

What's Happening

The City of Quincy's 2012-2018 Open Space Plan included 209 acres of marshes in its Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest. Quincy also boasts 470 acres of the 1,260-acre Neponset River Estuary, an area of critical environmental concern. With the Broad Meadows project (completed in 2013), Quincy successfully restored approximately 31 acres of marsh. However, another major project proposed for Black's Creek has been stalled for years.

Why It Matters

- Salt marshes play a critical role in relation to climate change. They protect against waves and flooding and also remove the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Scientists have recently discovered that salt marshes bury organic carbon at a rate *30-50 times higher than forests*. Marsh grasses pull excess carbon dioxide out of the air as they grow, storing it in their leaves and roots, which are then buried in the ocean.
- Salt marshes slow shoreline erosion and improve water quality by absorbing excess pollutants and sediments before they reach oceans and estuaries.
- Tidal marshes also serve as fish nurseries and provide shelter and nesting sites for migratory waterfowl.

What You Can Do

- Enjoy our marshes! You might choose to watch ospreys and egrets, bike the Quincy RiverWalk along the Neponset River, or walk the trails of Passanageset Park at Broad Meadows Marsh.
- Support projects that protect or improve the flow of tidewater through salt marshes. This is the single most important factor in salt marsh health.