

buzzards
BAY

COALITION

2016 ANNUAL REPORT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR



IN OCTOBER OF 1986, AN EVENT CALLED “BUZZARDS BAY DAY” – A DAY of harbor tours and beach cleanups held simultaneously in Bourne, New Bedford, and on Cuttyhunk – led to the formation of the Buzzards Bay Coalition: a group composed of dedicated local residents who would always ensure the right decisions were being made to protect the Bay.

A generation later, the Coalition is a thriving organization that continues this work every day to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through strong advocacy, sound science, ambitious land conservation, and broad community engagement. We are proud of how the scale and impact of our work has expanded to tackle the serious challenges facing our Bay today. And we are forever indebted to our visionary founders.

For them and for all of you – our members and supporters – we are pleased to share our most recent accomplishments in this 2016 Annual Report. Your ongoing commitment made these achievements possible over the past year.

And what a year of progress it was. After the success of our first septic system pilot project in **West Falmouth** – which is already being shown to reduce nitrogen pollution from these properties to the harbor by 80% – we’re expanding these technologies to more homes around the Bay (see page 5). Iconic natural places like **Allens Pond** in Dartmouth (page 9) and the **Mattapoissett River Valley** (page 7) are being protected forever, adding to the more than 7,500 acres we’ve conserved across the watershed. And we’re helping people of all ages *Discover Buzzards Bay* through hands-on programs and new digital tools so future generations of Bay residents are inspired to carry on this important work (page 11).

In 2017, the Coalition will celebrate its 30th anniversary. None of the work we’ve accomplished over these past three decades would have been possible without the foresight of those original community members who led to our founding a generation ago. And through accomplishments like those outlined in this report, their legacy will endure as we look to the next generation.

Thank you for your support!

Mark Rasmussen
President / Buzzards Baykeeper®

Laura Ryan Shachoy
Chair, Board of Directors

ON THE COVER

Allens Pond is one of the most significant coastal habitats in southern New England. The Coalition is working with partners in Dartmouth to forever protect more than 200 acres around Allens Pond in one of the largest land conservation projects in Buzzards Bay’s history (see page 9). Salt marshes like the one seen here are in trouble elsewhere on the Bay (see page 4).

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2016 GUARDIANS

At our annual meeting in Onset on May 20, 2016, the Coalition presented Guardian Awards – our highest honor – to three individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to the Bay.

Guy Campinha (*left*), director of the Wareham Water Pollution Control Facility, received an award for his leadership in reducing nitrogen pollution by 90% from the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Mattapoisett resident **Horace Field** (*center*) received an award for his unwavering advocacy on the cleanup of Styrofoam pollution on Brandt Island Cove.

Steve Hurley (*not pictured*) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife received an award for his quarter-century of dedication to protecting “salter” brook trout habitat.



ON THE WATER

WE ALL SHARE THE SAME VISION FOR BUZZARDS BAY: A SCENIC SHORELINE WITH safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds filled with quahogs, and healthy waters where fish and wildlife thrive. Our Bay is resilient; with sound science, the right laws, and proper enforcement, it can bounce back from the harmful effects of pollution.

Through science and advocacy, the Coalition is leading the way to protect and restore our local waterways for fish, shellfish, wildlife, and most importantly, people like you.

CHALLENGE

By far, the most serious and difficult challenge facing the Bay is nitrogen pollution. It leaches from our home septic systems, seeps from lawns and cranberry bogs, and flows from aging sewer plants into sensitive harbors and coves. The Bay is also threatened by bacterial contamination, oil spills, and toxic pollution.

STRATEGY

For 25 years, the Coalition has kept a watchful eye on the Bay's health through our award-winning Baywatchers monitoring program. But we don't just study the Bay; we put this science to work. Sound science forms the foundation of all of our advocacy efforts to restore and protect clean water.

RESULTS

We pursue Bay restoration and protection at all levels of government – local, state, and federal – and in court when necessary. Through strong advocacy, we're securing limits on nitrogen pollution, working with towns to update wastewater treatment, and always defending laws to make the Bay safer from oil spills.

An encouraging pause in the decline of our local waters

IN LATEST *STATE OF BUZZARDS BAY* REPORT, NITROGEN POLLUTION DID NOT GET WORSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A DECADE

Every four years since 2003, the Coalition's *State of Buzzards Bay* report has recorded a dramatic drop in the score for nitrogen pollution, the greatest long-term threat to the health of the Bay. But in our latest report, released in 2016, we saw a glimmer of encouragement: the nitrogen pollution score levelled off for the first time since we released that first *State of Buzzards Bay* report over a dozen years ago.

More than half of the Bay's harbors, coves, and tidal rivers still suffer from nitrogen pollution – from the Westport Rivers all the way to Quissett Harbor in Woods Hole. Now, local efforts to clean up nitrogen pollution from septic systems and sewer plants may be beginning to slow these declines.

Although this pause is something to celebrate, much more work lies ahead to reclaim the Bay of our parents' childhoods, with clear, sparkling waters and abundant fish and shellfish life. The formula for pulling the Bay out of the hole we created is clear: continued vigilance to protect our most critical natural lands and bold action to stop nitrogen pollution from septic systems.

The *State of Buzzards Bay* includes nine different indicators that track the health of Buzzards Bay. These indicators are grouped into three categories: Pollution, Watershed Health, and Living Resources. To read the full report, visit our website at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/state-of-buzzards-bay/

	2003	2007	2011	2015	
POLLUTION					
Nitrogen	59	56	53	53	↔
Bacteria	59	57	62	62	↔
Toxics	45	47	52	52	↔
WATERSHED HEALTH					
Forests	76	75	79	77	↔
Streams	68	67	71	71	↔
Wetlands	60	60	60	60	↔
LIVING RESOURCES					
Eelgrass	34	25	23	23	↔
Bay Scallops	12	10	3	2	↓
River Herring	5	1	1	2	↑
OVERALL SCORE (100 = EXCELLENT)	48	45	45	45	

↑	Improvement
↓	Decline
↔	No Significant Change

LEFT Swimmers participating in the 23rd annual Buzzards Bay Swim race across outer New Bedford Harbor on Saturday, June 25, 2016. Since the Swim began more than two decades ago, the outer portion of the harbor has experienced significant improvements in water quality that long-time swimmers can see for themselves. (Image: Paul Curado)

In 2016, we continued our ongoing fight against nitrogen in Buzzards Bay, defended the Bay against threats, and worked to prevent new sources of pollution from fouling our local waters. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to protect clean water through science and advocacy on our website, www.savebuzzardsbay.org.



Collecting strong science in the upper Bay

Through a collaboration with the Coalition and the towns of Wareham, Bourne, and Plymouth, Massachusetts Maritime Academy students are collecting data about the health of the upper Bay to study the feasibility of relocating Wareham's sewer discharge pipe to dramatically reduce the amount of nitrogen reaching waterways from Marion to Pocasset.



Responding to the Westport Rivers' disappearing salt marsh islands

With the Westport Fishermen's Association, the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, and the Marine Biological Laboratory, the Coalition led a rapid scientific assessment of the dramatic loss of salt marshes in the Westport Rivers. Both nitrogen pollution and rising sea level play a role in weakening these marshes – which are on course to disappear without bold action. Find the report at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/salt-marsh-loss-westport-rivers




Preventing wetlands violations in Mattapoisett

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission upheld wetlands protection laws by ordering a homeowner to restore a stunning half-acre of wetland and buffer zone on Eel Pond that he illegally converted into a lawn. In support of the town, we intervened in a court case to defend this enforcement order, which the homeowner is appealing.



Expanding monitoring to Quicksand Pond

In its 25th year, the Coalition's award-winning Baywatchers water quality monitoring program continued to grow, with more volunteers and sampling locations than ever before. For the first time, the program began collecting data in Rhode Island at Little Compton's Quicksand Pond, the Buzzards Bay area's largest natural salt pond.



Nitrogen pollution comes mainly from traditional home septic systems, which aren't designed to remove nitrogen. When nitrogen seeps into the groundwater, it becomes pollution that fuels the growth of algae that chokes out life in the Bay. In places like West Falmouth Harbor (shown here), all of the surrounding homes are on septic systems.

ON THE WATER | *Looking Ahead*

Piloting new septic system designs to reduce pollution

NEW SEPTIC SYSTEMS MAY OFFER A SOLUTION TO BAY'S BIGGEST SOURCE OF NITROGEN POLLUTION

Traditional home septic systems are the biggest source of nitrogen pollution to Buzzards Bay. To address this problem, the Coalition has been working with towns and homeowners across the region to install nitrogen-reducing septic systems. This year in West Falmouth, where we completed the installation of 20 septic system upgrades using various nitrogen-reducing technologies, these new systems are already being shown to reduce an average of 80% of nitrogen.

Now, with a \$730,000 EPA grant, the Coalition is partnering with the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment and the University of Rhode Island to install 12 innovative septic systems called “layer cakes” at homes in seven towns around the Bay.

The “layer cake” gets its name from multiple layers of soils installed under the leach field, which are designed to remove nitrogen from wastewater. Layer

cake systems may offer a passive, more cost-effective solution that requires less maintenance and energy than other types of nitrogen-reducing technologies.

The Coalition is currently looking for volunteer homeowners to take part in this demonstration project, and will begin installing the layer cake systems this year. Through this project, we will better understand how these systems work under various conditions – and how much promise they hold for the Bay's future.

“The most promising aspect of the project is validating a simple, sustainable way to remove nitrogen in onsite septic systems.”

- George Heufelder, Director of the Massachusetts
Alternative Septic System Test Center

IN THE WATERSHED

WATERSHED PROTECTION IS ABOUT CONSERVING ALL OF THE PARTS OF THE

Buzzards Bay ecosystem – not just its harbors and coves, but its forests, wetlands, rivers, streams, and groundwater. These critical areas provide important habitats, protect our drinking water sources, and act as natural filters for the Bay.

Through watershed protection, the Coalition is forever protecting the region's forests, streams, and wetlands and restoring damaged areas so the Bay ecosystem can thrive.

CHALLENGE

Nearly half of the land in the 432-square-mile Buzzards Bay watershed is undeveloped and unprotected. The fate of these lands is fundamental to our effort to protect clean water. Without saving the most important forests, streams, and wetlands from poorly planned development, the Bay cannot survive.

STRATEGY

We pursue a Bay-focused land protection strategy to conserve the watershed's most vulnerable forests and streams – natural areas that the Bay cannot afford to lose. We also restore damaged rivers, wetlands, and streambanks and help towns and land trusts preserve land in every corner of our watershed.

RESULTS

The Coalition manages the largest land conservation program in southeastern Massachusetts. Since 1998, we've protected more than 7,500 acres throughout the Buzzards Bay watershed. We're also restoring damaged streams, rebuilding wetlands, and creating better access for people to explore the outdoors in their community.

Spearheading the protection of land for drinking water in the Mattapoissett River Valley

COALITION AND TOWN PARTNERS CONSERVE NEARLY 1,500 ACRES OF LAND IN RIVER VALLEY IN THE PAST 15 YEARS

Thousands of local residents in Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, Marion, and Rochester get their drinking water from the underground aquifer in the Mattapoissett River Valley. But back in 2000, only 8% of the land here was permanently protected from development. Over the past 15 years, the Coalition has worked in close partnership with these towns to forever protect 1,468 acres of forests and wetlands in the river valley – a rate of nearly 100 acres per year.

You may not think about forests and wetlands when you pour a glass of water from the tap. However, these natural areas do most of the work to keep your drinking water clean. Conserving land is one of the most important ways to protect clean water for drinking, swimming, and fishing.

Today, 17% of the land in the Mattapoissett River Valley is forever protected from development – double the amount that was protected in 2000. Some of this land is now open to the public, such as the popular trails at The Bogs and Tripps Mill at the Coalition's Mattapoissett River Reserve. In spring of 2017, the reserve will grow when the Coalition opens new trails at Tinkhamtown Woodlands and New Boston Road, both protected in 2016.

Even though we've had some great success over the past 15 years, our work is not nearly complete. For instance, 72% of the critical "Zone II" area that surrounds the towns' drinking water wells is still unprotected. The Coalition will continue to partner with these towns to conserve more land in the Mattapoissett River Valley to protect clean drinking water for local residents.

BY THE NUMBERS Mattapoissett River Valley Land Conservation

1,468 acres protected between 2001 and 2016

98 acres of land protected per year (average)

17% of the river valley is now permanently protected

\$13 million in funding secured to conserve these lands

27 separate real estate transactions

LEFT The Mattapoissett River Valley spans from Snipatuit Pond in Rochester to Mattapoissett Harbor, where the river meets the waters of Buzzards Bay. The area is a destination for people to go hiking, fishing, paddling, hunting, wildlife watching, and exploring, particularly at the Coalition's growing 500-acre Mattapoissett River Reserve.

IN THE WATERSHED | *Highlights of 2016*

In 2016, we continued our role as a regional leader in land conservation by protecting and restoring the Bay's most important forests, streams, and wetlands. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to conserve land and restore damaged natural areas on our website, www.savebuzzardsbay.org.



Protecting a coldwater stream in Westport for native brook trout

With the protection of another 50 acres of forests, meadows, and streambanks along Angeline Brook in Westport, the Coalition is making progress to save one of the most important remaining native sea-run brook trout habitats in southern New England. This project is also creating more places for people to get outside and explore.



Expanding our popular Acushnet River Reserve for people and clean water

The newest addition to the Acushnet River Reserve is a 9-acre riverfront property of fields and woods across from the historic White's Factory. The Acushnet River is now protected on all sides at the Hamlin Street crossing. The Coalition will soon develop trails and river access here for people to walk, paddle, and enjoy the outdoors.



Restoring a native beach habitat in Onset

At Burgess Point – the undeveloped view across the water from Onset Pier – the Coalition has purchased 26 acres and begun work to restore a unique threatened coastal dune and heath habitat. This property will become another place where the Coalition will lead outdoor exploration programs as part of the Onset Bay Center (see page 14).



Removing invasive *Phragmites* from salt ponds in Dartmouth and Falmouth

Three years ago, the invasive weed *Phragmites* was taking over salt marshes around Salters Pond in Dartmouth and Flume Pond and Gunning Point Pond in Falmouth. The Coalition worked with natural resource experts to successfully demonstrate techniques to drastically reduce *Phragmites* from the marshes around these three salt ponds, allowing native species to thrive once again.

Scenic farms, abundant wildlife, and clean water – these are the treasures of the Allens Pond landscape in Dartmouth. The Coalition is leading the effort to conserve over 200 acres of coastal forests, wetlands, and working farmland on Allens Pond to save this jewel of Buzzards Bay forever.



IN THE WATERSHED | *Looking Ahead*

Saving a jewel of Buzzards Bay at Allens Pond in Dartmouth

COALITION LEADING THE EFFORT TO CONSERVE OVER 200 ACRES OF SCENIC COASTAL FORESTS, WETLANDS, AND WORKING FARMLAND

Visionary land owners and conservation organizations have worked together over decades to protect and preserve Allens Pond, one of the most significant coastal habitats in southern New England. But Allens Pond isn't safe from the threat of development – at least not yet.

Along the pond's northeast edge lie 217 acres of unprotected land. The largest parcel is the aptly named Ocean View Farm, a magnificent waterfront farm that has narrowly missed being covered with homes several times in recent years. Now, under agreements negotiated by the Coalition this year, the farm will be protected forever.

The Coalition is working with the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) and Round the Bend Farm (RTB) to save the 120-acre Ocean View Farm, the tree-filled shoreline of the Powel family's 58 acres, and 39 acres of farmland at RTB. By saving this land, we can complete the conservation of Allens Pond for future generations.

At the end of 2016, a \$1 million federal grant provided one of the last major pieces of funding to complete this \$9 million project. The Coalition will close on these properties in 2017, after which DNRT will open a new trail at Ocean View Farm so everybody can discover this spectacular place.

“For those of us who have attempted over the years to preserve Allens Pond, this project has been a dream come true. Without the leadership and vision of the Coalition, the pond's permanent protection to be enjoyed by all would not have happened. We are grateful for all time.”

- Lloyd Macdonald, neighbor

WITH PEOPLE

THE KEY TO A CLEAN, HEALTHY BUZZARDS BAY IS AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY THAT understands the threats the Bay faces and their role in protecting it. The long-term health of our local environment depends on people knowing, loving, and valuing the Bay as important to their lives.

Through community engagement, the Coalition is creating a new generation of Bay stewards: people who understand their place in the Bay ecosystem and support its protection for decades to come.

CHALLENGE

Buzzards Bay faces a crisis of disengagement. Fewer people today know the Bay and our local environment, and most children grow up in front of screens instead of on sandy shores. Without connections to the natural world, people have turned a blind eye to the Bay's decline. If we don't address this disengagement, our work will ultimately fail.

STRATEGY

Connecting people to the Bay is a fundamental part of our work. We tackle disengagement head-on through outdoor programming, engaging events and workshops, and vibrant print and digital communications. These efforts build stronger connections to our local environment to support long-term stewardship.

RESULTS

Every year, thousands discover the Bay through our outdoor exploration programs. We're expanding a network of Bay discovery sites where all people can get outside, giving local decision makers solutions to pressing pollution problems, and rebuilding connections to the Bay through annual events like the Swim and Watershed Ride.

Discovering Buzzards Bay in the field – and on your phone

COMBINING DIGITAL TOOLS WITH HANDS-ON EXPLORATION, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE GETTING OUTSIDE WITH THE COALITION'S HELP

As hard as the Coalition works to stop pollution, protect land, and restore habitats, we know that we cannot save Buzzards Bay alone. 360,000 people live in the Bay watershed, and each and every one of them plays a role in the Bay's future. Their stake starts with a connection, which is why we've made it a core part of our mission to help everybody get outside and experience the Bay.

The idea of *Discover Buzzards Bay* is much bigger than the educational field trips and free public Bay Adventures that the Coalition leads throughout the year. It's about giving people the tools they need to find new trails to walk, routes to cycle, waterways to paddle, and shellfish beds to dig. And it's about inspiring and motivating them to get outside and explore with their friends and loved ones.

In May, the Coalition launched a new website featuring a portal to hundreds of outdoor events, activities, and adventures across the Bay region. This resource, located at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/discover, is already helping thousands of local residents find unique and exciting ways to explore the outdoors and connect with our environment. Our effort got an exciting boost in October when we teamed up with

Southcoast Health to promote healthy, active outdoor recreation and exploration from Fall River to Wareham and beyond.

As *Discover Buzzards Bay* continues to grow, we hope you'll share this resource with others so that, together, we can all be part of this movement to foster a greater connection among our family, friends, and neighbors to our irreplaceable Bay for generations to come.

BY THE NUMBERS

Discover Buzzards Bay in 2016

52,379 visits to the Coalition's *Discover Buzzards Bay* website since launch

1,666 participants on **103** free, public Bay Adventures

4,230 children attended a Coalition outdoor exploration program with their school

7,575 people visited our learning centers in New Bedford, Acushnet, or Woods Hole

DISCOVER BUZZARDS BAY

SPONSORED BY

 Southcoast® Health

LEFT Through the Coalition's hands-on outdoor programs and new *Discover Buzzards Bay* online resources, *The Sawmill* in Acushnet is one of many places around the Bay region that has become a destination for people of all ages to walk, fish, paddle, take pictures with their families, and experience our local waterways like never before.

WITH PEOPLE | *Highlights of 2016*

Throughout 2016, people like you took action to protect clean water and support the Coalition's work in communities across our region. You can learn more about these opportunities to swim, ride, volunteer, or attend an event on our website, www.savebuzzardsbay.org.



Leading fourth graders outdoors throughout the region

In 2016, the Coalition led every fourth-grade class from New Bedford to Falmouth on at least one outdoor exploration program at a beach or trail in their community. These hands-on field programs encourage curiosity, experimentation, and positive experiences to help build long-term connections between students and our local environment.



Volunteering to keep a watchful eye on the Coalition's trails

With the opening of new Bay discovery sites across the region, the Coalition has enlisted the help of local residents who love these popular outdoor destinations and want to make a difference. More than 40 volunteers have "adopted a reserve" at places like The Sawmill, The Bogs, and Shaw Farm Trail, giving us more eyes on the ground.



Engaging hands-on with Buzzards Bay species in Woods Hole

In its sixth year of operation, the Coalition's Outreach Center in Woods Hole welcomed over 5,500 visitors in 2016. This free discovery center, open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, features a touch tank where families can see Bay species like bay scallops, sea stars, and hermit crabs up close.



Connecting kids to the Bay in New Bedford and Wareham

For the third straight summer, the Coalition led "Bay Discovery Days" for nearly 400 children of all ages through local programs for underserved youth in New Bedford and Wareham. During these outdoor programs, kids learned how to dig for quahogs, paddle kayaks, find habitats in their backyard, and net for fish and crabs on the beach.



WITH PEOPLE | *Looking Ahead*

Swimming, cycling, and running for clean water in Buzzards Bay

AFTER BIGGEST YEAR EVER, THE COALITION'S SIGNATURE OUTDOOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS ARE PRIMED TO GROW IN 2017

Each year, hundreds of people participate in the Coalition's signature outdoor events, the Buzzards Bay Swim and the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride. Combined with the Coalition's biggest-ever "Team Buzzards Bay" for the world-famous Falmouth Road Race, these three events raised more than \$250,000 in 2016 through the hard work and dedication of over 500 participants and volunteers.

One person at a time, support for the Coalition's work adds up through these events. Over the past 24 years, more than 1,200 swimmers have raised over a million dollars by splashing 1.2 miles across outer New Bedford Harbor. And last year alone, 150 cyclists raised nearly \$125,000 through donations they garnered from friends, family members, and colleagues for their rides around the Buzzards Bay watershed – many starting for the first time at a new 100-mile start line at Sakonnet Point.

As we look ahead to 2017, we're excited to welcome more people than ever to the Swim on June 24, the Watershed Ride on October 1, and "Team Buzzards Bay" in Falmouth on August 20. These three events are a chance for you to make a difference while connecting with like-minded people in our community. If you want to swim, ride, or run for clean water in Buzzards Bay, you can sign up to join us for these events in 2017 on our website, www.savebuzzardsbay.org.

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

- Dan Vasconcellos, Swim participant

Creating a destination for outdoor exploration on Onset Bay


ONSET BAY IS A TREASURED PLACE FOR THOUSANDS of people who love swimming, paddling, fishing, boating, and quahogging. Part of what makes it so special is the spectacular view of clear waters and natural shorelines.

The Coalition moved forward in 2016 to make the vision of a new outdoor exploration center on Onset Bay a reality. This two-pronged vision protects Onset Bay's extraordinary places and creates a new destination for discovery on the bay's waters and shorelines.

This summer, the Coalition purchased the centerpiece of Onset Bay – Wickets Island – to protect it forever, ending decades of concern over its future. Across the bay from Onset Pier, the Coalition also purchased the beach and unique coastal heath habitat at Burgess Point. Both of these places will be restored in 2017 to bring back natural habitats and make them ready for people to explore.

Back on Onset Beach, town residents voted unanimously in April to grant a lease and contribute funds for the Coalition to transform the historic bathhouse into the center's headquarters – an estimated \$2 million project that's currently being designed, permitted, and fundraised for.

By next summer, we hope that hundreds of Wareham residents will begin to experience Onset Bay as a place where a new generation of children and families can build a connection to the bay and learn to care for it for years to come.



In summer, the Coalition purchased Wickets Island, the centerpiece of Onset Bay. After restoration work that will take place in 2017, the island will become an integral part of the Onset Bay Center, as well as a place where people can go on their own to swim, paddle, dig for quahogs, and explore.

“Wareham is indeed fortunate to host the Buzzards Bay Coalition’s expansion in Onset, which represents community, accessibility, education, exploration, and opportunity for all.”

- Judith Whiteside, Chair, Wareham Board of Selectmen

WHY I SUPPORT THE COALITION

More than 8,000 members form the foundation of our work to protect clean water, conserve watershed lands, and engage people in communities across Buzzards Bay. To become a Coalition member and support our work, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org.



“The Coalition is a leader in creating and maintaining regional relationships that work together to keep in balance the natural beauty of our area while allowing our families to continue to enjoy it. They are sincerely dedicated to its restoration, protection and sustainable use for everyone. We are very fortunate to have them working hard every day on our behalf.”

- Dianne & Charlie Cosman of Marion



“Our three children grew up with Buzzards Bay their favorite playground. We support the Coalition, including participating in the Watershed Ride each year, because we appreciate the importance of protecting the health of this precious Bay. No organization has made more stellar efforts or had such great success in that regard than the Coalition.”

- Betsey, Ken, Jessie, Abby, and Trevor Cheitlin of Pocasset



“Buzzards Bay will always hold a special place in my heart and mind, as will my Uncle Bill. Several years ago, my wife and I were able to share the magic of Buzzards Bay with our own young children on a sail with Uncle Bill, and they couldn't have been more thrilled; nor could I.”

- Tim Elliott of San Mateo, Calif. in memory of Willoughby “Bill” Elliott of Fairhaven



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

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OUR VISION

- A Bay shoreline defined by safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds, and stretches of scenic natural areas for all to enjoy.
- Healthy waters that support abundant fish, shellfish, and wildlife populations.
- A Bay safe from the threats of oil spills, industrial and sewer discharges, and ocean dumping.
- A watershed where rivers, streams, inland forests, and wetlands that buffer the Bay are protected.