

Salt marsh restoration funds coming to Barnstable

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has awarded \$117,675 to the town of Barnstable for a community-based project to construct the final phase of a two-phase 40-acre salt marsh restoration project.

The project, funded by the Community-based Restoration Program within the National Marine Fisheries Service, will remove the last tidal restriction to the Bridge Creek marshes on the north side and will restore tidal inundation and circulation to a marsh cut off from full tidal exchange for more than 100 years.

Along Bridge Creek, an undersized pipe beneath Route 6A restricts tidal water to the upstream marsh. The NOAA grant will help pay for the replacement of the existing Route 6A culvert with a much larger, appropriately-sized culvert to transport necessary tidal flows to the upgradient marsh. NOAA previously provided funding to Barnstable for the construction of the first phase of the project, which replaced a nearby culvert beneath the railroad tracks. Phase I was constructed in early 2003.

"This NOAA grant, and the invaluable habitat restoration technical assistance that comes with it, will help the town of Barnstable and its project partners to complete this salt marsh restoration," said Robert Gatewood, Barnstable Conservation Administrator.

More information about the CRP can be found at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>.

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