

## Who We Are

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a membership-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed, including all of Wareham's rivers and harbors.

## Onset Bay Center

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is working to create a permanent Onset Bay Center to provide high-quality on-the-water programs in Wareham. Modeled on the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, the center will engage hundreds of people of all ages each year in a variety of active outdoor activities focused on building connection and a sense of stewardship toward our coastal environment.

## Join Us

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a people-powered membership organization. Join us to stay better connected to what's happening to protect clean water in your community at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org)

## Seaport Economic Council Grant Lifts Fundraising Beyond Halfway Point



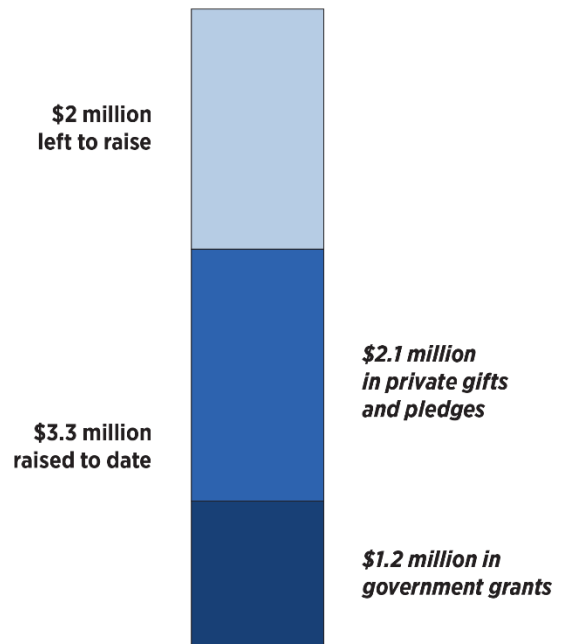
In February, the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Town of Wareham were awarded a \$350,000 grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council

to assist in rehabilitating the historic Onset Bathhouse to serve as the headquarters for the Onset Bay Center. The Seaport Economic Council helps Massachusetts' coastal communities develop and improve local assets to leverage economic growth.

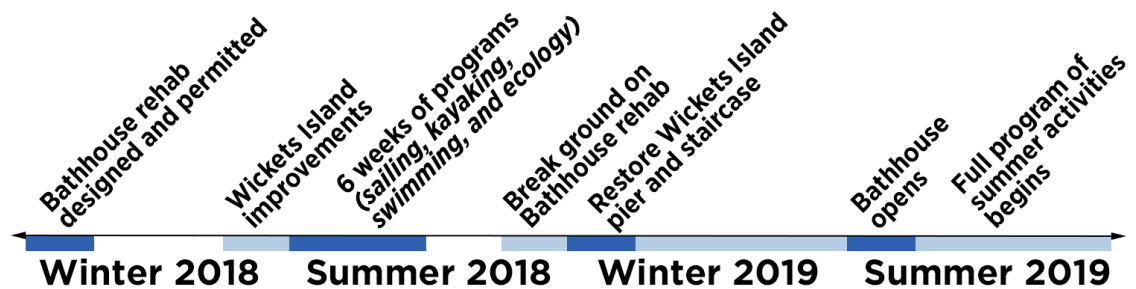
The Bathhouse restoration will include reconstruction and expansion of the original second level to serve as a classroom and gathering space. Down below, boat storage for a fleet of small sailboats, rowboats, kayaks, and SUPs will interact directly with beachgoers just steps from the water's edge.

Construction on the Onset Bathhouse is expected to begin after Labor Day 2018, with a goal of bringing the Onset Bay Center to life in summer 2019.

### Fundraising Status \$5.3 Million Goal



## What's Coming Up Next?



(Turn over for more.)

## Expanding Youth Sailing and Exploration

While we're still a year away from the completion of Onset Bathhouse renovations and full-scale outdoor programming, we're excited to be piloting another great summer of youth activities on Onset Bay! In three two-week-long sessions, Wareham youth will learn the basics of sailing, swimming, and kayaking, while also exploring for quahogs, crabs, fish, and more.

These programs are happening thanks to several developing community partnerships with the Gleason Family YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Wareham, and Wareham Public Schools' CARE program. Outstanding sailing instruction from the Community Boating Center of New Bedford will again be a hallmark of this summer's program.

Funding to provide this pilot programming is due in part to a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education Quality Enhancements in After-School and Out-of-School Time (ASOST-Q) Program. We are also thankful for the amazing ongoing support of the Wareham Department of Natural Resources.

### New Sailboats Purchased for 2018...and beyond!

The Coalition is adding five new boats to our sailing fleet this summer. Youth participating in summer programming will learn how to sail RS Quests, which can hold an instructor and up to four students. With a stable hull and spacious cockpit, these boats are an excellent choice for beginner sailors.



## Wickets Island Improvements to Begin



Following a winter of designing and permitting, the Coalition will begin working with contractors this spring to rehabilitate Wickets Island. This restoration will improve safety and public access, as well as the island's natural habitats.

Restoration will begin at the top of Wickets Island's 40-foot cliffs, where invasive vines are choking out native plants and preventing people from being able to explore. The Coalition will remove these invasive species and poison ivy to create a picnic area where visitors can take in a one-of-a-kind view of Onset Bay. We'll also remove the remains of a house that used to stand on the island. A new steel staircase and short loop trail will ultimately lead visitors to the picnic area and around the island.

The Coalition will also begin work later this year to rehabilitate the island's crumbling stone pier, and a new floating dock will permit boaters to safely tie up while visiting the island.

## Burgess Point Restoration: First Phase Complete

Last spring, the Coalition completed the first phase of restoration at Burgess Point, a 15.5-acre property with frontage on Onset Bay. Our goal is to preserve and restore 7 acres of sandplain heathland, shrubland, and maritime dune habitats to maximize wildlife habitat values. This first phase of restoration included removing successional trees, as well as managing invasive species such as spotted knapweed, Japanese honeysuckle, and autumn olive. Burgess Point will become a core destination for Onset Bay Center ecology programs. A second phase of restoration work is planned for this coming summer.

