

Your support is helping Save Buzzards Bay

Inside:

An encouraging pause – and then
a warning – on nitrogen pollution

PAGES 2-3

Protecting clean drinking water
by preserving land

PAGES 4-5

Are you ready to discover your
Buzzards Bay?

PAGES 6-7

Latest *State of Buzzards Bay* shows encouraging pause in pollution

THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS TO STOP THE BAY'S DECLINE

Since the first *State of Buzzards Bay* report in 2003, we've documented troubling trends in the Bay's health. Every four years, the score for nitrogen pollution – the biggest threat to Buzzards Bay – slipped three points lower on a dramatic slope toward degradation.

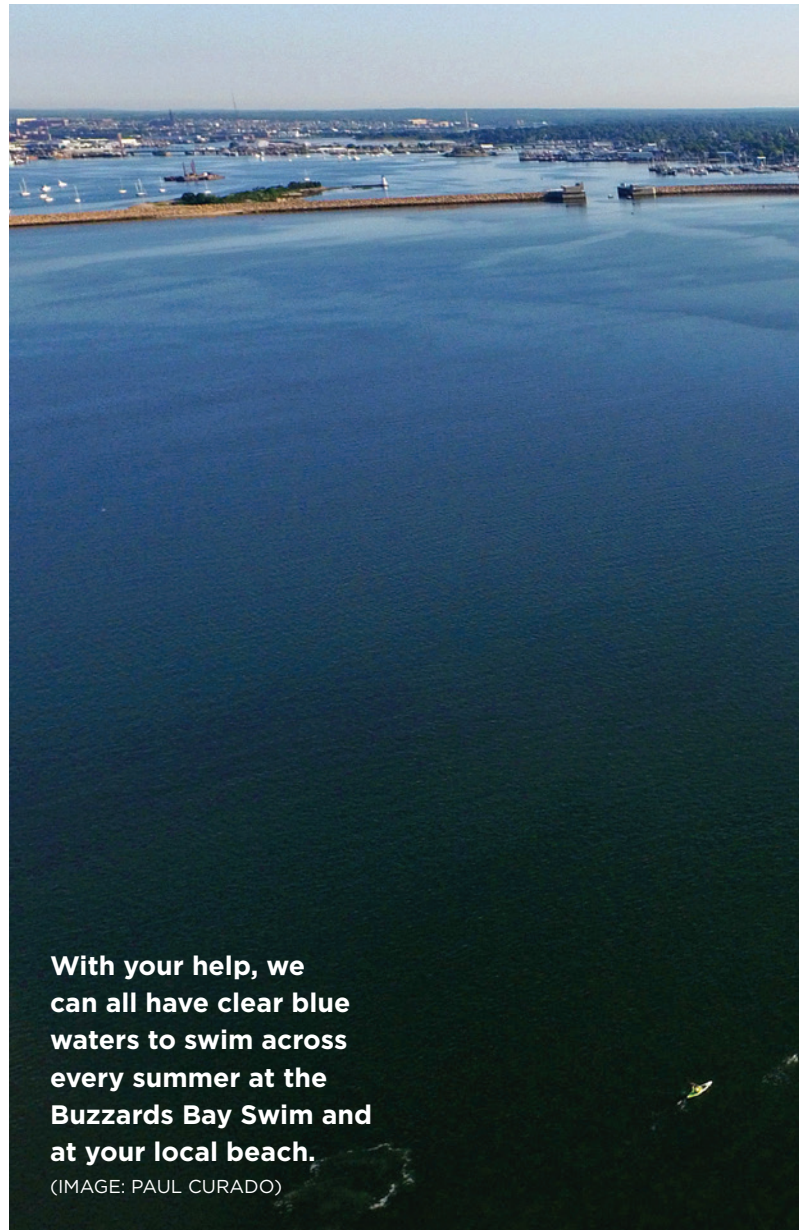
But this year, the *State of Buzzards Bay* showed an encouraging sign. For the first time in over a decade, the score for nitrogen pollution levelled off.

Because of your continued support, we could be at a turning point in the ongoing effort to save Buzzards Bay.

Local efforts to clean up pollution from septic systems and sewer plants, combined with new laws to prevent more pollution, may be starting to curb the declines of the past decade.

The formula for saving Buzzards Bay is clear: bold action to stop nitrogen pollution and protect important forests, wetlands, and stream buffers. With your help, it's working.

Download the full report at
savebuzzardsbay.org/stateofthebay



With your help, we can all have clear blue waters to swim across every summer at the Buzzards Bay Swim and at your local beach.

(IMAGE: PAUL CURADO)

Until Buzzards Bay's waters are clear every summer, *we need you*

While we celebrate the encouraging pause in pollution reflected in the latest *State of Buzzards Bay*, there's still much work that lies ahead. That was clear in August, when a widespread algae bloom called "rusty tide" appeared in the Bay for the first time since 2012 – a worrying sign of nitrogen pollution.

More than ever, we need your help to restore clean water and reclaim the Bay for our children and grandchildren.



Widespread "rusty tide" spotted this summer in places like Apponagansett Bay are a distressing reminder of how much work lies ahead to save Buzzards Bay for future generations.

(IMAGE: TOM GIDWITZ)



25 years of Baywatchers

VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU HAVE KEPT AN EYE ON THE BAY'S HEALTH FOR A QUARTER-CENTURY

This summer, more than 100 volunteers helped complete our 25th season of Baywatchers monitoring.

Hundreds of people like you have volunteered as Baywatchers over the past 25 years, collecting critical water quality data that forms the foundation of all our work. This year, the program expanded to Rhode Island, where volunteers began sampling at Quicksand Pond in Little Compton for the first time.

But the Baywatchers program continues to face funding threats – like this summer, when Gov. Baker cut \$125,000 from the state budget. Thanks to our local legislators who heard your voice, this cut was reversed.

Your gifts help us weather political uncertainty and keep this program running for another generation.



Buzzards Bay Coalition is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance.

Why We Give

THE BEAMS FAMILY: ROB, GINNY, HANNAH (17), MIA (15), AND ELLIE (13) OF MATTAPOISETT

“The Coalition’s work is critical in protecting Buzzards Bay for future generations. Whether driving regulatory change in oil transportation through the Bay or converting ineffective septic systems to reduce nitrogen pollution, the Coalition is committed to not just preserving water quality, but improving it through hands-on programs and a committed staff and membership.”

Your gift to the Annual Fund ensures that, together, we can keep fighting for Buzzards Bay. Give today at support.savebuzzardsbay.org/annualfund



(IMAGE: THE BEAMS FAMILY).

Mattapoissett River Reserve expands with 134 acres of forests and wetlands

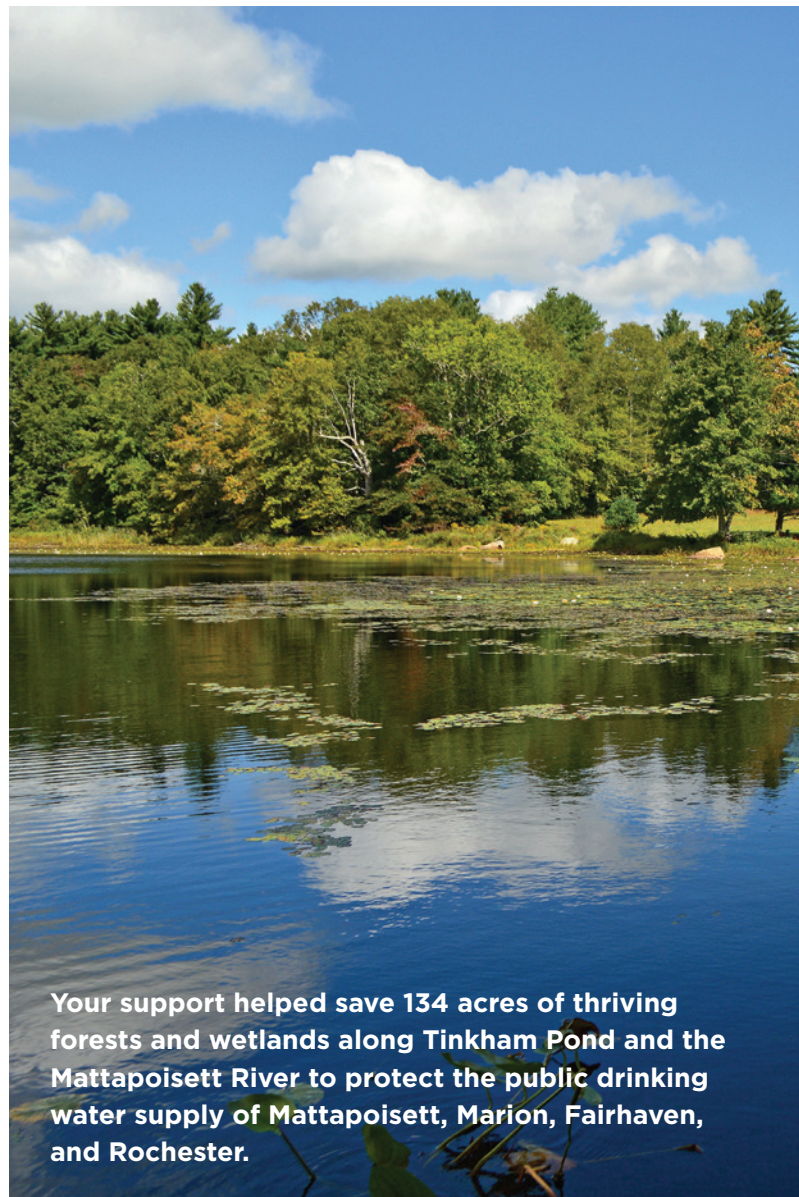
THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE PROTECTING CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

You may not think about forests and wetlands when you turn on your tap to pour a glass of water. But these natural habitats keep our drinking water clean by filtering out pollution.

In June, you helped us safeguard these valuable resources forever for thousands of residents of Mattapoissett, Marion, Fairhaven, and Rochester. In three separate town meeting votes, residents approved funding to conserve land that protects these towns' public drinking water supply.

Working in close partnership with water officials in these four towns, the Coalition conserved 134 acres along the Mattapoissett River and Tinkham Pond. It's all part of a growing Mattapoissett River Reserve, which now stretches across more than 1,000 acres and provides the public with forests, streams, and wetlands to explore.

The land was acquired from Mattapoissett resident Howard Tinkham, whose family has lived in this area for so many generations that the area around his home is known as "Tinkhamtown." By conserving his family land, Tinkham has ensured these thriving forests will continue to protect clean water for people like you.



Your support helped save 134 acres of thriving forests and wetlands along Tinkham Pond and the Mattapoissett River to protect the public drinking water supply of Mattapoissett, Marion, Fairhaven, and Rochester.

Restoring Horseshoe Mill for fish and wildlife – and people like you

The Weweantic River in Wareham is home to Buzzards Bay's most diverse community of migratory fish. But fish populations have been dwindling for decades – which is why we're now working to restore the river. Over the past year, we've begun a process to remove the crumbling remnants of a dam, reopen the river, and create a new place to go walking, fishing, and paddling.

If you've visited The Sawmill in Acushnet, then you can envision the future of Horseshoe Mill: a place where fish can swim freely and people like you can enjoy a river that's been blocked for far too long.



By restoring the Weweantic River at Horseshoe Mill, we're creating a place where fish can migrate freely and people like you can enjoy Buzzards Bay's largest freshwater river.



Saving three salt ponds from invasive *Phragmites*

Three years ago, residents near Salters Pond in Dartmouth and Flume and Gunning Point Ponds in Falmouth were grappling with a major problem: how to manage *Phragmites*, an invasive weed taking over marshes all around Buzzards Bay.

With the help of donors like you, we spent three years working with natural resources experts to drastically reduce *Phragmites* from these marshes.

As you can see in these before-and-after photos, the ponds are now nearly free of *Phragmites*, and native plant species and wildlife can once again thrive. This project provides a model that can be applied to small salt marshes around the Bay's coastline.



Buzzards Bay Coalition is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Why I Give

DEBBIE HERRING OF JUPITER, FLA.

"I lived on the Bay in Wareham for 25 years, and we have family and friends who continue to live on the Bay and boat, swim, fish, and clam there. I believe in supporting local organizations that educate, legislate, and inform our citizens to become better stewards of our natural resources. For us, that's the Buzzards Bay Coalition."

Help the next generation inherit a safe, clean Bay by including the Coalition in your will or estate plan. Visit savebuzzardsbay.org/legacy or contact Donna Cobert at (508) 999-6363 x209.



(IMAGE: DEBBIE HERRING)

Are you ready to discover your Buzzards Bay?

YOU ARE HELPING US CREATE NEW GATEWAYS TO GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE

Over the past five years, your support has helped thousands of people discover Buzzards Bay on our field programs and Bay Adventures.

Thanks to donors like you, we are now helping thousands more through Discover Buzzards Bay, a new portal to hundreds of places, events, and adventures around the region. By visiting savebuzzardsbay.org/discover, everybody can find a way to get outside and explore.

As part of an exciting new partnership with Southcoast Health launched in October, we're sharing these ideas for healthy, active outdoor recreation with local residents across the South Coast and beyond.

We're also continuing to create a new destination for outdoor exploration on Onset Bay. This year, you helped us complete the protection of Wickets Island and Burgess Point. Kids and families will soon create new memories of Buzzards Bay at these two beautiful places through boating, swimming, paddling, and shellfishing at our developing Onset Bay Center.



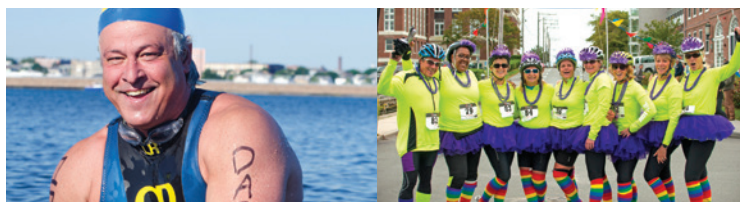
You can help care for trails by volunteering to "Adopt A Reserve"

Do you love walking the trails at places like The Sawmill, The Bogs, or Shaw Farm Trail? People like you are helping us maintain these special places by volunteering to "Adopt a Reserve."

Trail volunteers regularly visit our reserves in Acushnet, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and Wareham to inspect the trails and report what they see. By collecting this information, you can help us care for your favorite trails so everybody can enjoy them.

To become a volunteer, call (508) 999-6363 x217 or visit savebuzzardsbay.org/volunteer





Why I Swim Why We Ride

DAN VASCONCELLOS OF PEMBROKE

"When I first participated in the Swim 20 years ago, you might have been able to see your hand in front of you. Now, the conditions in New Bedford Harbor are unbelievable. I like to think it's due to the efforts of the Coalition."

TEAM GIRL POWER OF CAPE COD

"The Coalition's work to keep Buzzards Bay clean is important to all Cape residents. There's nothing better than watching our team finish a ride and accomplish something they never thought possible."

Thank you to the nearly 400 swimmers and cyclists who raised over \$250,000 for clean water at the Buzzards Bay Swim and the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride. **Save the date for the 24th annual Buzzards Bay Swim on Saturday, June 24, 2017 and the 11th annual Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride on Sunday, October 1, 2017!**

**buzzards
BAY**

COALITION

Dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy.

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Working to protect clean water for the people of Little Compton, Tiverton, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Acushnet, Rochester, Mattapoissett, Marion, Wareham, Carver, Middleborough, Plymouth, Bourne, Falmouth, and Gosnold.



Your support helps us create places and lead programs for kids to get outside and explore, like this family activity along the river at The Sawmill in Acushnet.

Find us on

