

## Together, we're protecting clean water in your community

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is resulting in:**

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## ‘Layer cake’ septic systems leading to more nitrogen pollution reductions around Buzzards Bay

**“MY FAMILY AND I WANT TO BE GOOD STEWARDS, AND INSTALLING A NITROGEN-REDUCING SEPTIC SYSTEM ALLOWS US TO REDUCE OUR IMPACT TO THE RIVER AND BAY.”**

Richard Mobley has always wanted to do his part for the Westport River. To be closer to the environment that he and his family have enjoyed every summer for the past decade, the Mobleys recently built a new home on the river’s East Branch.

Knowing about the harmful effects of nitrogen pollution, the Mobleys decided against installing a Title 5 septic system at their home. These conventional septic systems don’t remove nitrogen, the biggest pollutant to the river and Buzzards Bay.

Instead, the Mobleys joined a pilot project with the Coalition and our partners from Barnstable County and the University of Rhode Island to demonstrate a nitrogen-removing technology called a “layer cake,” which removes nitrogen through a multi-layer leach field. The Mobleys’ home is one of three in Westport and 12 around the Bay that’s receiving a layer cake system as part of this project.

**Your donations are resulting in direct reductions in nitrogen pollution from septic systems in communities around Buzzards Bay.**



*Septic system upgrades, like the one shown here at the Mobleys’ home on the Westport River, are demonstrating workable solutions to nitrogen pollution — which fuels the growth of algae in harbors, coves, and rivers around Buzzards Bay (inset photo).*

### LITTLE COMPTON

## Your continued support is helping to expand our work to new communities

Set at the Bay’s westernmost entrance, the people of Little Compton don’t always identify themselves as being part of Buzzards Bay. But resident Bill Richmond knows from his work with the Little Compton Agricultural Conservancy Trust how much locals care about protecting clean water.

**“Many people live on Little Compton’s salt marshes and recognize their environmental value. But when they look out over the water, they’re actually looking out at Buzzards Bay, and that’s sort of a forgotten thing.”**

By giving, you’re helping to bring this important corner of the Bay into the fold of our work – from the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride’s 100-mile “century ride” start line at Sakonnet Point to the shores of Quicksand Pond and Briggs



*The Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride has found a home in Little Compton, where more than one-third of riders begin the event on the 100-mile “century ride” from the Bay’s westernmost edge at Sakonnet Point.*

Marsh, two sensitive Little Compton coastal salt ponds that we’re now tracking the health of through our Baywatchers monitoring program.



DARTMOUTH, ACUSHNET, FAIRHAVEN, MATTAPOISETT

## Discover your Buzzards Bay on these five new trails

Together, we're making a difference to create more places to explore the outdoors. Hamlin Crossing (pictured above) and Keating Woods in Acushnet, New Boston Trail in Fairhaven, Hammond Quarry in Mattapoisett, and DNRT's Ocean View Farm Reserve in Dartmouth are five new trails made possible by the Coalition. When you walk these trails, you will traverse a combined 310 acres of permanently protected land.

**Find more than 200 parks, trails, beaches, and boat launches where you can get outside and discover your Buzzards Bay at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org/discover](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/discover)**

DARTMOUTH, FALMOUTH

## Buzzards Bay science is being put into action to restore clean water – thanks to your gifts

The Bay's most severely polluted harbors, coves, and rivers have been waiting for years for cleanup plans called TMDLs that set limits on nitrogen. These federally approved cleanup plans, which use the Coalition's Baywatchers monitoring data, chart a course to restore polluted waterways and unlock access to funding and technical assistance for towns to take action.

This year, the Slocums River in Dartmouth received a draft cleanup plan that will be finalized in 2019. And across the Bay in Falmouth, the EPA recently issued cleanup plans for Quissett Harbor, Wild Harbor, and Rands Harbor/Fiddlers Cove.

*You can support the sound science that shapes nitrogen pollution cleanup plans for places like the Slocums River in Dartmouth.*



**These are just a handful of the 27 local waterways that need TMDLs. With your help, the Coalition will continue to provide the sound science and tireless advocacy needed to make these nitrogen pollution cleanup plans a reality – so every Buzzards Bay waterway has a path to clean water.**

## Regional effort will dramatically cut nitrogen pollution from wastewater to the upper Bay

**WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE MAKING THE LARGEST MULTI-TOWN POLLUTION REDUCTION PROJECT IN THE BAY'S HISTORY A REALITY**

The waterways of the upper portion of Buzzards Bay – the Agawam River and Wareham River, Buttermilk Bay and Little Buttermilk Bay, Sippican Harbor, Aucoot Cove, and the Weweantic River – make up one-third of the entire Buzzards Bay watershed. And every single one of these waterways is on the state's "dirty waters" list due to nitrogen pollution.

To help clean up the upper Bay's waterways, the Coalition is spearheading the largest multi-town pollution reduction project in the Bay's history. This regional effort, which is bringing together Wareham, Bourne, Plymouth, Marion, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, would connect more upper Bay homes to Wareham's state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant to dramatically cut nitrogen pollution from wastewater – **potentially by as much as 80,000 pounds per year**. This summer, the U.S. EPA awarded the Coalition a \$419,000 grant to further develop the partnership over the next two years.

**Big, forward-thinking projects like this are not possible without your support. When you give, you're helping to advance the effort to expand world-class wastewater treatment that could eventually reduce tens of thousands of pounds of nitrogen pollution per year.**

*The Coalition is spearheading an innovative multi-town partnership that will make world-class wastewater treatment available to upper Bay communities in Wareham, Bourne, Plymouth, and Marion.*



### MATTAPOISETT

## Preventing illegal wetlands destruction on Buzzards Bay

It was one of the most egregious wetlands violations Buzzards Bay had seen in years: A homeowner filled in half an acre of wetlands and buffer zone along Eel Pond at the head of the Mattapoisett River, altering these delicate habitats into residential lawn. After three years of tireless advocacy at local hearings and ultimately in Superior Court by the Coalition and the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission, the homeowner is now being required to restore the wetlands.

**This is a win for the future of Buzzards Bay.** Not only will these critical habitats be restored, but this case sets an example for other Bay towns. **We will continue to track**



*Your gifts ensure that the Coalition will continue to support the enforcement of laws to protect sensitive places like Eel Pond all around the Bay.*

**wetlands violations across the Bay and support local commissions that are working to protect the Bay's most sensitive habitats.**



(IMAGE: HENRY ZIMBERLIN)

ACUSHNET, WAREHAM

## River otter illustrates power of urban habitat restoration

New Bedford photographer Henry Zimmerlin was walking the trails at The Sawmill this past winter when he saw it: the first recorded river otter in this portion of the Acushnet River since the Coalition restored this former industrial site at the edge of New Bedford in 2015.

The elusive otter (and the monster pickerel he caught!) is among the hundred-plus species Zimmerlin has photographed at The Sawmill – from frogs and turtles to baby foxes and over 90 bird species.

**This remarkable wildlife sighting shows the importance of restoring damaged habitats – for clean water, wildlife, and people.** We're now working to bring back healthy habitats at Horseshoe Mill in Wareham, where a crumbling dam blocks migratory fish like river herring, eels, and rainbow smelt. **With your donation, we're restoring these urban habitats to allow fish and wildlife to thrive.**

FALMOUTH

## Because of your support, we're continuing to lead the effort to restore West Falmouth Harbor

When West Falmouth residents Mike and Marie Angelini had the opportunity to upgrade their septic system to reduce nitrogen pollution to West Falmouth Harbor, they felt it was part of their responsibility to the environment, their neighbors, and future generations.

**“Without the Coalition’s intervention, the condition of the harbor would be enormously worse than it is – but much remains to be done. The question is straightforward: Do we allow the harbor to continue to degrade or do we do something about it? The answer is very clear.”**



***With your support and the involvement of dedicated local homeowners, we're looking forward to a much brighter future for the harbor.*** (IMAGE: ROBERT MANZ)

The Angelinis are part of the Coalition's work to speed up West Falmouth Harbor's recovery by upgrading septic systems at 30 homes near the harbor's shores.

## Onset Bay Center completes first season of on-the-water programming

**“THANK YOU FOR TEACHING US ABOUT THE BAY AND TAKING US TO EXPLORE. IT WAS THE BEST TWO WEEKS OF MY SUMMER.”**

Ariana was one of two dozen children who learned how to sail, swim, and kayak this summer during the Onset Bay Center's first official season of on-the-water programming, offered in partnership with the Community Boating Center, the Wareham Boys & Girls Club, Wareham CARE, and the Gleason Family YMCA.

**Once completed, the Onset Bay Center will offer a full slate of vibrant, high-quality Onset Bay programs for hundreds more children like Ariana and families from around the Wareham community.**

To support this programming, we've begun to transform the historic Onset Bathhouse into the Onset Bay Center's headquarters. The bathhouse will serve as a classroom, community gathering space, and boat storage.

We're also restoring Wickets Island, the centerpiece of Onset Bay, where people of all ages will be able to swim, fish, paddle, dig for quahogs, walk, and picnic. With more than 100 acres of recently protected lands, including nearby Burgess Point and Shell Point Marshes, these places will be where the next generation of Bay stewards will discover their Buzzards Bay – **all thanks to donors like you.**

*You're making a difference for these children, who were among the first class of the Onset Bay Center, which will provide high-quality on-the-water programming for kids and families in Wareham.*



## CUTTYHUNK

## Permanent boat pumpout service opens on Cuttyhunk

Lifelong island summer resident Charlie Lovell noticed that Cuttyhunk Harbor's mooring field looked cleaner this summer than in past years – so much so that he went swimming in the middle of the season to escape the heat. He attributes the conditions to the Coalition's new permanent boat pumpout station, which Lovell managed during its first season this summer.

**“The fact that the pumpout station was here, people were much more observant that they needed to keep Cuttyhunk Harbor clean.”**



The free, self-service pumpout station at the Cuttyhunk fuel dock removed an estimated 5,000 gallons of waste from a total of 170 boats in 2018. **When you donate, you're helping to run this essential service for Cuttyhunk boaters and keep the harbor clean.**

**Boaters visiting Cuttyhunk can now get free pumpouts every summer at the Coalition's new permanent pumpout station, located at the fuel dock.**



The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance.



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



The Buzzards Bay Coalition's engagement programming is supported in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



## MARTHA'S VINEYARD

### Coalition expands water quality monitoring to Vineyard coastal ponds

With every changing tide, water flows from Buzzards Bay to Vineyard Sound then back again through Woods Hole, Robinson's Hole, Quicks Hole, and Canapitsit Channel. This connection links the health – and futures – of Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound.

Monitoring the health of all the Bay's waters is at the core of the Coalition's mission: not just the harbors, coves, and rivers along the coastline but also coastal ponds, which are more sensitive to nitrogen pollution.

**Your support has helped us expand our long-running Baywatchers program into Vineyard Sound and its coastal ponds.** We're now partnering with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Wampanoag Tribe to monitor Lake Tashmoo, James Pond, and Menemsha and Squibnocket ponds.

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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, Gosnold, and Vineyard Sound.



## Inside

Read about the latest projects happening in your community and around the region to:

-  Track the health of sensitive coastal ponds
-  Upgrade septic systems to reduce nitrogen pollution
-  Restore clean water and healthy habitats
-  Defend Buzzards Bay in court
-  Connect more kids and families with the water
-  Reduce wastewater pollution
-  Remove sewage waste from boats