

Tribes in Massachusetts

The town of Brookline is located on the tribal homelands of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge the continuing presence of the Massachusett, and the neighboring Wampanoag and Nipmuc peoples. We also recognize the Indigenous peoples represented in the town's residents.

There are two federally recognized tribes within Massachusetts: the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribes.

Massachusett at Ponkapoag

The Massachusett tribe are the descendants of the original people that the English invaders first encountered in what is now the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Tribal members continue to survive as Massachusett people through the retention of their oral traditions. Theirs is the Indigenous nation from whom the present-day Commonwealth of Massachusetts took its name.

Wampanoag

The Wampanoag territory is in southeastern Massachusetts including Cape Cod and the islands and extends into eastern Rhode Island.

The **Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)** received Federal Acknowledgement as an Indian Tribe in 1987, creating a government-to-government relationship with the U.S. government. Currently 1364 members are enrolled, of which 417 live on Martha's Vineyard, with the remainder living throughout Massachusetts and other states.

The **Mashpee Wampanoag** were re-acknowledged as a federally recognized tribe in 2007. In 2015, the federal government declared 150 acres of land in Mashpee and 170 acres of land in Taunton as the Tribe's initial reservation, on which the Tribe can exercise its full tribal sovereignty rights. The Mashpee tribe currently has approximately 2,600 enrolled citizens.

Nipmuc Nation

The Nipmuc Indians are the tribal group occupying the central part of Massachusetts, northeastern Connecticut and northwestern Rhode Island. The Nipmuc Nation is a state-recognized band with approximately 500 enrolled members today based at the Hassanamisco Reservation (in Grafton, MA). This small 3-acre reservation is the only parcel of Nipmuc land never to have changed hands; its occupation by Nipmuc people dates back to before contact and colonization. The Nipmuc Indians of Massachusetts have several bands today, including the Chaubunagungamaug of Webster and Natick Nipmuc of Natick, in addition to the Nipmuc Nation.

Nationwide, there are currently 573 federally recognized tribes. This number changes as tribal citizens continue to fight for their right to be recognized as a sovereign nation.

Tribes in Massachusetts that are not yet recognized by the federal government include:

- Massachusett
 - Praying Indians of Natick (Massachusett-Nipmuc)

- Massachusetts-Ponkapoag Tribal Council
- Nipmuc/Nipmuck
 - Nipmuc Nation (Hassanamisco Nipmuc and some Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck)^[5] Letter of Intent to Petition 04/22/1980; Proposed finding in progress.^{[27][28][29]} Declined to acknowledge on 6/25/2004, 69 FR 35667; Reconsideration request before IBIA (not yet effective)^[9]
 - Webster/Dudley Band of the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck (Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck)
- Wampanoag (Wôpanaak)
 - Assonet Wampanoag Tribe
 - Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Tribe
 - Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe
 - Pocasset Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation
 - Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe