

NAME: Stewart's Creek

LOCATION: Barnstable, Massachusetts

ACRES/RIVER MILES: 14 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR(S):

Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program

Harbor Village Association

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project will restore a degraded salt marsh and an estuarine embayment (open water and intertidal flat) at Stewart's Creek in Hyannis, Massachusetts. The restoration plan involves restoring tidal flushing to a salt pond/marsh system by replacing an existing undersized culvert. Approximately 3,200 cubic yards of material will be dredged to restore the salt pond. The salt marsh habitat in Stewart's Creek will be restored using this dredged material and then planted with smooth cordgrass to stabilize and colonize the area.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The project will restore pond and intertidal flat habitat to a condition suitable for high quality benthic invertebrate, fish, and wildlife habitat. Low quality *Phragmites australis* (an invasive plant) dominated areas will be restored with high quality smooth cordgrass habitat, which provides multiple benefits, including: increased biological productivity; nursery grounds for marine and estuarine species; increased recreational fishing potential; and increased filtering capabilities for the creek. The project is also expected to improve water quality and reduce the number of beach closures at Keyes Memorial Beach.

STATUS: Planning and Design