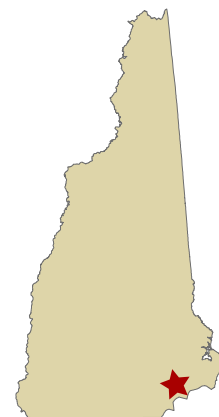


Restoring Saltmarshes in Coastal New Hampshire

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program



The Problem

The Coakley Landfill Superfund Site, located in southeastern New Hampshire in the Towns of Greenland and North Hampton, is comprised of a 27-acre landfill and 65 acres of surrounding wetlands and woodlands. Disposal activities at the site during the 1970s contaminated the site itself, as well as 40 acres of adjacent wetlands with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals, including zinc, aluminum, lead, mercury, and nickel. This contamination reduced the value of the wetlands for migratory birds.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

When hazardous substances enter the environment, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources can be injured. The Department of the Interior, along with State, Tribal and other Federal partners, acts as "trustee" for these resources. Trustees seek to identify the natural resources injured and determine the extent of the injuries. Trustees work with the responsible parties to carry out restoration activities, or recover funds from responsible parties to carry out the restoration activities. These efforts are possible under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (NRDAR), the goal of which is to restore natural resources injured by oil spills or the release of hazardous substances.

Restoring the Resources

In a bankruptcy settlement with the Responsible Parties, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recovered \$250,000 to compensate for injuries to natural resources. The USFWS worked with interested partners to restore over 300 acres of degraded saltmarshes by replacing small, antiquated culverts with larger, box culverts to allow better tidal exchange and improve ecological functions of the marsh. Increased tidal flow

Highlights

- Restored 338 acres of degraded saltmarsh; and
- Citizen support led to project success with over 246 residents endorsing project.

is expected to decrease the proliferation of invasive plants and create additional habitat for estuarine fish such as mummichogs and sticklebacks.

Thanks to Our Partners

The USFWS relied on numerous partners including: Natural Resources Conservation Services, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, State of New Hampshire, Towns of Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, Seabrook, and Hampton Falls, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Ducks Unlimited of New Hampshire and FPL Energy Seabrook Station to raise over \$1.5 million to achieve and exceed restoration goals. Local citizens were particularly supportive of the projects, with 246 residents of North Hampton signing a petition that endorsed one of the proposed saltmarsh restorations.



A. Griffith

During restoration a new 4' by 6' culvert is installed to increase tidal flow to the marsh.



A. Tur

Yellow Warbler and other songbirds as well as wading birds such as Great Blue Heron will benefit from the restoration.



USFWS

Parson Creek saltmarsh restoration partners.

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