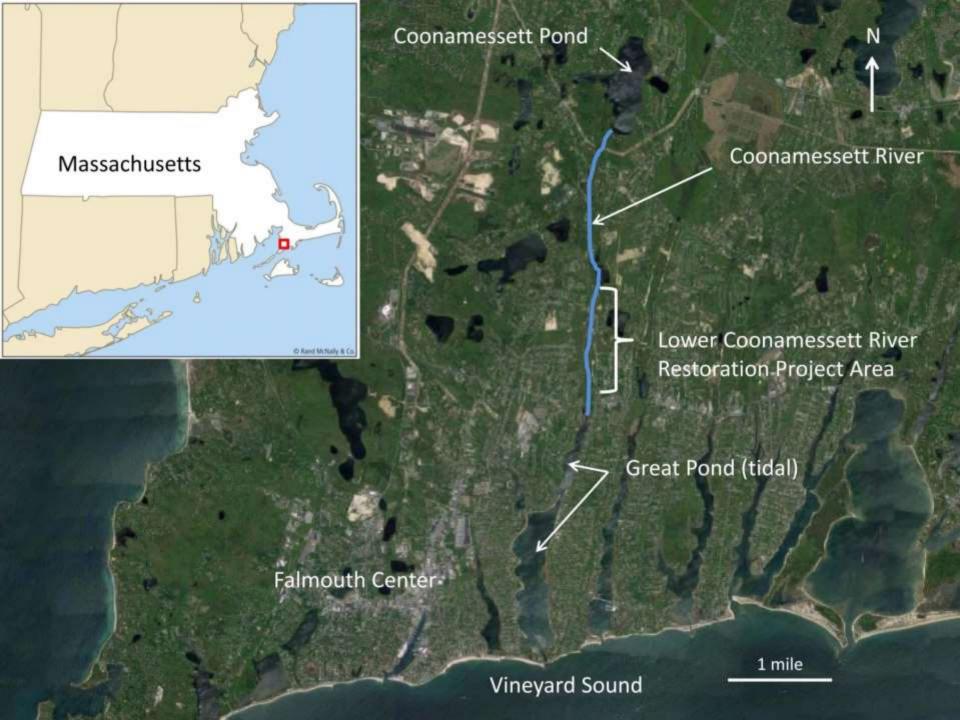


#### 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAPE COASTAL CONFERENCE

# COONAMESSETT RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT



Elizabeth H. Gladfelter, Ph.D. Conservation Commission Town of Falmouth





Mural by Teaticket Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, Spring 2017

#### THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH

invites you to celebrate the groundbreaking of the

#### **COONAMESSETT RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT**

Monday, October 30, 2017 from 1 pm to 2 pm

At the Coonamessett River, East Falmouth Off John Parker Road opposite Clark Street Please see attached for parking directions

























#### **Timeline**

#### 2003-2009

**T3C: Coonamessett Greenway** 

**Coonamessett River Trust: monitoring** 

#### 2009-2014:

(FAF/NOAA; MA Environmental Trust)

\$/year MA Division of Ecological Restoration

2015: MA Environmental Trust -

2016: Funding covering Phase 1 and much of Phase 2

**NOAA** Restoration funding

National Fish & Wildlife Fund

2017: Falmouth Community Preservation Fund

Falmouth Rod & Gun Club

#### Pending:

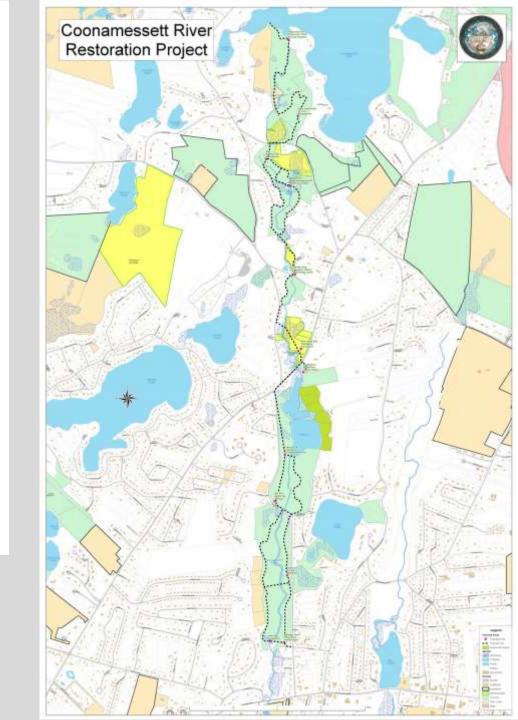
Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)

\*Most funds matched by in kind support of volunteers and Town of

**Falmouth** 



greenway: a corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use or environmental protection.



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## **CRT: River Characteristics** 1. Physical conditions flow temperature channel structure 2. Habitats aquatic, wetland structure 3. Biological diversity and function herring count herring tagging plant diversity and cover

#### **Timeline**

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#### PROJECT GOALS

- To establish a healthy, self-sustaining river and wetland ecosystem that supports fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife
- To increase coastal resiliency by removing blockages and creating connectivity of floodplain
- To increase recreational and educational opportunities for people of all ages to discover the environmental, land use, and cultural history surrounding the Coonamessett River

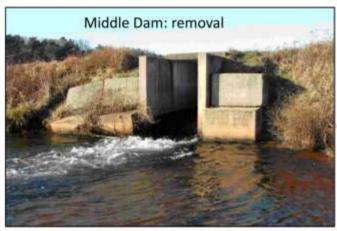
#### **Stressors**

- Compromised river channel (straight, wide, sandy bottom with no structure, no shade)
- Poor habitat for reproduction (blueback herring, trout)
- Poor habitat for successful migration (predation pressure)
- Temperature
- Filled in wetlands (100+ years of sand)
- Blockages to floodplain connectivity and migration

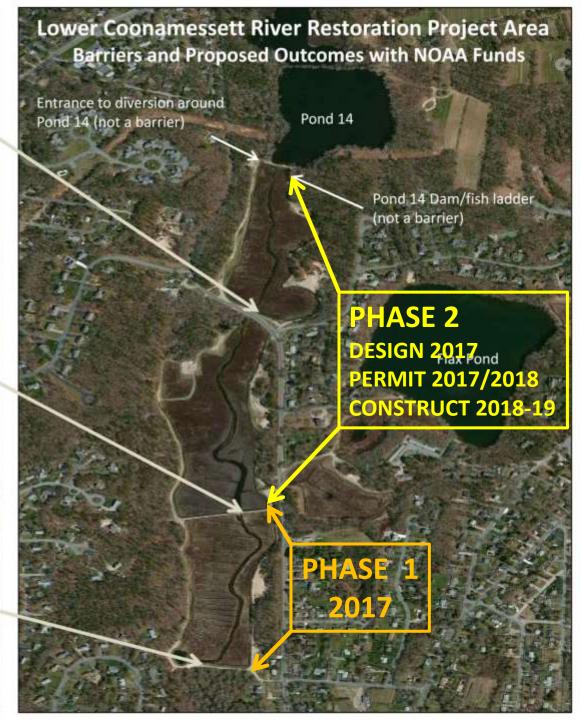


John Parker Road Culvert: design and permitting to replace with a bridge or similar





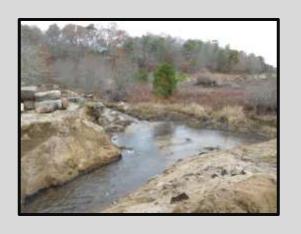




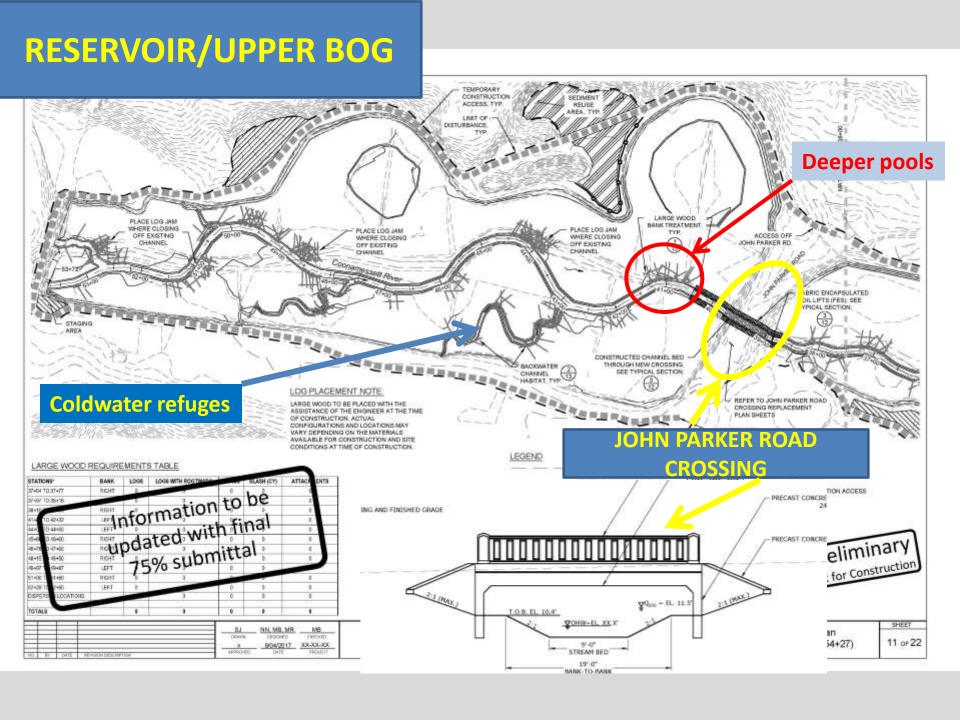
#### **Restoration Actions**

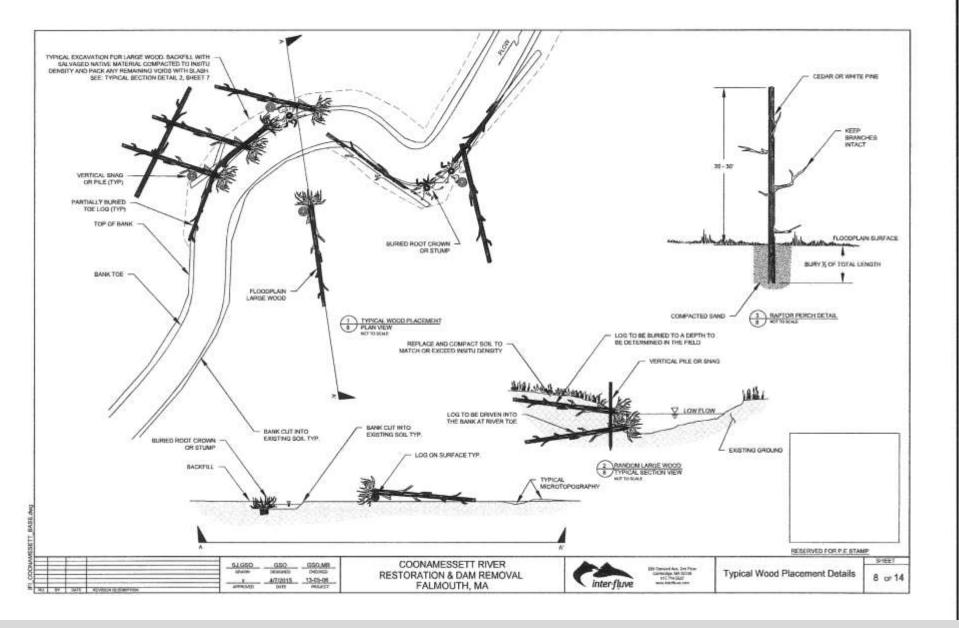


- Remove accumulated sand
- Add LWD:
  - -more sinuous: more rapid flow
  - -Curves provide overhangs for shelter
- Add buffer plantings
- Tie into cold water springs
- Remove barriers to floodplain continuity (along length; accessing side springs and seeps)
  - 1. Remove dams (lower, middle)
  - 2. Replace deteriorating pipe culvert with MA approved stream crossing Culvert at John Parker Road



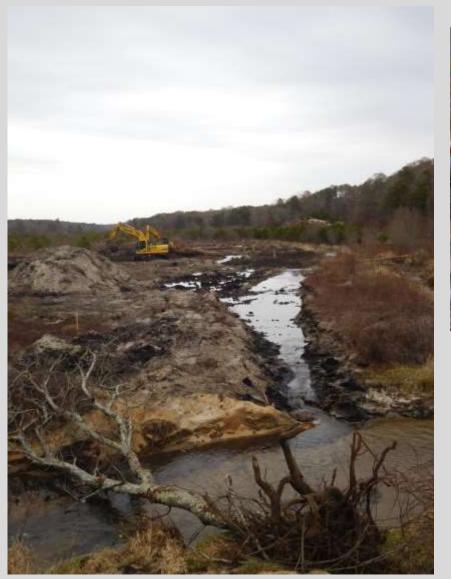






	Phase 1: Removal of Lower Dam and restoration of lower 1600 linear feet and 17 acres	Phase 2: Removal of Middle Dam, restoration of 3000 linear feet and 39 acres; replacement of John Parker Road culvert
MA Policy Act Record of Decision	Received	Intend to apply 11/17
Restoration Order of Conditions	Received	Intend to apply 1/18
Chapter 91 dredge license (MA DEP)	Received	Intend to apply 1/18
401 Water Quality Certificate	Received	Intend to apply 1/18
Section 106 Compliance	MOA between Mass Historical Commission and NOAA	Begin coordination 10/17
Army Corps 404	Received	Intend to apply 6/18
Ch 85 MA DOT	N/A	Pre-application coordination 9/17

#### November 29, 2017





It's not going to look so pretty at first...

But it won't be long before plants are re-established and begin to thrive



#### **BEFORE**



# **Eel River Plymouth**

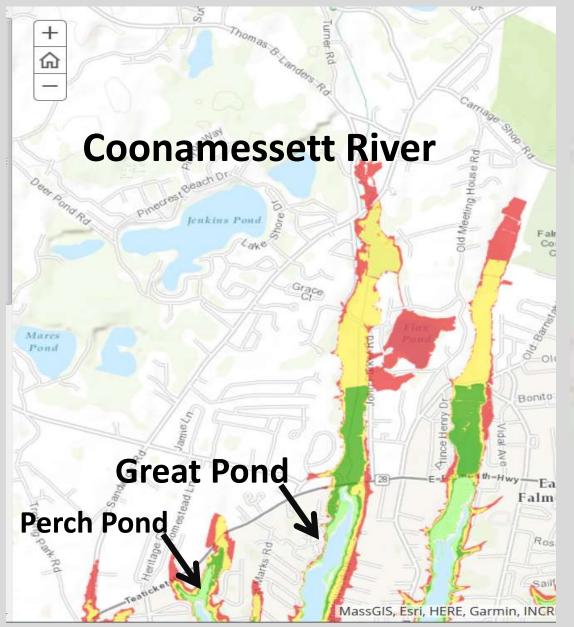
AFTER
3 YEARS POST RESTORATION



#### **Anticipated Benefits**

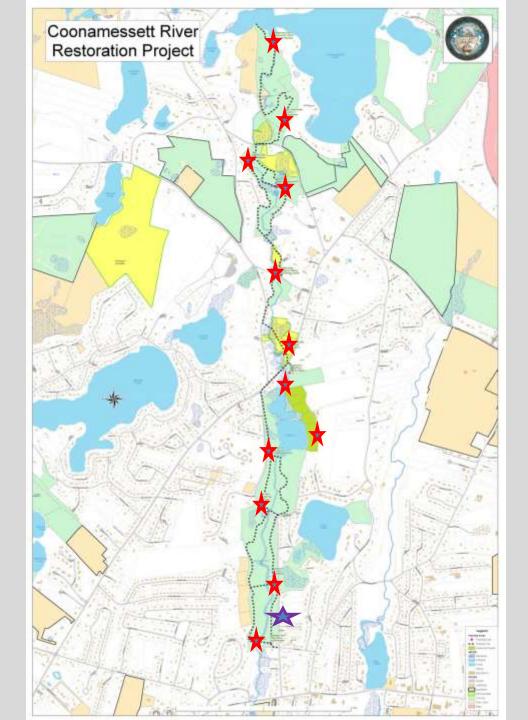
- Fish access to 2.2 miles of free-flowing river and 158 acres of spawning habitat in Coonamessett Pond, and restored river channel to improve habitat for other aquatic life (turtles, frogs, insects, etc.)
- Enhanced coastal resiliency (flood storage, nutrient reduction, rapid recovery after disturbances) by virtue of restoring floodplain connectivity and wetland biodiversity (58 acres of bog restored to natural wetland)
- Improved access for recreation (walking, birdwatching, wildlife observation) and New opportunities to learn about the river's environmental, industrial, and cultural history

### **Coastal Storm Flood Surge**



#### **Hurricane Surge Scenarios**

- Category 1
- Category 2
  - Category 3
- Category 4



# Coonamessett Greenway Heritage Trail

3.5 long, multiple loops

# Wetlands of the COONAMESSETT RIVER LAND USE CHANGE THROUGH TIME

Late 1600s-late 1800s **Late 1800s-early 2000s Industry Agriculture** Millponds/mills Rewilding **Pre-contact** wetlands **Period** Sandwich Ro John Parker Rd **3 YR POST RESTORATION Eel River, Plymouth Rte 28** 1893

#### The Town of Falmouth thanks the partners and supporters of the

#### Coonamessett River Restoration Project



#### **RESTORATION CENTER**

















Division of

Ecological Restoration









Design Engineer





Contractor

TOWN OF FALMOUTH
State representatives, Selectmen, Town Manger, Asst. Town Manager
DPW, Conservation, CRT









Paint a herring

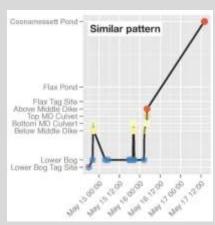
Field Trip



**Make Mural** 

FALMOUTH 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders study herring migrations







**Adopt a Herring** 

