

# buzzards **BAY**

COALITION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR



EACH YEAR, WE STRUGGLE WITH THE JOYFUL TASK OF BOILING DOWN A year of accomplishments to share with you – our members and supporters – into far too few printed pages.

Because of your strong commitment and support, the Buzzards Bay Coalition's unique blend of science-based advocacy, ambitious land conservation, and broad community engagement continued to make a profound impact on the lives of everyone who are fortunate to call this region home.

This year saw landmark land conservation deals closed and inspiring new doors opened. **Ocean View** (page 14), **Carvalho Farm** (page 3), and the 164 acres of wellhead forest we protected in the **Mattapoissett River Valley** (page 4) are all vital to the future of our Bay and region. The Coalition is becoming more effective every year in saving these irreplaceable parts of the Bay landscape.

To reduce pollution, we remain laser-focused on tackling the greatest threat facing the Bay – nitrogen – and using every science, advocacy, and legal tool available to cleanup old sources and arrest new ones. Perhaps most exciting is the work we are doing on-the-ground with homeowners to install dozens of advanced nitrogen-reducing septic systems – expanding from our pilot efforts in West Falmouth to communities from Westport to Tisbury – to **change the way we treat residential wastewater** forever (pages 7-9).

And in the Upper Bay, where children and families lack affordable access to the wonders of our local environment, we made history when Governor Baker approved our plans to create the **Onset Bay Center** as a hub of on-the-water exploration (page 11). The Buzzards Bay of the future will demand a broad and engaged public constituency with strong connections to our watershed – and the kids who sail and dig quahogs with us today will be the voters of tomorrow.

2017 marked the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Buzzards Bay Coalition. None of the work we've accomplished over these past three decades would have been possible without the foresight and dedication of the 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!

Mark Rasmussen  
President / Buzzards Baykeeper®

Laura Ryan Shachoy  
Chair, Board of Directors

**ON THE COVER** *Tanner Rosa, a junior sailing instructor with the Community Boating Center of New Bedford, cruises past Wickets Island as he leads a group of children from the Wareham Boys & Girls Club on the Coalition's first Onset Bay sailing lessons in summer 2017.*

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## 2017 GUARDIAN AWARD

At our 29th Annual Meeting at Kingman Yacht Center in Cataumet on May 11, the Coalition presented the Buzzards Bay Guardian Award – our highest honor – to David Pincumbe, who retired in 2017 following a 35-year career at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Pincumbe was a driving force behind many wastewater improvements in Buzzards Bay. His work led to dramatic reductions in pollution from the New Bedford and Wareham wastewater treatment plants, and he was a strong advocate for nitrogen reductions in all Bay discharges. With the EPA under attack in the Trump Administration, we are proud to celebrate public servants like Pincumbe whose work will leave a lasting legacy for clean water.

**ABOVE** *David Pincumbe (right of center) joins a group of officials touring Wareham's Water Pollution Control Facility. Upgrades to reduce nitrogen pollution from this sewage plant were one of his greatest accomplishments during his career at EPA. (Image: Wareham Week)*



## 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 8,000 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.

# Protecting treasured coastal farms in Dartmouth and Fairhaven

## OCEAN VIEW FARM AND CARVALHO FARM ARE CONSERVING COASTAL HABITATS AND CLOSING GAPS IN PROTECTED LAND ALONG BUZZARDS BAY

Coastal farmland is part of what defines the character and charm of many Buzzards Bay towns like Dartmouth and Fairhaven. This summer, the Coalition permanently conserved two treasured coastal farms in these towns: Ocean View Farm and Carvalho Farm.

The aptly named Ocean View Farm was one of the last large unprotected parcels on sensitive Allens Pond in Dartmouth. Stretching out like a banquet table to the waters of Buzzards Bay, this 115-acre waterfront property's rich soils, magnificent views, and extraordinary wildlife habitats narrowly missed being covered with new homes several times in recent years. Now, they've been protected forever. (See page 14 for more.)

Owned and farmed by the Carvalho family for generations, 62-acre Carvalho Farm in East Fairhaven is home to fields, forests, streams, salt marshes, and a unique granite outcrop known as "Indian Rock." Like Ocean View Farm, Carvalho Farm was one of just a few missing gaps in a large complex of permanently protected land on Nasketucket Bay – one of the healthiest waterways in all of Buzzards Bay. Conserving the farm's large agricultural fields, forest-lined stream, and rich salt marshes will prevent further development along the coast, create a natural corridor of habitat for wildlife, and protect clean water in the Bay.

Trails are being created at both Ocean View Farm and Carvalho Farm to allow people to access these extraordinary coastal properties in the near future. Together, these two farms are protecting clean water, preserving coastal habitats, and creating new places for people like you to explore.

### BBC BY THE NUMBERS

#### Nasketucket Bay Land Conservation

**1,377** acres protected between  
1998 and 2017, including  
**5.5** miles of shoreline

**857** acres opened for  
public access

**\$865,000** raised in 2017  
to conserve Carvalho Farm

**\$21.4 million** raised between  
1998 and 2017 to preserve  
land on Nasketucket Bay

**23** total real estate  
transactions

**LEFT** The Coalition is working to develop a trail alongside the fields and into the woods at Carvalho Farm in Fairhaven. The property's proximity to the Phoenix Bike Trail and Shaw Farm Trail will also link the farm with easy bicycle and walking access to Nasketucket Bay.

## IN THE WATERSHED | *Highlights of 2017*

In 2017, we actively pursued new opportunities to protect and restore the Bay's most important forests, streams, and wetlands – the natural filters that support clean water. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to conserve land and restore damaged natural areas at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org).



### Increasing protection of clean drinking water in the Mattapoisett River Valley

We continued our 16-year partnership with four towns to protect clean drinking water in the Mattapoisett River Valley, bringing the total of permanently conserved lands in the valley to over 1,500 acres. The newest protected area – a 164-acre property in Rochester adjacent to a Marion town well – lies entirely in the most critical drinking water supply area for more than 24,000 local residents.



### Breaking ground on a field operations facility in Marion

The Coalition has broken ground on our newest permanent facility: a field operations center that will serve as the centerpiece for all our land stewardship and environmental science work. The Marion location sits at the midpoint between Sakonnet Point and Woods Hole, making it the ideal logistical hub for all our field programs. The facility is expected to open in late 2018.



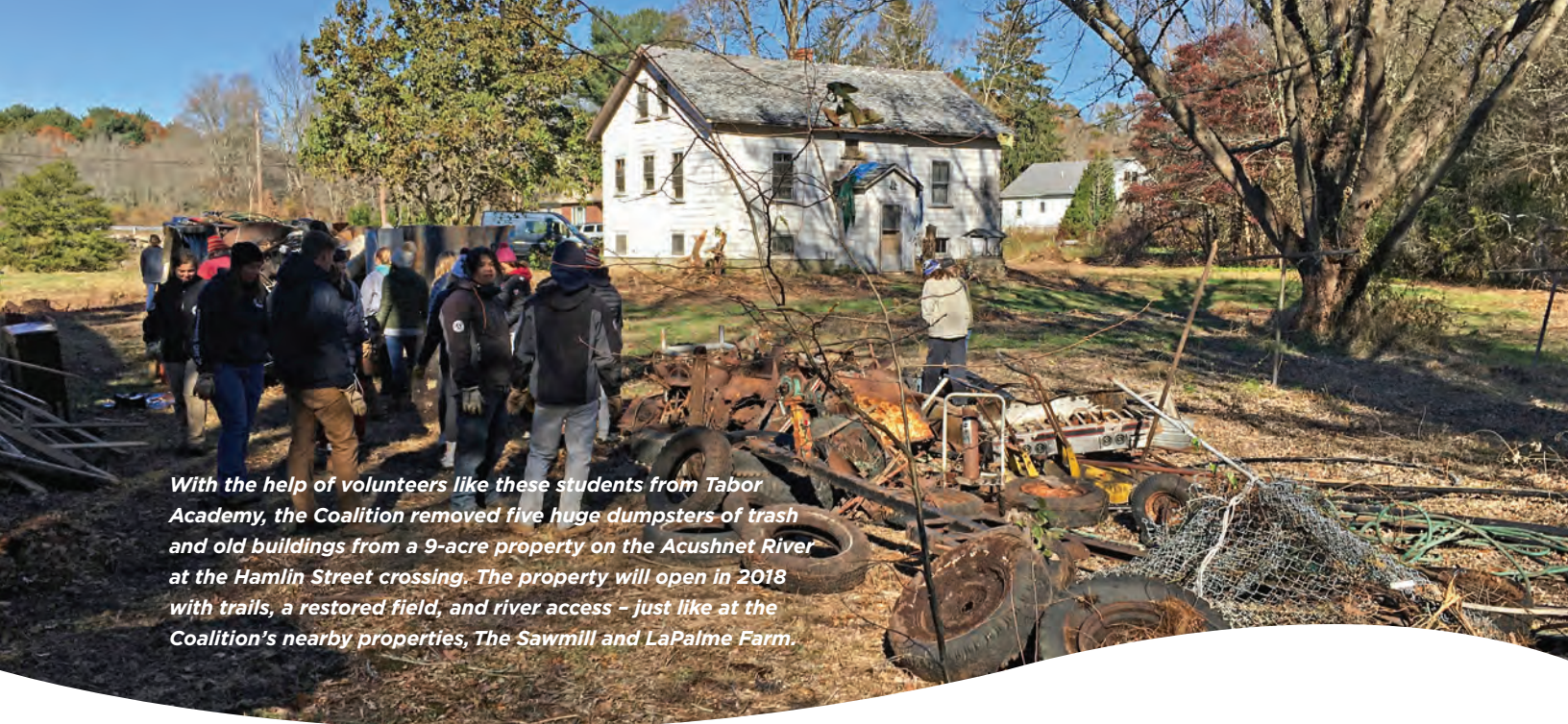
### Combining conservation, recreation, and affordable housing in Wareham

An innovative partnership on the Weweantic River protected 10 acres by combining land conservation, outdoor recreation, and affordable housing. The Coalition and the town are now creating a public riverfront trail here, while a local homeless service organization converted an existing apartment building on the property into permanent affordable housing.



### Removing a dam to help Weweantic River's native fish thrive again

In 2017, the Coalition secured a major grant to design and permit the removal of a dam on the Weweantic River at our Horseshoe Mill property in Wareham. It's a critical step in this project to restore passage for the river's rich populations of migratory fish. Dam removal and habitat restoration is expected to begin in winter 2018-19.



*With the help of volunteers like these students from Tabor Academy, the Coalition removed five huge dumpsters of trash and old buildings from a 9-acre property on the Acushnet River at the Hamlin Street crossing. The property will open in 2018 with trails, a restored field, and river access – just like at the Coalition's nearby properties, The Sawmill and LaPalme Farm.*

#### **IN THE WATERSHED** | *Looking Ahead*

## Conserving riverfront land in the growing Acushnet River Reserve for clean water, wildlife, and people

### **THE COALITION HAS NOW PROTECTED OVER 125 ACRES ON THE RIVER FROM MARSH ISLAND TO HAMLIN STREET**

The Acushnet River Reserve is home to The Sawmill, a popular public park at the river's head of tide, and LaPalme Farm, a 47-acre former dairy farm on a freshwater portion of the river. This network of protected land is expanding, and soon there will be more places along the Acushnet River for people to get outside and discover their corner of Buzzards Bay.

On Hamlin Street in Acushnet, the Coalition has protected nine acres of fields and woods across the river from the historic White's Factory, the ruins of one of the first cotton-spinning mills in the country. With the purchase of this property, the Acushnet River is now protected on all sides at the Hamlin Street crossing.

Also in 2017, the Coalition partnered with the P.J. Keating Company to preserve 21 acres of woods and wetlands on the Acushnet River across from the company's Acushnet quarry. The Keating Woods property will offer a view of the estuary, a restored forest, and a trail network that will open in 2018.

Back over at The Sawmill, we're working to expand the park by adding two acres on the New Bedford side of its Mill Road entrance. This expansion will improve public access, provide more parking, and create a space for school community gardens through a collaboration with the Marion Institute.

## 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 over 25 years, the Coalition has kept a watchful eye on the Bay's health through our nationally recognized 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.

# Demonstrating nitrogen reductions from septic systems around Buzzards Bay

**MORE UPGRADED SYSTEMS ARE GOING IN THE GROUND AFTER WEST FALMOUTH PILOT PROJECT SHOWS MAJOR POLLUTION REDUCTIONS IN 2017**

Traditional septic systems are the biggest source of harmful nitrogen pollution to Buzzards Bay. In 2017, the Coalition continued to advance nitrogen-reducing septic system technology across the region by working with towns and homeowners to install more systems and assess their performance.

In West Falmouth, we upgraded 20 septic systems in 2016 as part of a pilot project with the town of Falmouth. These systems used several different technologies to reduce nitrogen. Data collected in 2017 show that these new systems are reducing nitrogen by 78%.

We're now working to put in 10 more upgraded systems around West Falmouth Harbor as part of Phase 2 of this effort. These systems are testing different technologies to try new nitrogen-reducing options and give homeowners more choice.

Septic system upgrades aren't just happening in West Falmouth. Working with partners from Barnstable County and Rhode Island, we've begun installing a new nitrogen-reducing solution called a "layer cake" system at 12 homes from Westport to Martha's Vineyard. The layer cake, which gets its name from its multi-layer leach field, may offer a more cost-effective option that requires less maintenance and energy than other technologies.

These projects are creating models we can use across the region to reduce nitrogen pollution and change

the way our communities view and permit septic systems. As more of these systems go into the ground and provide solid data, we will better understand how they work under various conditions – and how much promise they hold for the Bay's future.

## BBC BY THE NUMBERS

**Nitrogen-reducing septic system pilot projects around Buzzards Bay**

**78%** reduction in nitrogen pollution from upgraded septic systems in West Falmouth

**~475** pounds of nitrogen reduced to West Falmouth Harbor in 2017

**30** total septic systems will be upgraded along the shore of West Falmouth Harbor

**12** new "layer cake" systems currently being installed in Westport, Dartmouth, Acushnet, Wareham, Falmouth, and Tisbury

**LEFT** On West Falmouth Harbor, home septic system upgrades are making a difference to reduce nitrogen. The Coalition's successful pilot project here is now serving as a model for other communities dealing with nitrogen pollution in their harbors, coves, and rivers. At this home, two green caps are all that's visible of the new nitrogen-reducing septic system.

## ON THE WATER | *Highlights of 2017*

In 2017, we continued our ongoing fight against nitrogen pollution 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 at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org).



### Connecting upper Buzzards Bay communities to world-class wastewater treatment

An exciting regional wastewater collaboration between Wareham, Bourne, Plymouth, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy is moving ahead. The project, which the Coalition is coordinating, aims to improve the health of upper Bay waterways by expanding Wareham's world-class sewer service to more communities.



### Continuing legal action to stop Marion sewage lagoons from leaking pollution

For 47 years, nitrogen pollution from Marion's unlined sewage lagoons has been leaking into the ground and nearby Sippican Harbor, Aucoot Cove, and the Sippican River. In 2017, the federal government backtracked on its commitment to require the town to fix the leaking lagoons, which violate state groundwater discharge laws. In response, the Coalition brought the issue to state court in hopes of finally eliminating this source of pollution. *(Image: Aerials Only Gallery)*



### Serving boaters with free pumpouts on Cuttyhunk

A free, permanent boat pumpout service is coming to Cuttyhunk Harbor in summer 2018, replacing the Coalition's 15-year weekly pumpout service aboard the *R/V Buzzards Baykeeper*®. The Coalition donated its former pumpout equipment to the town of Marion, which will use it to create a mobile pumpout service for boat owners around Sippican Harbor.



### Expanding Baywatchers monitoring to coastal ponds on Vineyard Sound

Partnering with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah, the Coalition has expanded Vineyard Sound monitoring to Lake Tashmoo, James Pond, and Menemsha Pond. We began monitoring Vineyard Sound in 2012 to better understand its interaction with Buzzards Bay. Altogether, a record 166 volunteer Baywatchers collected monitoring data at 286 locations from Rhode Island to Vineyard Sound in 2017.



*The Westport Rivers suffer from too much nitrogen pollution from home septic systems, which can lead to cloudy water and loss of habitat for fish and shellfish. The newly released TMDL sets a course for action to restore clean water, abundant eelgrass beds, and healthy marine life in the rivers by reducing nitrogen.*

**ON THE WATER** | *Looking Ahead*

## Setting a course for action to restore clean water in Westport

**CLEANUP PLANS CALLED TMDLS ARE A CRITICAL TOOL AGAINST NITROGEN POLLUTION – BUT TOO FEW OF THE BAY’S WATERWAYS HAVE THEM**

For an astonishing 15 years, the Westport Rivers languished on the state’s “dirty waters” list due to nitrogen pollution. That finally changed in 2017, when the river’s two branches received a long-awaited cleanup plan called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

TMDLs are a critical regulatory tool to combat nitrogen pollution. These federally approved pollution limits define exactly how much nitrogen needs to be reduced to achieve clean water standards. TMDLs also open the door to new planning and funding opportunities.

The Westport Rivers TMDL calls for 71% of needed nitrogen reductions to come largely from improvements to home septic systems. Westport

is currently using these guidelines to develop a regulation requiring nitrogen-reducing septic systems for new construction near the rivers.

Unfortunately, Westport isn’t the only community that’s been waiting for a cleanup plan. Altogether, 27 Buzzards Bay estuaries need TMDLs due to nitrogen pollution – but as of now, only six have them.

The longer it takes for the government to issue these pollution limits, the worse our waterways get – and the more expensive it’s going to be for our communities to solve the nitrogen pollution problem. We are continuing to push for the development of these cleanup plans so every Buzzards Bay waterway has a path to clean water.

## 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.

# Creating a center for on-the-water exploration in Onset

## ONSET BAY CENTER WILL ENGAGE THE WAREHAM COMMUNITY IN ACTIVE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, FROM SAILING TO SHORELINE ECOLOGY

Onset Bay is a treasured place for people who love swimming, paddling, fishing, boating, and quahogging. Through the Coalition's developing Onset Bay Center, even more community members will soon have the opportunity to experience Onset's clear waters and natural shorelines.

In 2017, the Coalition took major steps toward our vision for an outdoor exploration center on Onset Bay. This center will offer high-quality on-the-water programming such as sailing, shellfishing, kayaking and paddleboarding, and shoreline ecology to help people of all ages build a deeper connection with Buzzards Bay.

The heart of the Onset Bay Center will be the historic Onset Bathhouse, which will serve as the center's headquarters. The Coalition is transforming the 19th century bathhouse into a 21st century facility that both honors its place in the community and provides additional educational services.

In August, Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law a bill to grant the Coalition a 99-year lease of the Onset Bathhouse, officially greenlighting the Coalition's restoration plans. Construction is expected to begin after Labor Day in 2018, with a goal to complete renovations for the summer 2019 season. The Coalition is actively working to raise the remaining \$2 million in private funds to complete the restoration.

In the meantime, we've already begun offering new programming on Onset Bay. Youth sailing graced Onset for the first time in local memory in 2017 through a partnership with New Bedford's Community Boating Center and the Boys & Girls Club. We'll provide more sailing lessons in summer 2018 along with a number of other free public exploration programs as part of our expanding lineup of Bay Adventures.

### BBC BY THE NUMBERS Onset Bay Center

**29** children participated in the first pilot sailing programs over **4** weeks in 2017

**26** acres protected on Onset Bay to support programming

**\$5.3** million total project cost;  
**\$3.3** million raised to date

**LEFT** Set in promising sight of the Onset Bay Center's future headquarters at the historic Onset Bathhouse (pictured in background), the Coalition led its first youth sailing lessons in Onset in 2017. Kids enrolled in the Boys & Girls Club Wareham Summer Fun Program learned the basics of sailing from skilled instructors with the Community Boating Center of New Bedford.

## WITH PEOPLE | *Highlights of 2017*

Throughout 2017, 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 all our opportunities to swim, ride, volunteer, or attend an event at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org).



### Leading school children on hands-on field programs in their community

The Coalition reached every fourth-grade class in all communities between New Bedford and Falmouth in 2017 – a total of nearly 200 programs with more than 2,800 students. We also expanded our partnership with New Bedford Sea Lab to bring all of the city's fourth- and fifth-grade classes on beach walks and river explorations at The Sawmill.



### Discovering Buzzards Bay on Bay Adventures

Nearly 2,000 people got outside and explored Buzzards Bay's woods, wetlands, and waterways on a Bay Adventure with the Coalition in 2017. We hosted over 100 of these free exploration events, which include walks, paddles, beach explorations, fishing and quahogging lessons, family activities, and more. You can sign up for a Bay Adventure at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events)



### Biking for clean water at the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride

Skies were clear, sunny, and blue as a record 226 cyclists pedaled from Little Compton to Woods Hole to show their support for clean water at the 11th annual Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride on October 1. The event raised over \$157,000 to support the Coalition's work. Register now for the 12th annual Watershed Ride on September 30, 2018 at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org/ride](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/ride)



### Running for Buzzards Bay at the Falmouth Road Race

For the third year in a row, Team Buzzards Bay participated in the New Balance Falmouth Road Race on August 20 as part of the Numbers of Nonprofits Program. Together, these 20 runners raised over \$20,000 for the Coalition by running the race's world-class 7-mile seaside route. Apply now for the 2018 team at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org/falmouthroadrace](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/falmouthroadrace)



*When the Swim began in 1994, the water in outer New Bedford Harbor wasn't as clear as it is today. "You might have been able to see your hand in front of you," remembers longtime swimmer Dan Vasconcellos. "Now, the conditions are unbelievable. I like to think it's due to the efforts of the Coalition."*

**WITH PEOPLE** | *Looking Ahead*

## Making history at the 25th anniversary Buzzards Bay Swim

**YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SWIM'S STORIED HISTORY ON JUNE 30, 2018**

Twenty-five years ago, a small but visionary group of local residents had a big idea: to swim 1.2 miles across outer New Bedford Harbor to raise awareness and funds for clean water in Buzzards Bay. On August 21, 1994, 17 swimmers raised \$2,000 at the very first Buzzards Bay Swim.

Since then, the event has grown to attract more than 300 swimmers to the shores of Buzzards Bay each summer. For its 25th anniversary on June 30, 2018, the Swim is poised to celebrate its biggest year yet. Not only will swimmers cross the traditional 1.2-mile open-water course from New Bedford to Fairhaven, but they'll also work to raise \$150,000 and earn the Coalition a \$50,000 matching grant from the Fish Family Foundation.

The fight for clean water is a gradual, powerful movement that builds over decades, punctuated by extraordinary opportunities like this one: to swim with hundreds of like-minded people who believe in the same cause. This anniversary Swim gives us a chance to celebrate how far Buzzards Bay has come while recommitting to finishing the job together.

Each year, swimmers demonstrate their commitment and hopeful spirit by participating in the Buzzards Bay Swim – and they invite you to join them in this special anniversary year. Sign up now to be part of the Swim's storied history at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org).

# Saving a jewel of Buzzards Bay at Allens Pond in Dartmouth

## **SCENIC FARMS, ABUNDANT WILDLIFE, AND CLEAN WATER –**

these are the treasures of the Allens Pond landscape. In 2017, the Coalition led the effort to forever protect these resources in the largest land conservation project ever completed on the coast of Buzzards Bay.

Allens Pond has been recognized as one southern New England's most significant coastal habitats. Hundreds of species of migratory birds use the pond's delicate ecosystem for food and shelter: Egrets and herons hide among the unspoiled salt marshes, and terns and piping plovers nest on the rugged Buzzards Bay beaches and dunes.

Visionary landowners and conservation organizations have worked together over decades to preserve the land around Allens Pond – but the fate of one last unprotected property called Ocean View Farm still threatened this extraordinary landscape's future.

The Coalition worked in close partnership with the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) and Round the Bend Farm (RTB) to save Ocean View Farm. This \$9 million fundraising effort is part of a larger Allens Pond Conservation Completion Project, which is expected to protect an additional 100 neighboring acres of forests, wetlands, and active farmland in the years ahead.

With the support of federal, state, and local government as well as generous neighbors, this jewel of Buzzards Bay is now protected forever. RTB will put the deep, rich soils on Ocean View Farm's northern 55 acres to work as an all-organic farm. DNRT will open a new public trail on a 60-acre waterfront portion of the farm so people like you can discover the land's magnificent views and wildlife. The Coalition holds permanent conservation restrictions over both properties to ensure this land remains protected forever.



*The magnificent Ocean View Farm narrowly missed being covered with homes, roads, and septic systems several times in recent years. This 115-acre farm is now protected forever and will become a home for sustainable agriculture, habitat conservation, and public walking trails. (Image: DNRT)*



**WHERE WE WORK** The Buzzards Bay Coalition works throughout the Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound watersheds to protect and restore the region's coastal, river, and drinking water quality and the upland forests, wetlands, and streams that support a healthy coastal ecosystem.



Beginning at Sakonnet Point in Rhode Island in the west, our service area runs along the watershed boundaries for Little Compton's coastal saltponds, then northeast along the Buzzards Bay watershed boundary until it reaches Nobska Point in Falmouth in the east. From Nobska, our work crosses to West Chop on Martha's Vineyard along the edge of Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds, then runs up island along the Vineyard Sound coastal watershed boundary to Squibnocket Point and Gay Head. Our western seaward edge is defined by the municipal boundary of the town of Gosnold until it meets the jurisdictional boundary for "MGL 21M, Chapter 251 of the Acts of 2004," which establishes the edge of compliance with oil spill prevention rules for tank barges entering Buzzards Bay.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition also monitors land use and supports water quality protection efforts in the Assawompset Ponds watershed in Lakeville and Middleboro due to the pond's historical physical connections to Buzzards Bay through the Acushnet and Mattapoisett Rivers and their role as the public drinking water supply for the city of New Bedford.



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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Sara da Silva Quintal, *Restoration Ecologist*  
Jack Sidar, *Land Stewardship Director*

##### Community Engagement

Donna Cobert, *Director of Membership*  
Deborah Hood, *Event Manager*  
Cassie Lawson, *Senior Educator*  
Kimberly Meneo, *Development Assistant*  
Alicia Porter, *Communications Director*

##### Finance and Administration

Lynn Coish, *Administrative Assistant / Volunteer Coordinator*  
Stefanie Fournier, *Director of Finance*  
Sandy Jarjoura, *Bookkeeper*  
Stephanie Trott, *Executive Assistant*

##### Seasonal Staff

Luke Lomeland, *Boat Captain*  
Kyle Cassidy, *Assistant Boat Captain*  
Sophie McGonagle, *Woods Hole Outreach Center Manager*  
Sydney Quirk, *Baywatchers Monitoring Program Assistant Coordinator*

##### Service Members

Logan Johnson, *Land Stewardship Coordinator, TerraCorps*  
Michelle Krauser, *Land Stewardship Coordinator, TerraCorps*  
Elizabeth Malloy, *Community Engagement Coordinator, TerraCorps*  
Amy Pettigrew, *Youth Education Coordinator, TerraCorps*  
Ben Rome, *Environmental Educator, Commonwealth Corps*  
Nina Santos, *Environmental Educator, Commonwealth Corps*



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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.