aimed to utilize those in the community who want to be of service. Assistance with the program may not always be consistent as different seasons require different needs from the department. We aim to provide knowledge and opportunities for all interested prospects, but due to limiting factors, we may not need to utilize all parties.

 Our growing volunteer program is vital in progressing the efficiency of the shellfish and water quality program. We would love to know about any skills that you may have to help improve infrastructure, update our systems, and keep up with the increasing number of animals growing with each coming season. Please fill out the form below and be sure to leave any comments or suggestions you may have to help improve this vital program.

Sincerely,

Sydney Crook,

Shellfish and Water Quality Technician  
Town of Mashpee Natural Resources

[scrook@mashpeema.gov](mailto:scrook@mashpeema.gov)

Town of Mashpee Natural Resources Department

Volunteer Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact (check box)

◻ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

◻ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevant skills: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Interests (circle any that apply):

Shellfish Propagation Water Quality Monitoring

Please check any of the following that applies to you or are of interest to you:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Can lift 50 pounds |
|  | Collection of data on shellfish growth |
|  | Fieldwork with oysters and quahogs |
|  | Willing to work in varying types of weather (i.e. rain, freezing/hot temps) |
|  | Calibrating and cleaning water quality technology |
|  | Collection of water quality samples |
|  | Nursery work (land-based) |

Is there any activity you’re interested in that is not on the above list?

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Is there any gear that you have and would be willing to use during volunteer hours? (check all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Waders |
|  | Clam rake |
|  | Boat (used for summer water quality sampling) |
|  | Life Jacket |
|  | Neoprene Boots |
|  | Other (describe) |

Please check any times that you are available during the week.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 8:00-12:00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12:00-4:00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Are there any concerns that you have about the volunteer program (i.e. physical constraints, time constraints, etc.)?

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Other:

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Release of Liability

Town of Mashpee Natural Resources Volunteer Program

**By my signature below, I understand and agree to the following:**

In consideration with the Town of Mashpee Natural Resources Department Volunteer Program, I represent that I understand all inherent risks of personal injury, including death, which may be a result of the activities/program. I hereby understand the opportunities and potential requirements of the Town of Mashpee Natural Resources Department Volunteer Program. I acknowledge that this program I am participating in has manmade or natural hazards, including but not limited to: invisible obstructions in waterways, uneven terrain, natural hazards such as jellyfish and crabs, and performing duties in extreme weather conditions. I hereby release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Town of Mashpee, the Town of Mashpee Natural Resources Department, all their employees, officials, and other participants of the program against any and all liability, including claims and suits at law or in equity, for damages or injuries, fatal or otherwise, which may result from any negligence of the participant taking part in the activities/program offered by the Town of Mashpee Natural Resources Department.

I have read the RELEASE OF LIABILITY, for the town of Mashpee Natural Resources Department Volunteer Program, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of liability to the greatest extent by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid the balance, not withstanding, shall be continued in full force effect.

Participant’s Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Today’s Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_