

Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies

A SAMPLER OF FACTS AND FIRSTS



Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC)

The Commission is a founding partner of Berkshire Connect, the region's nationally known initiative that has successfully brought competitive broadband telecommunications capacity to this rural region.

Berkshire County is perhaps the only region in the United States that is bordered by three other states: Connecticut, New York, and Vermont.



The Cape Cod Commission (CCC)

The commission's Barnstable County is the fastest growing county in mainland Massachusetts, with a 14 percent growth in resident population between 1990 and 1999.

Cape Cod has 586 miles of tidal shoreline, and one out of every four acres is wetland. Its drinking water supply is completely dependent on the groundwater of an aquifer replenished solely by rain water.



Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

The region's central city, Worcester, has always used a heart in its official seal, designating itself the "heartland" of Massachusetts.

A large oak tree in the town of Rutland marks the geographic center of the commonwealth.



Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)

In July 1997, the former Franklin County became the first Massachusetts county government structure to voluntarily disband under provisions outlined in special state legislation, re-emerging as the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to provide planning, coordination, and service delivery functions on a regionwide basis.



The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC)

The commission is the only RPA in Massachusetts whose jurisdiction includes two nations, one state, one county, seven municipalities, three island groupings, and one former bomb range.

MVC serves an area whose annual population swings from approximately 15,000 in winter to more than 75,000 in summer.



Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC)

The region is the "crossroads of New England," the most traversed connection between northern and southern New England.

The Merrimack River is the largest to exit Massachusetts' coast, and the nearby "Great Marsh" is the largest coastal wetland in New England. The entire Merrimack Valley region is designated a National Heritage Area.