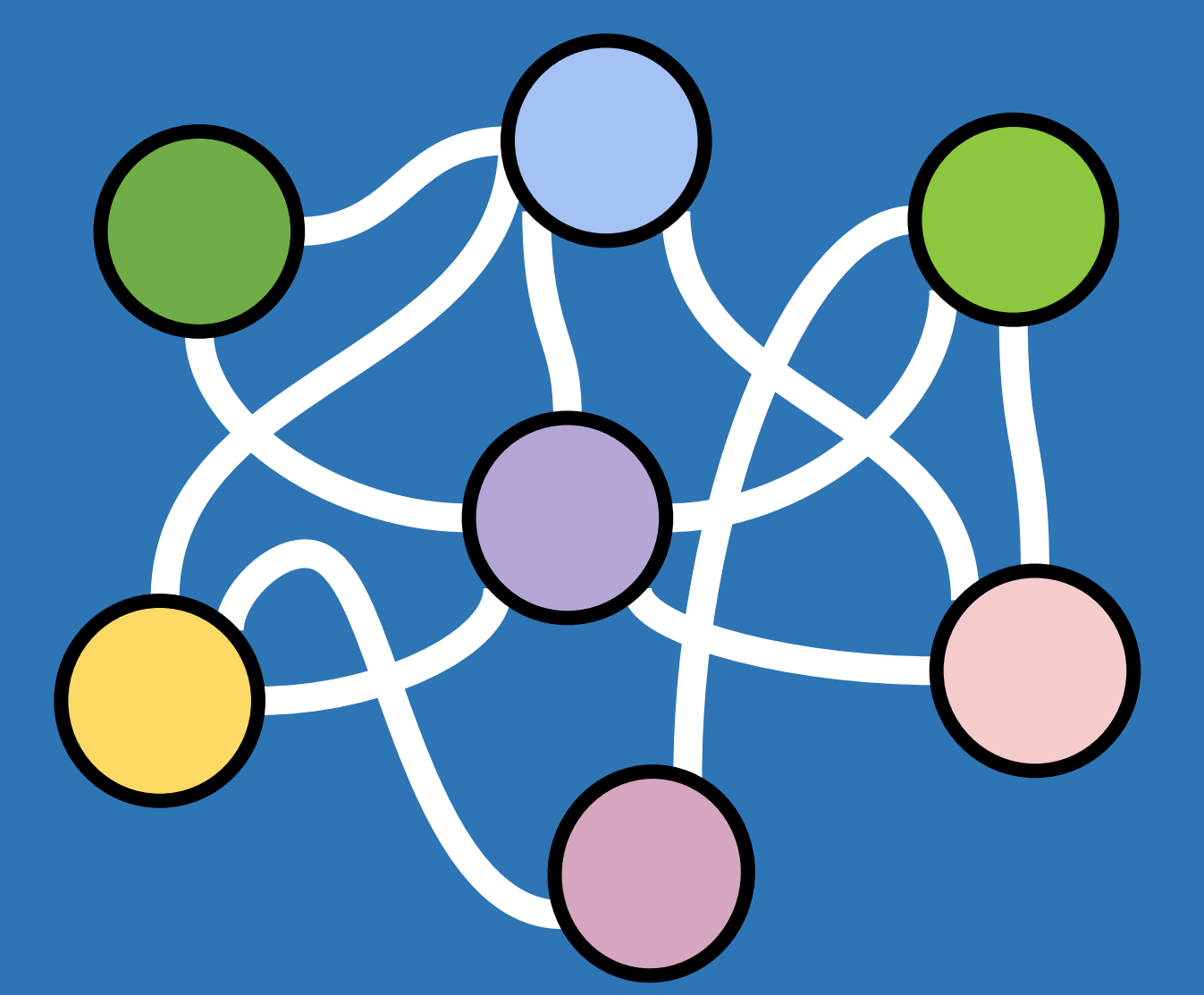


# Power of Partnerships in Climate Adaptation

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## Introduction to Mass ECAN

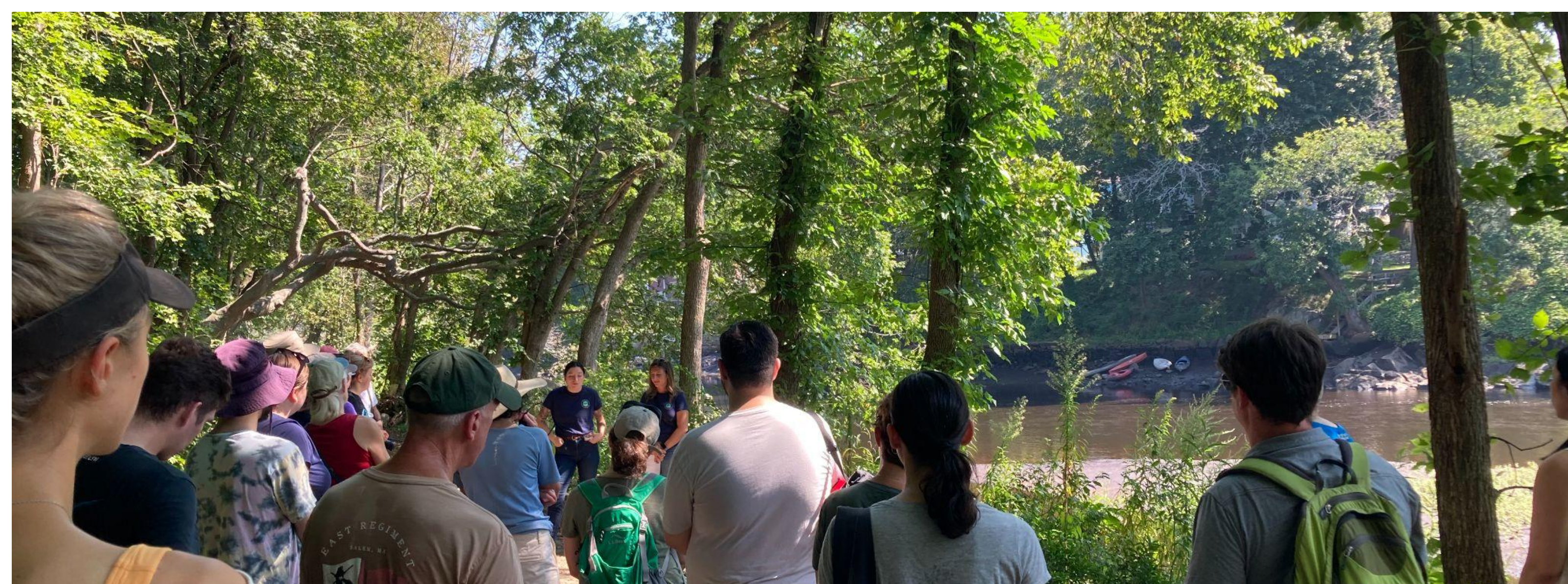
The Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network (Mass ECAN) is a UMass Extension-run network of over 700 climate practitioners across the Commonwealth. Through monthly newsletters, work groups, field trips, and conferences, the community enhances the members' shared work in many ways.

## Why are networks needed?

Climate change is a complex issue that cannot be solved by any one answer. Solutions are to be discovered in policy, research, infrastructure, technology and more. While these areas cross-over in many ways, there is often a lack of communication among practitioners. Researchers, advocates and decision makers need to be on the same page about what is working and what is not so that effective and thoughtful solutions can be reached.

## How can climate adaptation be enhanced?

- Promote communication
- Create transparency between sectors
- Revolutionize the scientific method by sharing successes and failures during projects



Mass ECAN members learn about recent green infrastructure projects along the Ipswich River during our Fall 2023 Field Trip Series

## Peer-to-Peer Learning

A process of expanding shared knowledge in a space where everyone involved has something to teach and something to learn. By sharing successes, failures, skills, and weaknesses, peers can learn from and relate to one another on a new level.

## What does the program entail?

- Building community
- Fostering adaptive management and thinking
- Leveraging individual strengths and skills
- Providing experiences that can be scaled up or down and learned from
- Strengthening knowledge and capacity in a more comfortable and supportive environment

This summer, Mass ECAN launched a Peer Learning Pilot Program with 8 members from the network. While meeting monthly for 8 months, the cohort has shared skills, collaboration projects and personal challenges and in so doing has built an intimate professional community.



Mass ECAN members networking at this year's conference (Photo credit: Steve King)

## Discussion

So far, participants have shown that they really value the unique experience. At the end of the program there will be a full valuation to analyze the program's performance. Mass ECAN is an excellent example of why peer-to-peer learning and strong networks should be considered in all areas of world change.

