

# Fall New England Wetlands Webinar Series



Spring

MAY

## May

### Chicopee Watershed Monitoring and Assessment: Summary and Findings

**Presented by:** Lisa Rhodes, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Wetlands Program conducted a pilot study of the Chicopee watershed for the purposes of reporting on wetlands water quality in order to comply with Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. The study involved first time use of tools developed by the University of Massachusetts Amherst in partnership with MassDEP and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (MACZM). In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended concept for wetland monitoring and assessment, this study consisted of a landscape level GIS-based assessment using the Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS) model, and a site level assessment (rapid and intensive) based on Indices of Biological Integrity (IBI's) developed specifically for forested wetlands. In addition to the CAPS landscape level assessment, a site level assessment was conducted to assess actual wetland condition at targeted sites, since CAPS is based primarily on desktop GIS level mapping data.



The site level assessment was also conducted to assess the reliability of the CAPS landscape level predictions. The Chicopee Watershed site level assessment was conducted by sampling plants at 45 sites across the watershed, and using the IBI's and the CALU framework to determine whether sites met expectations.

May 12, 2016  
1:30-3:00 pm

- **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**
- [WEBEX ACCESS](#)
- **1-866-777-5715**  
**CODE: 996 353 35**

Register for 5/12  
[here!](#)

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