

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

Coakley Landfill, New Hampshire

The Problem

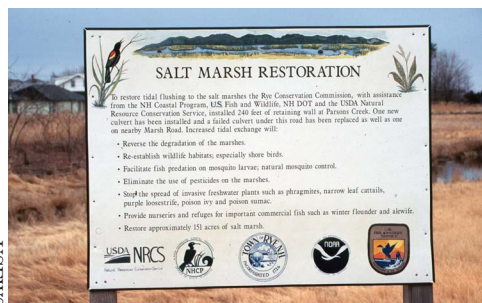
The Coakley Landfill Superfund Site, located in southeastern New Hampshire in the Towns of Greenland and North Hampton, is comprised of a 27-acre landfill and 65 acres of surrounding wetlands and woodlands. Disposal activities at the site during the 1970s contaminated the site itself, as well as 40 acres 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.

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.

A Partnership for Success

The USFWS relied on numerous partnerships 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.



Parsons Creek saltmarsh restoration partners

Highlights

Restored 338 acres of degraded saltmarsh.
Total Project Cost: \$1.5 million
USFWS Restoration Program share: \$250,000
Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, State of NH, Towns of Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, Seabrook, and Hampton Falls, local citizens, Audubon Society of NH, Ducks Unlimited, the University of NH and FPL Energy Seabrook Station
Status: Ninety percent of the restoration was completed in 2001; the remainder is scheduled for 2005 with monitoring continuing through 2008.



A. Griffith

Pre-restoration: an undersized culvert in the railroad embankment prevents adequate tidal flow from entering the marsh on the far side of the railroad tracks.



USFWS

Post-restoration: twin 6-foot by 12-foot box culverts installed at Little River outlet.



USFWS

Pre-restoration: 48-inch culvert drains Little River, North Hampton, NH.

For more information, contact:
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