

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

buzzards
BAY
COALITION

COVER *It's hard to believe that it's only been two years since the Buzzards Bay Coalition removed the Horseshoe Dam, restoring natural flows to the Weweantic - the Bay's largest river. The old dam was located where the footbridge sits at mid-left in the photo. Today, the river has found its historic channel and fish and wildlife are thriving in a system that had suffered out of balance for hundreds of years.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR

We are inspired and humbled to share the names of the thousands of individuals and organizations contained in this report who have entrusted the Buzzards Bay Coalition with the care of our regional environment. Your enthusiasm for and investment in our mission has been the fuel for our work, and we hope that you will feel more than a measure of pride reading about the many accomplishments you helped make possible in 2022.

We are emboldened to be even more ambitious as we plan for the years ahead, knowing that you are our wonderful partners in this important work. Together we are creating a better future for our Bay. Thank you!



Mark Rasmussen
President / Buzzards Baykeeper®



Michael Angelini
Chair, Board of Directors

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.

STAFF

Mark Rasmussen, *President*

Bay Science

Rachel Jakuba, PhD., *Vice President, Bay Science*

Lara Gulmann, PhD., *Research Associate*

Tony Williams, *Director of Monitoring Programs*

Clean Water Advocacy

Korrin Petersen, Esq., *Vice President, Clean Water Advocacy*

Joe Brennan, *Water Resource Specialist*

Dan Goulart, *Buttonwood-to-Bay Project Manager*

Watershed Protection

Brendan Annett, *Vice President, Watershed Protection*

John Chester, *Real Estate Project Manager*

Jason Clermont, *Watershed Restoration Coordinator*

Allen Decker, Esq., *Director of Land Protection*

Mary Doucette, *Land Stewardship Manager*

Sara da Silva Quintal, *Restoration Ecologist*

Jack Sidar, *Land Stewardship Director*

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Stuart Downie, *Vice President, Outdoor Exploration*

Quentin Chafee, *On the Water Program Manager, OBC*

Colette Tweeddale, *Experiential Learning Manager*

Angela Wheldon, *Center Manager, OBC*

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BUZZARDS BAY GUARDIANS CELEBRATED ON NEW BEDFORD HARBOR

On an early-September evening, the Buzzards Bay Coalition gathered at Cisco Brewers Kitchen + Bar in New Bedford for the Coalition's 34th Annual Meeting.

As the moon rose over Buzzards Bay, the business portion of the evening began with Coalition President Mark Rasmussen calling the meeting to order and expressing gratitude for the hospitality of the evening's host, Steve Silverstein. He also recounted how, on that very same site the Buzzards Bay Swim was conceived in 1993. Rasmussen thanked the members present for their role in advancing the Coalition's clean water mission, reflecting on the tremendous progress made since that first group of 17 swimmers jumped in the water and took a visible stand for everyone's right to a clean and healthy environment.

Mike Angelini, chair of the Coalition's board of directors, welcomed newly elected board member Don Dufault of Westport as well as recognized those long-serving board members whose terms of service had just ended: Tally Garfield of Dartmouth, Sam Gray of Wareham, and Steve Smith of Mattapoisett.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Coalition's highest honor, the Buzzards Bay Guardian Award, to Van Spaulding, Anne Rose, and Russ Keeler.

Spaulding and Rose made possible the preservation and protection of over 300 acres on Cuttyhunk Island. The siblings and their family donated a conservation restriction

on nearly all of their 250-acre property on the island's west end, and their commitment further compelled a number of individual and organizational donors to contribute the funds necessary for the Coalition to purchase an additional 70 acres. Their efforts have ensured the preservation of this remarkable place for future generations.



A former member of the Coalition's board of directors, Keeler has been instrumental in conserving land in Rochester, at his own property and as a driving-force at the Rochester Land Trust. He also served as the captain and generous supporter of the Coalition's research vessel the R/V Helen K. Rasmussen concluded the evening by underscoring his appreciation for the recipients, "The Coalition best tells its stories, expresses its values, and explains what is most important to us as an organization through the Guardian Awards. And this year again is a wonderful example of that with well-deserved awards going to three people who have made a significant difference in the health and future of our Bay."

The Forever Wild Beauty of the West End

THE BUZZARDS BAY COALITION'S NOW SIX year effort to preserve the unique landscape of Cuttyhunk Island peaked in late 2022 with the most important component coming into permanent protection – the West End.

The West End is comprised of miles of shoreline and two coastal ponds; provides important habitat for a variety of birds, fish and wildlife; is critical to the island's only drinking water source and possesses some of the most amazing views on the East Coast.

All of those extraordinary resources are now preserved forever thanks to the generous donation of a Conservation Restriction over the 230 acre property to the Coalition by siblings Van Spaulding and Anne Rose.

The family's decision had been decades in the making. Anne and Van's mother descended from William Wood who fell in love with Cuttyhunk and after great success in the textile industry over 100 years ago acquired much of the island. Anne and Van's parents also had deep affection for the island, which they came to own and keep it natural, the way it had always been.

The donation of the Conservation Restriction comes just two years after the Coalition purchased another 70 acres, opening two Reserves with trails and beaches now available to the public. These conservation victories combine to create an island landscape that today is more than 65% preserved as open space.



RIGHT On Cuttyhunk's Copicut Neck, Wyatt and Rachel Garfield also protected their four acre field with shoreline on both Buzzards Bay and Cuttyhunk Harbor by donating a Conservation Restriction to the Coalition in 2022.



ON THE WATER

WE ALL SHARE THE SAME VISION FOR BUZZARDS BAY: A SCENIC SHORELINE WITH safe swimming beaches, clean 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

The most serious and difficult challenge facing the Bay is nitrogen pollution: the vast majority of which leaches from our home septic systems and underperforming sewer plants into sensitive harbors and coves. The Bay is also threatened by bacterial contamination, oil spills, toxic pollution, and increasingly by climate change.

STRATEGY

For 30 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.

Buttonwood-to-Bay Project Focuses Unprecedented Attention on Urban Stream

Buttonwood Brook is a highly modified urban stream with headwaters in New Bedford that ultimately flow to Apponagansett Bay (aka Padanaram Harbor) in Dartmouth. Traversing more than eight miles, the brook is an important natural resource with significant social, cultural, and ecological value. Starting near New Bedford's Buttonwood Park, it is one of the few places where city residents can access open green space and enjoy scenic views of natural wetland habitat. The waterway also has historical significance in Dartmouth, where early settlers relied on its perennial flow to irrigate crops, host migratory fish runs, and power several small mills.

Small streams are critically-important to the health of the Buzzards Bay watershed – and of all of the streams that flow to the Bay, Buttonwood Brook is the most altered and degraded. Progressive urbanization, commercial development, and land use changes have encroached on wetland boundaries and fundamentally altered its hydrology. Increased runoff from paved surfaces causes stream bank erosion, prevents groundwater recharge, and expedites the transport of pollutants to receiving waters like Apponagansett Bay, where water quality typically

ranks in the bottom ten-percent of all 30 major harbors and coves in Buzzards Bay.

Recognizing the critical role that Buttonwood Brook plays in coastal water quality, the Coalition assembled a broad watershed partnership to address underlying issues and restore this vital community resource. With five-year funding from the US EPA's Southeast New England Program, the partnership has brought together municipal officials from Dartmouth and New Bedford, non-profits like the Friends of Buttonwood Park and Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, and scientists from Woods Hole's Marine Biological Lab and Woodwell Climate Research Center, all in search of watershed-scale solutions. In its first year, the partnership collected data that revealed how the amount of bacteria and nutrients vary by location along the brook, which will help the project team to target more precise locations for restoration activities. Looking ahead, the partnership is already moving from data collection to the design and implementation of pollution reduction and wetland and floodplain restoration projects.



In 2022, 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 waters. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to protect clean water through science and advocacy at www.savebuzzardsbay.org.



Coalition Data Informs Updates to State's "Dirty Waters List"

Using data from the Coalition, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection listed additional Buzzards Bay waterbodies as polluted by nitrogen, the pollution leading to low oxygen levels, excessive algae, and loss of fish, shellfish, and eelgrass habitats. Inclusion on this list, often referred to as the 303(d) or "Dirty Waters List," prioritizes these waterbodies for the development of Cleanup Plans under the federal Clean Water Act. New areas added in 2022 include Allens Pond, East River, Pocasset River, Salters Pond, Outer Sippican Harbor, The Let, and Wings Cove.



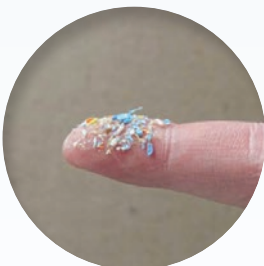
Uncovering the Clues to Salt Marsh resilience

Salt marshes across Buzzards Bay are experiencing significant stress from climate change-driven sea level rise, tidal restrictions, and nitrogen pollution. The report *Buzzards Bay Salt Marshes: Vulnerability and Adaptation*, issued by the Coalition in collaboration with the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, the Woodwell Climate Research Center, and the U.S. Geological Survey, documents changes in 12 salt marsh sites across the region. The lessons learned are pointing the way to determining what kind of actions can be taken to strengthen their resilience to climate change.



Gooseberry Causeway Impact Study: Year One Complete

Scientists from Boston University, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the Woods Hole Group completed their first year of research for the three-year, Coalition-sponsored, Gooseberry Causeway Impact Study. The first year focused on collecting data and building understanding of the hydrology and sediment flows in this part of the Bay. Fieldwork included the use of ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to create transects across beaches and marshes throughout the study area; marsh thickness core sampling; and sediment sampling, both onshore and offshore. Data collection continues in Year Two as well as construction of a computer model to help predict how this coast will change under various future scenarios.



What's Up with Microplastics in the Bay?

The Coalition's research vessel, the *R/V Helen K*, has been supporting scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as they conduct research to determine whether wastewater treatment facilities are sources of microplastics. Samples were collected from the Wareham River and New Bedford's Outer Harbor. Understanding the amount and sources of microplastics in Buzzards Bay will help in developing approaches for how to deal with this emerging issue.



Town Boards of Health Continue to Lead on Nitrogen-reducing Septic Systems

Westport's Board of Health expanded the reach of their regulation that mandates all new construction in the town include nitrogen reducing septic systems. Westport, Marion, Wareham, and West Tisbury all now enforce similar rules and are leading the way in changing how communities permit and manage septic systems to protect the Bay.



ON THE WATER | *Looking Ahead*

Going Digital

EXPANDED USE OF ELECTRONIC WATER QUALITY SENSORS TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BAY

For more than 30 years, the Coalition's Baywatcher volunteers have made possible the collection of more than one hundred thousand individual points of water quality data about Buzzards Bay and all of its major harbors and coves. Each summer, this network of nearly 300 volunteers make it possible for us to read the bay simultaneously from points as far away as Little Compton's coastal ponds to Woods Hole.

While the Baywatcher Program provides this broad regional reach, it is limited in other ways. Baywatchers collect data every five days, creating snapshots of the Bay's health that are then woven together to tell a story of that specific location across a summer season. But the Bay is far more complicated and dynamic, and we are more and more interested in details that Baywatcher data alone cannot provide.

Enter electronic sensors called loggers. These oceanographic instruments can be deployed at remote locations in the Bay and left to collect data which can be retrieved either real-time via satellite link or downloaded back at the lab. The Coalition is investing deeply in creating a network of these water quality instruments as a complement to the data provided by Baywatcher volunteers.

Loggers collect dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity and chlorophyll (algae) data every 15 minutes, allowing us to see how conditions change throughout the day and in various weather conditions.

This past year, we completed installation of loggers at 14 locations around Buzzards Bay and in Vineyard waters. The loggers can be found in Quissett Harbor, Herring Brook, Wild Harbor, Red Brook Harbor, Wareham Harbor, Apponagansett Bay, Slocums River, both branches of the Westport River, Lake Tashmoo, James Pond, Menemsha Pond, and Squibnocket Pond. Many more locations are in the works.

The Coalition received funding for the Vineyard loggers from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and maintains them in partnership with the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah's Environmental Laboratory, Martha's Vineyard Commission, and Tashmoo Waterways, Inc.



IN THE WATERSHED

WATERSHED PROTECTION IS ABOUT CONSERVING ALL OF THE PARTS OF THE Buzzards Bay ecosystem—forests, wetlands, rivers, streams, and groundwater, as well as harbors and coves. These critical areas provide important habitats, protect our drinking water sources, and act as natural pollution filters for the Bay.

Through watershed protection, the Coalition safeguards the region’s forests, streams, and wetlands, and it works to restore 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 efforts 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 region.

RESULTS

The Coalition manages the largest land conservation program in southeastern Massachusetts. Since 1998, we’ve protected more than 9,000 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.

Historic Marsh Island Restoration Begins

Among the mills and commercial fishing vessels that populate New Bedford Harbor's shoreline, Marsh Island has stood out as a rare, undeveloped stretch in this maritime hub. In November 2022, the Coalition's ecological restoration of natural salt marsh that once existed began.

Marsh Island was originally a salt marsh with granite outcrops separated from the mainland by tidal creeks. In the 1800's, the peninsula was used for recreation and picnicking before its transition to use as a granite quarry. Beginning in the 1930's, the quarry and salt marsh began to be filled in with sediment dredged from New Bedford Harbor, continuing until the mid-1950's. Then in 2002 and 2007, the Coalition coordinated two purchases to secure Marsh Island for conservation, making today's restoration of the island's lost 11 acres of salt marsh possible.

The loss of salt marsh on Marsh Island is part of a larger story – an estimated 134 acres of wetlands were filled along New Bedford Harbor from

European settlement to today. This project will remove the sediment that had been deposited there and restore wetland hydrology and vegetation that will benefit water quality, wildlife habit, and the surrounding community. Work is being conducted in two phases, with the first phase to be completed in the upcoming year. Once finished, the restored salt marsh and tidal creeks will be complemented with a perimeter trail, overlooks, and a trail head parking area that will reopen this restored treasure for all to enjoy.

The Marsh Island restoration is supported by funding from New Bedford Harbor Trustees Council Natural Resources Damages Trust Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, and the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's Division of Ecological Restoration.

BELOW *Marsh Island Phase I in progress. Decades old dredge material removed, tidal creek reconstructed and marsh platform ready for plantings. (photo: Luciano's Excavation, Inc.)*



IN THE WATERSHED | *Highlights of 2022*

In 2022, 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.



Preserving the uplands behind our fragile Salt Marshes

As salt marshes decline around the Bay due to accelerating sea level rise, the Coalition is taking action to preserve the lands just inland to provide area for marsh migration. By giving marshes room to adapt as water rises, we are helping ensure that these vital ecosystems will have a future in our region. In 2022, the Coalition purchased two farms on Sconticut Neck in Fairhaven with 30 acres of low-lying fields and woodlands, all adjacent to salt marshes that now will have a better chance at survival. These examples point the way to what we hope will be many additional coastal preservation deals in the years to come.



More action to preserve Westport's rare trout streams

The Westport River watershed is unique on Buzzards Bay for the presence of more than a dozen coldwater streams that support rare sea-run brook trout – a key indicator of a healthy ecosystem. The Coalition has focused attention on preserving lands along these streams and, in the past seven years, has acquired more than 300 acres in Westport. In 2022, this work continued with the acquisition of 26 acres at the head of Angeline Brook and 28 acres on adjacent Snell Creek. The Town of Westport was a key partner in these acquisitions and will hold conservation restrictions on the land.



Coalition Convenes Regional Restoration Partnership

The Coalition is serving as the convener of the *Buzzards Bay Restoration Partnership*, engaging town public works and conservation officials, local land trusts, private landowners, and agricultural organizations. The group is supported by the most detailed geospatial analysis ever completed for our area to uncover and rank restoration opportunities, including failing dams and road culverts, abandoned cranberry bog infrastructure, and drowning salt marshes. The project, with the support of the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, will guide the Coalition's efforts to fix these broken pieces of the Bay landscape to improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and make our region more resilient to climate change.



Restoring Wetlands at Former Cranberry Bogs

The Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) awarded the Coalition a grant of more than \$1M to advance restoration of two retired cranberry bogs in Mattapoisett and Rochester. This complements over \$1.6M already committed from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. These projects will result in the restoration of wetlands and water quality, as well as improved public access, including the addition of new trails, bridges, and boardwalks.



Providing Access to Great South Meadow Cedar Swamp

Located at the headwaters of the Weweantic River in Carver, a 28-acre parcel purchased by the Coalition will create an entranceway into the Great South Meadow Cedar Swamp. The swamp is a large, regionally important complex of conservation land. The Town of Carver will hold the conservation restriction on the property.



IN THE WATERSHED | *Looking Ahead*

Protecting (More) Drinking Water in the Mattapoissett River Valley

The Mattapoissett River Valley is home to one of southeastern Massachusetts' most important drinking water resources. Four towns (Mattapoissett, Fairhaven, Marion, and Rochester) are working together with the Coalition to protect important land that will secure the quality, quantity, and long-term sustainability of the public drinking water supply.

The subject parcels, encompassing more than 240 acres, will be permanently protected and contain the underlying groundwater aquifer that supplies the town's drinking water wells. Previously, the parcel was privately-owned farm and forest land, and its location left it vulnerable to being sold for development. Any significant change in land use would threaten the public water supply as well as natural fish and wildlife habitats and limit outdoor recreation opportunities.

As a part of this initiative, the Coalition will acquire 137 acres of the project area, including Red Brick Farm on the Mattapoissett/Rochester/Acushnet line. The buildings at Red Brick Farm will be owned by

the Coalition and used for its programs and community uses, while conservation restrictions will protect water and other natural resources, as well as nearby forests and fields. Farming will also continue where it is presently, and public access for outdoor recreation will be expanded by connecting the trail network within BBC's existing Mattapoissett River Reserve.

The Town of Mattapoissett Water Department will own 103 acres of the project area north of Wolf Island Road, with a permanent conservation restriction on the parcel being held by other towns and the Coalition. The deal is expected to close in mid-2023.

The towns have worked together for decades through the Mattapoissett River Valley Water District and Advisory Committee to protect the key lands over the public drinking water supply. Each of the towns has partnered with the Coalition in the past to implement land conservation projects, and this method of multiple towns working collaboratively with the BBC to protect large, expansive pieces of land is a successful model that we look forward to continuing.

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 upon 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 will 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; most children grow up in front of screens rather than on sandy beaches. Without connections to the natural world, people have turned a blind eye to the Bay's decline. If we don't address this disengagement, we will ultimately fail to protect the Bay.

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 develop new appreciation for 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 the Watershed Ride.

Onset Bay Center's Programming Takes Off

Celebrating its first full year of programming post-Covid, the Onset Bay Center (OBC) buzzed with activity. From after school programs to summer camps, from community events to family milestone occasions, OBC has quickly become a destination of choice for the area.

The 2022 summer season began with Community Day on May 14th, when more than 300 local residents toured the facility and learned about its programs, with a range of free activities and workshops suited to all ages and interests. Old salts and first-time sailors took to the water with OBC's experienced instructors, while classes for paddling enthusiasts included how to perform self-rescues and how to safely strap a kayak to a vehicle's roof.

Summer activities for young people, including Bay Explorers Camps and sailing programs, operated at capacity, and free Friday Family Sails were also almost always full. Additionally, partnering with the Wareham Public Schools, students in grades 3-12 spent seven summer weeks learning about Bay life, practicing swim skills with YMCA instructors, group paddleboarding on giant SUP's, and exploring nearby BBC conservation lands.

Registration is already open for summer 2023 camps and programs. Check out the full roster at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/onset-bay-center. Preference goes to youth from Wareham before being opened up more widely to the entire Bay



Wickets Pier Restoration Completed, Open to All

The restoration of the stone pier at the Coalition's Wickets Island property in Onset was completed just in time for summer visitors, as was the floating dock, stairway, and installed signage to ensure proper use and safety. The pier quickly became a popular spot for fishing and shellfishing, and ease of access to the island allowed for it to be used in myriad ways for the Onset Bay Center's youth programs.

WITH PEOPLE | *Highlights of 2022*

Throughout 2022, people like you took action to protect clean water and support the Coalition's work in communities throughout our region. You can learn more about all our opportunities to swim, ride, volunteer, or attend an event at www.savebuzzardsbay.org.



Bay Adventures Expanded

With the goal of inspiring a commitment to protecting Buzzards Bay now and for generations to come, the slate of our no-cost Bay Adventures programs was expanded to ensure greater access to the local environment for all. Leading with the motto, "No Gear, No Fear," the Coalition – with the aim of removing barriers to entry for participants – provided all equipment, everything from kayaks to fishing poles. More than 1,225 individuals participated in Bay Adventures programs in all Bay towns in 2022.



Honoring a Westport Legacy and Legend

The Coalition continued the tradition of the Westport Fisherman Association's Clambake with a sold out event in October at Buzzards Bay Brewing. Close to 400 guests enjoyed good company and delicious clambake fare prepared by Bakemaster Jeff LaValley and his crew. Sadly, Jeff passed away shortly thereafter, leaving behind his wife and three children. He was a remarkable friend to many, and shared with the Coalition what he loved most about his role, "I enjoy every single clambake because I meet so many cool people... It feels really good at the end of the day to say, we just did that!"



People Power the Coalition

The many hundreds of people who turned out to participate in 2022's signature athletic events are a visible symbol of the Bay's importance in all of our lives. The Buzzards Bay Swim, Team Buzzards Bay at the Falmouth Road Race, and the Watershed Ride each attracted a mix of long-time and first-time participants who collectively raised more than \$560,000 for a cleaner Buzzards Bay.

The season kicked off with the Buzzards Bay Swim on June 18, with 200 swimmers crossing the 1.2 miles from New Bedford to Fairhaven on a beautiful sunny morning. Athletes ranged in age from 13 to 82 and celebrated their finish with a pancake breakfast on the beach at Fort Phoenix.



In mid-August, Team Buzzards Bay fielded 30 runners in the 50th annual Falmouth Road Race. Warm conditions made the iconic 7.1 mile course even more challenging, but Team Buzzards Bay persevered all the while raising \$41,000, a new Coalition fundraising record for the event.

Perseverance was also the order of the day for the Watershed Ride, held on October 2. With gale force winds forecast and conditions deemed unsafe for crossing the Bourne Bridge, the ride route was altered to end at East Over Farm in Rochester. Approximately half of the registered field took to the road, and the 175 hardy cyclists who braved the conditions turned the day into an uplifting experience.



Each of these events, as well as work days on Coalition Reserves and the BBC's presence at local festivals and fairs, would not be possible without the work of volunteers. Their love for the local environment is evident by the more than 6,000 hours of service performed in support of our mission.



WITH PEOPLE | *Looking Ahead*

Coalition and New Bedford Public Schools Collaborate on Student Access through SeaLab

For more than 15 years, the Coalition and the New Bedford Public Schools have collaborated on SeaLab’s academic year programming. Until this year, much of the participants’ learning has been land-based, ranging from activities at the city’s East Beach to adventures at the Acushnet Saw Mill. With the creation of the Coalition’s Cuttyhunk Reserves and federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 326 fifth grade students from the New Bedford Public Schools were able to get out on the bay and visit Cuttyhunk – most for the first time.

Simone Bourgeois, teacher and facilitator of the SeaLab program, summed up the experience, “Students, who had never ridden on a boat or traveled on a ferry to an island, realized that just a few miles from the City of New Bedford is a completely different habitat than in the city. They explored a variety of environments on Cuttyhunk, from a rocky beach to a forest to a meadow to a

sandy beach. The excitement and knowledge gained in this expedition will last a lifetime!”

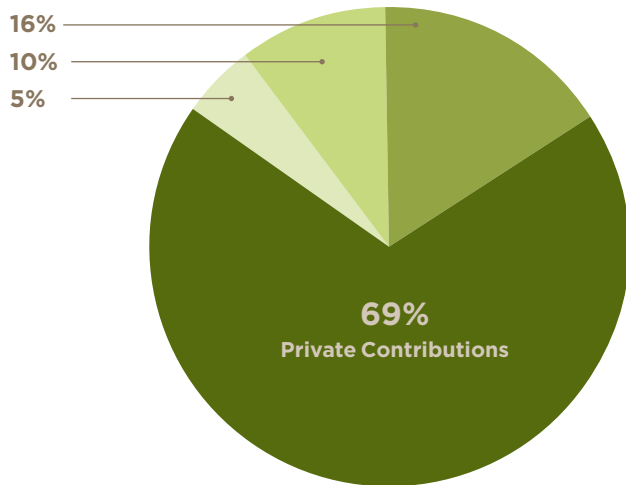
Moving forward, both the Coalition and the NBPS plan to build on this programming to expand student access to Cuttyhunk and other Bay-based experiences.



The management of Cuttyhunk’s nesting Piping Plovers and other migratory birds is one of the many issues kids explore on the island.

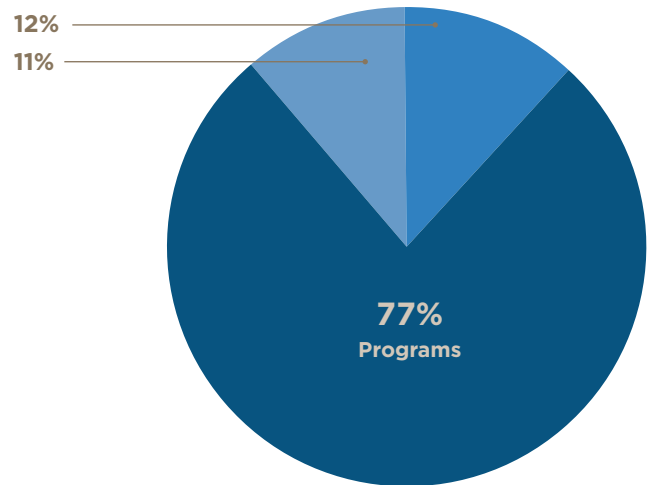
FISCAL YEAR 2022

October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022



REVENUE

Grants and Contributions	5,316,365
Government Grants	1,249,881
Events	745,100
Investment and Other Income	405,632
Total Revenue	7,716,978



OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	4,722,285
Fundraising	714,340
Administration	673,887
Total Expenses	6,110,512

NET ASSETS

Beginning	34,865,896
Increase in Net Assets	403,650
ENDING NET ASSETS	35,269,546

**TREASURER'S REPORT:
CHRIS SCHADE**



The Coalition's FY22 Financial Statements were audited by the firm of AAFCPAs of Westborough, MA and are available at savebuzzardsbay.org.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition continues to operate from a position of financial strength, with a balanced operating budget and ending the year with more than \$35 Million in net assets.

Private contributions continue to be the most significant driver of annual operating revenue. Many significant pledges to the Generations Campaign were paid in full during FY21; the resulting downturn in outright contribution activity was countered by revenues realized by the Coalition's Swim and Ride fundraising events, which returned in full following two years of pandemic-reduced activity.

Investment gains to the Coalition's endowment were modest, reflecting the broader volatility of public markets during this same period. Spending from the endowment occurred in accordance with policies established by the board of directors, balancing the need for a predictable stream of returns with long-term asset protection.

The ability for the Coalition to advance its mission correlates directly to its financial health, which in turn correlates directly with the investment of its supporters. I am grateful for the many ways in which you advance our important work, and I am steadfast in my commitment to the Coalition and its impact on Buzzards Bay and our regional environment.

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.



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

www.savebuzzardsbay.org



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