

NAME: Damde Meadows Tidal Restoration – Phase II

LOCATION: World’s End Reservation, Hingham, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

ACRES: 15 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Damde Meadows Tidal Restoration Project is in the final phase (Phase II) of an ambitious project that will restore full tidal hydrology to Damde Meadows, a 15-acre salt marsh located in the heart of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

The overall project involves complete replacement of two undersized concrete box culverts between Hingham Harbor and Damde Meadows with 20-foot wide open channels. The primary goals are: 1) improvement of the tidal connection between Damde Meadows and Martin’s Cove, thereby restoring a 15-acre coastal wetland system to a natural tidal range salt marsh that supports wildlife habitat, fisheries, shellfish, nutrient production and export, and biodiversity; and 2) reduction of erosive and dangerous water velocities by replacing enclosed, submerged culverts with day-lighted channels.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

- Restore full tidal range and flushing to the Damde Meadows coastal wetland system
- Address safety concerns with current culverts
- Restore a functioning salt marsh community dominated by halophytes including *Spartina alterniflora* and *Spartina patens*
- Provide coastal resiliency by creating additional storm water buffering capability, and sediment, nutrient, and contaminant retention capacity
- Enhance adjacent shellfish populations through removal of pollutants from surrounding waters, and increased production and export of organic detritus that forms the basis of the marine food web
- Protect and restore coastal wetland habitat with the ability for inland habitat migration in response to rising sea levels
- Maintain public access to Worlds End for visiting public

STATUS: Post-construction Monitoring