

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

Charles George Landfill, Massachusetts

The Problem

The Charles George Landfill Superfund Site is an inactive, 60-acre landfill located in the Towns of Tyngsborough and Dunstable, Massachusetts, approximately 35 miles northwest of Boston. The landfill was used for municipal and hazardous wastes until 1982, when it was closed due to contamination of nearby drinking water supply wells. Further study revealed that ground water and surface water adjacent to the landfill were contaminated with heavy metals such as arsenic, chromium, and lead, and volatile organic compounds. This contamination reduced the value of the wetlands for migratory birds and threatened spawning habitat of anadromous fish such as river herring.

Restoring the Resources

In a settlement with the Responsible Parties, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Trustees) recovered \$1.3 million to compensate for injuries to natural resources. The Trustees identified several habitat restoration projects, including land protection and anadromous fish restoration and monitoring. The Trustees provided \$1.2 million to purchase a 130-acre property located just west of the Charles George Landfill, consisting of active pasture, open meadows, woodlands and wetlands. In addition, the Trustees have begun restoring shad and river herring to the Concord River, and plans are underway for creating fish passage at the last remaining obstruction on the River to open more than 40 river-miles of historic habitat.

A Partnership for Success

The Trustees have worked closely with the Town of Tyngsborough and the Merrimack River Watershed Council to identify and implement projects acceptable to a variety of interests.

Highlights

Protected 130 acres of wetland and upland in perpetuity.

Total Project Cost: \$1.2 million

Trustees Restoration Program share: \$1.2 million

Status: Land protection was completed in 2004; fish restoration and monitoring will continue through 2006.



Keystone Consulting Group

Dunstable Brook and associated wetlands shown here are part of the 130-acre protection effort.



Keystone Consulting Group

Satellite image shows proximity of protection project (area delineated in white) to landfill.

For more information, contact:
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