



Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

Alicia M. Zoeller, J.D., Director

City of Holyoke

Conservation Commission

Protecting Wetlands in Holyoke

The Conservation Commission is responsible for administering and enforcing the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Regulations (310 CMR 10.00), the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act and Regulations (310 CMR 10.58), and the City of Holyoke Wetlands Protection Ordinance and Regulations. All Conservation Commission decisions regarding a project are made pursuant to these laws and their regulations.

The Holyoke Conservation Commission protects ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, vernal pools, floodplains, and rivers. Legally, these resources are described as banks, freshwater wetlands, swamps, lands under water bodies, lands subject to flooding, and riverfront areas. When protecting these resources, we look at eight interests:

- protection of public and private water supply
- protection of groundwater supply
- flood control
- storm damage prevention
- prevention of pollution
- protection of land containing shellfish
- protection of fisheries and
- protection of wildlife habitat.

The Commission's decision whether to issue a permit for a project will be made during a public hearing; often, projects require more than one public hearing for the Commission to consider all of the information. You are invited to attend all of the public hearings and comment on the proposal. Written comments are encouraged to preserve your right to appeal Commission and DEP decisions. All comments should be relevant to the eight interests listed above as these are the factors the Commission will consider its decision making process

You can view the Commission's agenda at www.holyoke.org, click on Public Meetings. Agendas are also posted in the City Clerk's office and outside of Room 412, City Hall Annex. Legal notices about projects are generally published in the Legal Notices section of the Holyoke Sun five days prior to the first public hearing.

For additional information about wetlands protection, please visit www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/ww/rpwwhome.htm.