

**Cuttyhunk  
Forever**  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT





**FROM TOP** Mark's son Misha explores the shallows in pirate eelgrass headband; Laura's daughter Katherine and sons Ben and Patrick taking in just some of the ways the Bay contributes to all of our lives.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR (and a few of the kids that inspire us)

Looking out from the hills that crown Cuttyhunk, you see dynamic beaches and coastal grasslands bordered by brilliant, blue waters in every direction. The wash of the tide and the call of birds blend with the breeze in a peaceful and soothing harmony. It is a magical place.

To visit Cuttyhunk is to fall in love with Buzzards Bay. The Coalition has long sought to protect the island—for habitat, for clean water, and for its unique power to inspire people to protect the Bay. This year, thanks to the generosity and commitment of so many, we placed 68 acres of land under permanent protection, the first phase in preserving the remaining undeveloped property on the island.

The protection of Cuttyhunk is the realization of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We seek to capitalize on every opening to better protect the Bay, and in 2020, we made significant progress, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic that has impacted us all.

On the water, we reached a major milestone in our efforts to address the largest source of nitrogen pollution to our Bay—septic systems. In West Falmouth, we completed a multi-year effort to install 30 nitrogen-reducing septic systems, demonstrating the effectiveness of these systems in limiting pollution to the Bay (p. 6). We also began work in Fairhaven and Dartmouth testing a method to halt the decline of salt marshes, which are critical for habitat, clean water, and protection against storms and sea-level rise (p. 7).

In the watershed, we placed hundreds of acres of woods, wetlands, and marsh under permanent protection, preserving lands that harbor diverse plants and animals, filter water flowing to the Bay, and ensuring public access for the enjoyment of nature (p. 9-10).

And in a year when so many activities were shut down, we were able to introduce children, adults, and families to the pleasures of on-the-water fun at the Onset Bay Center (p. 13) and provide the tools for them to get outside through the Discover Buzzards Bay website (p. 14).

These accomplishments for clean water—achieved during a year of unprecedented challenges—could only take place through your generous support and interest. Thank you!

Mark Rasmussen  
President / Buzzards Baykeeper®

Laura Ryan Shachoy  
Chair, Board of Directors



**COVER PHOTO** Evan Kay,  
Climb High Productions

## LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION RENEWS COALITION

The Buzzards Bay Coalition has been again identified as one of the nation's top conservation organizations by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The commission renewed its 2014 land trust accreditation of the Coalition, culminating a yearlong review of the organization's practices. Of the more than 1,300 land trusts in the U.S., only 400 have received accreditation. The accreditation process involves a review of the Coalition's policies and processes to ensure that conservation land remains forever protected, as well as an in-depth, third-party evaluation of its governance, financial, and legal practices.

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## Bay Giants Lost in 2020

Buzzards Bay lost two of its strongest defenders in 2020, and the Coalition lost very dear friends who helped to build our organization over two decades.

The longest-serving board member of the Buzzards Bay Coalition and a past Board Chair, Tom Gidwitz brought great energy, enthusiasm, and a wealth of ideas and good humor to advancing the organization's mission of protecting the Bay and its watershed.

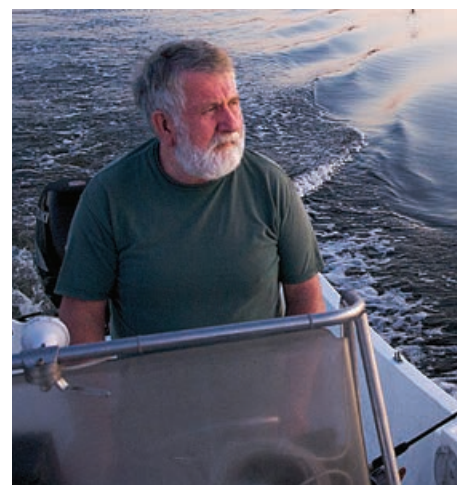
A science writer and editor who worked successfully in every format from books and magazines to film, Tom focused his creativity on promoting conservation. For many years, he was the editor of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's *Currents* and a staff writer at *Archaeology* magazine. He was a founding organizer of the New Bedford Science Café, produced three years of the Buzzards Bay Film Festival, and so much more. He was presented with the Bay Guardian Award in recognition of his efforts.

A lifelong commercial fisherman, Jack Reynolds loved the sea and the watershed, and it fueled his efforts to protect Buzzards Bay from pollution. He served as president of the Westport Fishermen's Association for 35 years, as a member of the Westport Conservation Commission, and a board member of the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

Jack's devotion to the health of the Westport River and the Bay led the Association to partner with the Coalition to bring an end to the largest source of pollution to the river. To ensure continuing advocacy for clean water, he led the Association's merger with the Coalition a decade later. He was honored as a Bay Guardian for his integrity, commitment, and ever-watchful eye.



**TOM GIDWITZ**



**JACK REYNOLDS**



# Preserving the magic of Cuttyhunk

**THE PROTECTION OF CUTTYHUNK ISLAND** exemplifies what can be accomplished through perseverance and collaboration.

For years, the Buzzards Bay Coalition kept an eye out for an opportunity to preserve these uniquely valuable lands. When the moment arose, the Coalition brought together the Town of Gosnold, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bouchard 120 Oil Spill Natural Resources Damages Trustee Council and 198 private donors to act.

The result: a \$6.1 million acquisition of 68 acres on the island, much of which had been placed on the market for potential development. Dramatic barrier beaches, coastal marsh, upland shrub and grassland habitats, and the incredible 360-degree views from the tops of the island's hills will now remain forever protected.

The related donation of a conservation restriction on a separate 230-acre property on the island's west end will protect more than 5 miles of coastline—nearly all of the island's remaining large developable property.

The Coalition now looks forward to opening its new reserve lands to the public with improvements to the existing trail network on the island as well as signage and other amenities that will make it easier for visitors and residents to fully enjoy these newly protected areas.



**ABOVE** Church's Beach was secured for the Town of Gosnold as the Town Beach.

**LEFT** The Coalition's new Canapitsit Reserve (photo: Evan Kay, Climb High Productions)

# ON THE WATER

**WE ALL SHARE THE SAME VISION FOR BUZZARDS BAY: A SCENIC SHORELINE WITH** safe swimming beaches, clean shellfish beds filled with quahogs, and healthy waters where fish and wildlife thrive. Our Bay is resilient; with sound science, the right laws, and proper enforcement, it can bounce back from the harmful effects of pollution.

Through science and advocacy, the Coalition is leading the way to protect and restore our local waterways for fish, shellfish, wildlife, and most importantly, people like you.



## CHALLENGE

The most serious and difficult challenge facing the Bay is nitrogen pollution: the vast majority of which leaches from our home septic systems and underperforming sewer plants into sensitive harbors and coves. The Bay is also threatened by bacterial contamination, oil spills, toxic pollution, and increasingly by climate change.

## STRATEGY

For more than 28 years, the Coalition has kept a watchful eye on the Bay's health through our nationally recognized Baywatchers monitoring program. But we don't just study the Bay; we put this science to work. Sound science forms the foundation of all of our advocacy efforts to restore and protect clean water.

## RESULTS

We pursue Bay restoration and protection at all levels of government—local, state, and federal—and in court when necessary. Through strong advocacy, we're securing limits on nitrogen pollution, working with towns to update wastewater treatment, and always defending laws to make the Bay safer from oil spills.

# It takes a community to monitor the Bay

## THE BAYWATCHERS PROGRAM FINISHED ITS 29TH YEAR THANKS TO A LOT OF HELP FROM FRIENDS

It's hard to overstate the importance of the Baywatchers water quality monitoring program. The data that has been collected over the past 29 years provides a comprehensive record of the health of Buzzards Bay that federal, state and local officials rely upon when setting policy, enforcing environmental laws, and funding cleanup projects. It also powers the Coalition's advocacy for clean water.

This long-running project relies on a whole community of people—more than 160 trained volunteers; partnerships with other organizations, such as the Martha's Vineyard Commission; and the expertise of scientists at the Woodwell Climate Research Center and the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, which processes the hundreds of samples collected for nutrient analysis every few weeks during the monitoring season.

This year, the pandemic put the entire effort to a new test. Our community rose to the challenge—from volunteers who incorporated social distancing

into their monitoring work to the folks at MBL who implemented new sanitation procedures and moved to a larger lab to ensure that the work could go on safely.

The entire season was completed without a hitch, and the forecast for 2021 looks promising. In December, the Massachusetts State Legislature approved \$50,000 for this work to continue in 2021. Special thanks to Senators Mark Montigny, Michael Rodrigues, Susan Moran and Representative Antonio Cabral.

*“The Coalition’s monitoring has produced a remarkable thirty-year data set that shows how water quality in our local estuaries has changed over time. These long-term data sets are key to understanding if management actions are accomplishing their goals.”*

**Anne Giblin, Senior Scientist at MBL’s Ecosystems Center**

### UP CLOSE: BAY DATA ENTERS ACADEMIC REALM



The nearly 30 years of data collected through the Coalition's Baywatchers program contains a wealth of information for researchers, policymakers and officials well beyond our region. In recognition of its significance, the journal *Scientific Data* will publish the dataset along with a paper describing the data, how it has been collected and validated, and where it can be accessed.

Publication of the data, which has been publicly available upon request, will bring the work to a wider audience, and ensure that it can be easily found by researchers and students working on data analysis and modeling projects. Ultimately this could result in new insights into the health of the Bay and the factors that influence it.

**OPPOSITE** Baywatcher Earl Deagle analyzes samples taken from the Broadmarsh River in Wareham.

In 2020, we continued our ongoing fight against nitrogen pollution in Buzzards Bay, defended the Bay against threats and worked to prevent new sources of pollution from fouling our waters. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to protect clean water through science and advocacy at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org).



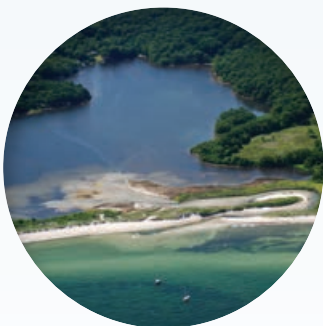
### Coalition continues focus on cleaning up West Falmouth Harbor

This summer, the Buzzards Bay Coalition completed installation of 30 nitrogen-reducing septic systems on properties surrounding West Falmouth Harbor, and it launched a new effort to replace boat moorings that damage the estuary's eelgrass and re-suspend nitrogen pollution into the water. The harbor has long struggled with nitrogen pollution from septic systems and a municipal sewer plant. Initial monitoring shows that the new septic systems collectively remove more than 70 percent of the nitrogen that previously would have flowed into the harbor.



### Boards of Health taking the lead on reducing nitrogen pollution from septic systems

Working closely with Coalition staff, Marion and Westport joined the small but growing number of municipalities that require new construction to use nitrogen-reducing septic systems. Traditional Title V septic systems do not remove nitrogen, and they are the single largest source of nitrogen pollution threatening the Bay. Wareham and Tisbury already have similar requirements in place.



### Partnering with local property owners to find solutions for James Pond

Four years of data collected by the Coalition and the Martha's Vineyard Commission document a downward trend in the health of West Tisbury's James Pond, but help is on the way. The Coalition has partnered with local residents to identify a sustainable way to stabilize the pond's sole inlet at Lambert Cove, allowing adequate flushing (and therefore good water quality) in the pond. It's a challenge facing salt ponds throughout the Bay and the Sound.



### Permit appeals filed to advance cleanup of Phinneys and Wild Harbors

The Coalition took action to compel the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to require that groundwater discharges of wastewater comply with nitrogen cleanup plans. Permits issued in 2020 for the Villages at Brookside in Bourne and the New Silver Wastewater Treatment Plant in North Falmouth did not require nitrogen reductions needed to restore water quality in Phinneys and Wild harbors. These administrative appeals continue into 2021.



**ON THE WATER** | *Looking Ahead*

## Racing against the rising tide to save Bay salt marshes

**THE COALITION WORKS TO ADDRESS THE RAPID DECLINE OF SALT MARSH HABITAT AROUND THE BAY**

The Coalition's science team is collecting the first round of data from a three-year effort to assess a restoration technique for threatened salt marshes.

The effort could reverse losses in some marshes threatened by interior “die back areas”—places where increasing, climate change-driven high tides are leaving more water stranded on the marsh, killing marsh plants that are adapted to dry conditions at low tide. Over time, these areas expand, attacking the marsh from within.

The restoration technique being tested to combat die back areas is known as runnelling, a process in which shallow channels are dug in the marsh to aid the natural tidal flow and drain impounded water.

In 2020, two pilot sites were established to document the success of the approach at Little Bay in Fairhaven and Ocean View Farm on Allen's Pond in Dartmouth.



*“The salt marsh here at Ocean View Farm is home to several rare and endangered species. Seeing die back in the marsh is concerning, especially for the wildlife that depend on it for nesting, feeding, and shelter. We are excited to work with the Coalition and all of the project partners to try and restore the health of the marsh not only for the wildlife, but also so that other marshes may benefit from our learning.”*

**Linda Vanderveer, Land Manager for the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust**

**INSET** Photo courtesy of Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust

# IN THE WATERSHED

**WATERSHED PROTECTION IS ABOUT CONSERVING ALL OF THE PARTS OF THE** Buzzards Bay ecosystem—forests, wetlands, rivers, streams, and groundwater, as well as harbors and coves. These critical areas provide important habitats, protect our drinking water sources, and act as natural filters for the Bay.

Through watershed protection, the Coalition safeguards the region’s forests, streams, and wetlands, and it works to restore damaged areas so the Bay ecosystem can thrive.



## CHALLENGE

Nearly half of the land in the 432-square-mile Buzzards Bay watershed is undeveloped and unprotected. The fate of these lands is fundamental to our efforts to protect clean water. Without saving the most important forests, streams, and wetlands from poorly planned development, the Bay cannot survive.

## STRATEGY

We pursue a Bay-focused land protection strategy to conserve the watershed’s most vulnerable forests and streams—natural areas that the Bay cannot afford to lose. We also restore damaged rivers, wetlands, and streambanks and help towns and land trusts preserve land in every corner of our region.

## RESULTS

The Coalition manages the largest land conservation program in southeastern Massachusetts. Since 1998, we’ve protected nearly 9,000 acres throughout the Buzzards Bay watershed. We’re also restoring damaged streams, rebuilding wetlands, and creating better access for people to explore the outdoors in their community.

# Saving the places where we celebrate the Bay

## FAIRHAVEN LAND ACQUISITION PROTECTS BELOVED FORT PHOENIX WOODS AND PRESERVES SPACE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

The Buzzards Bay Coalition, working with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has preserved woodlands on the northern border of the Fort Phoenix State Reservation in Fairhaven—one of the Bay’s most popular waterfront parks.

The Coalition worked for more than a decade to negotiate the addition of these lands out of recognition of the public importance of the state reservation. Fort Phoenix contains a beloved beach and park. It also serves as the finish location for the Coalition’s annual Buzzards Bay Swim.

Forming a buffer against encroachment, the newly preserved woodlands that border the state reservation have long been used by the community as an extension of the state reservation. Trails that run through the woodlands, from Doane Street to the state reservation, are heavily used by local residents. However, before the purchase, the woods were owned by the utility company Eversource Energy, which worked with the Coalition and the state to realize the sale of the land. The property could have been developed into house lots.

*“This small patch of woods and wetlands at Fort Phoenix is where I first found joy and wonder in nature thanks to an extraordinary teacher, Mrs. Darwin, who used to bring our class there. Research shows that the key indicators to becoming a steward of the Earth is repeated, authentic access to nature at a young age and access to mentors. For years folks have asked me, ‘Why do you do what you do?’ and I always say it’s because of this place and Ms. Darwin. And now the Buzzards Bay Coalition has ensured that generations to come will have the same opportunities there.”*

*Keith Desrosiers, a Fairhaven native, is Executive Director of Thorne Nature Experience in Colorado, a national leader in joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences that foster an emotional connection to nature.*

### UP CLOSE: A SWIM WITH IMPACT AND HISTORY



The event began with one idea: swim 1.2 miles across New Bedford Harbor to make a statement about clean water and generate support for its protection. The event drew 17 people who raised \$2,000—and started a tradition.

Today, the Buzzards Bay Swim is a summer staple that draws more than 300 participants to celebrate the Bay. And over the past 27 years, they have raised more than \$1 million to protect its waters and the land that surrounds it. This year’s event is slated to take place on June 26, 2021, albeit with a limited field to ensure safety for participants, volunteers, and staff.

## IN THE WATERSHED | *Highlights of 2020*

In 2020, we actively pursued new opportunities to protect and restore the Bay's most important forests, streams, and wetlands – the natural filters that support clean water. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to conserve land and restore damaged natural areas at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org).



### Saving land up where the Bay's rivers begin

A 221-acre parcel of forest and wetlands that sits at the headwaters of the Sippican River in Rochester is now permanently protected by the Coalition, preserving critical habitat for wildlife and public access. The property occupies a strategic location. The woods and the wetlands filter groundwater that refreshes local aquifers tapped by homeowners' wells and eventually flows to the Bay.



### Collaboration saves Aucoot woodlands in Marion

A 33-acre stretch of forest will be permanently protected thanks to collaboration with the Sippican Lands Trust (SLT), the Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission, and private donors. The parcel extends from Route 6 north and creates a new "front door" to more than 700 acres of existing conservation lands, enhancing public access and protecting habitat. The Coalition used its Bay Lands Revolving Fund to quickly get the property off the real estate market, giving the SLT and the town the time they needed to raise the funds for the purchase.



### Saving Eva's Garden and surrounding woodlands in South Dartmouth

The Coalition secured permanent protection for Eva's Garden, a pioneering organic farm on Jordan Road. The 23-acre conservation restriction fills an important gap in the network of protected land surrounding Allen's Pond—one of the Bay's most sensitive and biologically-important salt ponds.



### Important Westport coldwater trout streams protected

The Coalition completed the permanent protection of two more properties in Westport—purchasing a 50-acre parcel to protect more than half of the watershed to Lyons Brook and recording a conservation restriction on a 25-acre private property along lower Angeline Brook. The action protects Westport's unique and threatened coldwater streams and preserves habitat for rare, sea-run Eastern Brook Trout.



**IN THE WATERSHED** | *Looking Ahead*

## Re-opening a river

**WEWEANTIC RIVER RESERVE WILL FORMALLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOLLOWING MAJOR RESTORATION EFFORT**

One year later, it is hard to believe that a dam halted the Weweantic River at Horseshoe Mill in West Wareham. Where a small impoundment pond sat for centuries, the river and all the fish that depend upon it now flow onward to the Bay, some three miles further downstream. And nature—with help from our restoration team—is flourishing along re-established riverbanks.

This spring, the reserve will re-open to the public, featuring a trail network, newly installed canoe launches, interpretive signs that cover the site's natural and human history, and an improved and expanded parking lot.



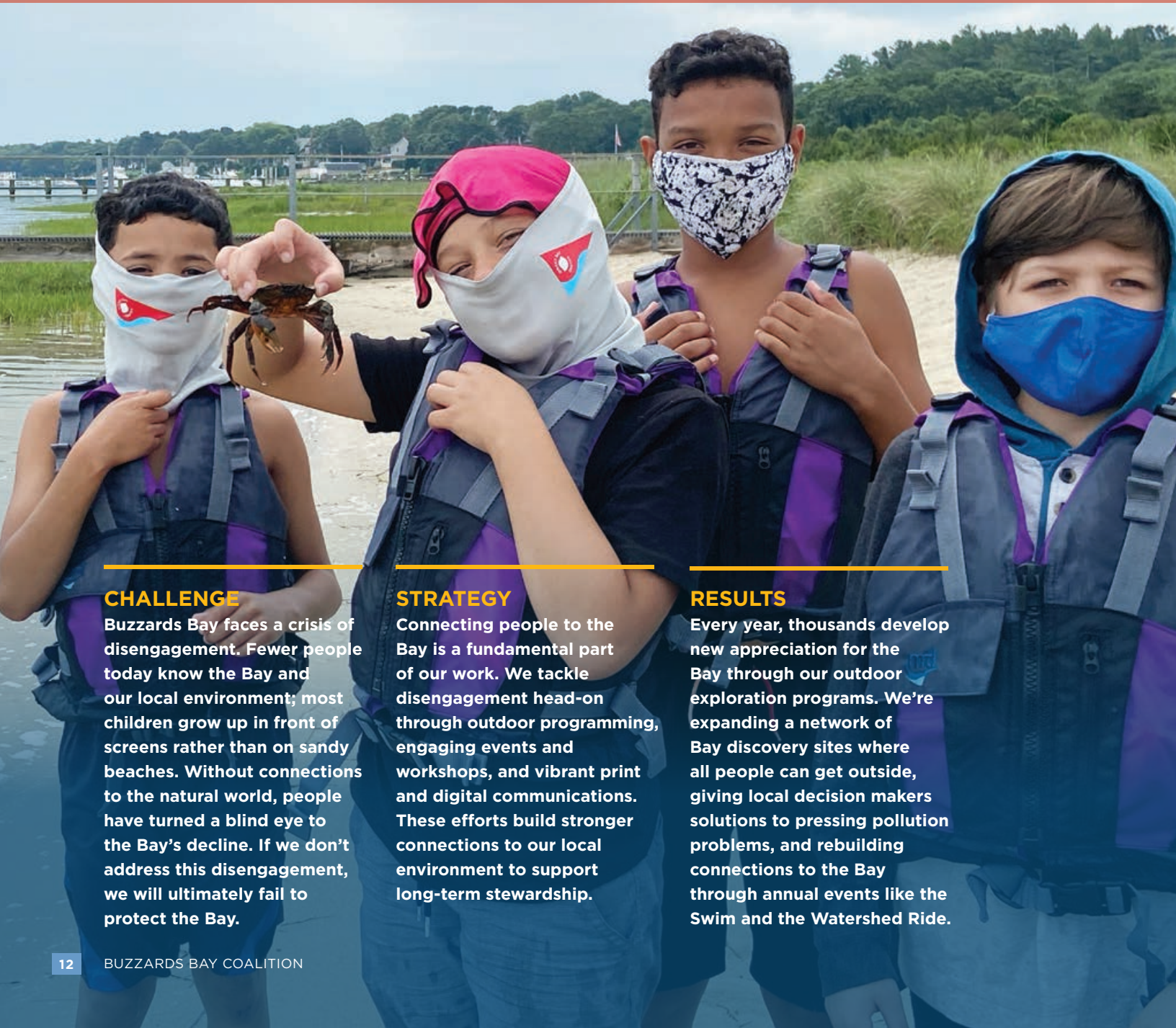
*The construction equipment may be gone, but the restoration work will continue for the next five years, in the form of field monitoring designed to assess the impact of the effort. The work involves tracking the improving water quality and conditions of the restored river channel, vegetation changes, and the success of spawning fish during the spring migration.*

**ABOVE** *The Weweantic River twists and turns on its way to Buzzards Bay, now flowing freely through Horseshoe Mill.*

## WITH PEOPLE

**THE KEY TO A CLEAN, HEALTHY BUZZARDS BAY IS AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY THAT** understands the threats the Bay faces and their role in protecting it. The long-term health of our local environment depends upon people knowing, loving and valuing the Bay as important to their lives.

Through community engagement, the Coalition is creating a new generation of Bay stewards: people who understand their place in the Bay ecosystem and will support its protection for decades to come.



### CHALLENGE

Buzzards Bay faces a crisis of disengagement. Fewer people today know the Bay and our local environment; most children grow up in front of screens rather than on sandy beaches. Without connections to the natural world, people have turned a blind eye to the Bay's decline. If we don't address this disengagement, we will ultimately fail to protect the Bay.

### STRATEGY

Connecting people to the Bay is a fundamental part of our work. We tackle disengagement head-on through outdoor programming, engaging events and workshops, and vibrant print and digital communications. These efforts build stronger connections to our local environment to support long-term stewardship.

### RESULTS

Every year, thousands develop new appreciation for the Bay through our outdoor exploration programs. We're expanding a network of Bay discovery sites where all people can get outside, giving local decision makers solutions to pressing pollution problems, and rebuilding connections to the Bay through annual events like the Swim and the Watershed Ride.

# Onset Bay more open than ever despite pandemic year

## THE ONSET BAY CENTER CONNECTS PEOPLE TO THE WONDERS OF THE BAY

Over the course of the summer and throughout the fall, the Coalition served hundreds of children and adults with a vibrant array of programs at the Onset Bay Center, anchored by the newly renovated Onset Bathhouse that serves as its headquarters.

The 18-month, \$3.2 million renovation of the bathhouse was completed in June, and we immediately began running outdoor programs at the Onset Bay Center—paddling, shellfishing, rowing, yoga sessions on the beach and on Wickets Island, and shoreline ecology programs. The response from the community has been enthusiastic, and the Center has strengthened its partnerships with local organizations, such as the Wareham Boys and Girls Club and Wareham Public Schools.

The pandemic may have forced us to change some of our plans, such as offering sailing instruction in 2020, but the creativity of our staff more than demonstrated the impact that we can have

in introducing Bay adventures to more people. Already, plans are underway for the summer at Onset Bay Center, where we can draw on a complex of scenic, diverse protected lands at Wickets Island, Burgess Point, and Shell Point marshes for the center's on-the-water programming.



*A participant from the Wareham Boys and Girls Club gets a refresher on paddling before heading out on an adventure to Wickets Island.*

### UP CLOSE: POLISHING THE GEM AT THE CENTER OF ONSET BAY



Wickets Island is the centerpiece of Onset Bay. Its 40-foot-high bluff and sandy shores beckon as a destination for paddlers and boaters. This year, the Coalition dramatically improved access to this jewel of the bay with the replacement of a crumbling staircase ascending the bluff from the island's northwestern shore. Other improvements included additional work on a grassy picnic area at the top of the bluff and the addition of a trail from the hill down to the rocky southern shore of the island.

Those improvements made it possible to bring children and adults participating in Onset Bay Center programs to visit—explore its shores, climb to the top of the bluff, and enjoy spectacular views of Onset Bay and the entrance to the Cape Cod Canal. Additional improvements planned for the future, including the reconstruction of the old stone pier, will further enhance public access to Wickets.

**OPPOSITE** *The Onset Bay Center's on-the-water activities include time for exploring the shore and the animals and plants that live there.*

Throughout 2020, people like you took action to protect clean water and support the Coalition's work in communities throughout our region. You can learn more about all our opportunities to swim, ride, volunteer, or attend an event at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org).



### Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride rolls on

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, cyclists pedaled from Sakonnet Point to Fort Taber in New Bedford to show their support for clean water on a beautiful fall day in early October. The 14th annual Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride brought 291 registered participants and 58 volunteers together to raise more than \$215,000 to protect Buzzards Bay. Register for the 2021 Ride on Sunday, Oct. 3 at [savebuzzardsbay.org/ride](http://savebuzzardsbay.org/ride).



### Now, more than 270 places to explore

The Discover Buzzards Bay website reached a new milestone in 2020: featuring 270 Places to Go in the region. This online tool not only contains information on hundreds of beautiful outdoor spaces from Sakonnet Point and Westport to Woods Hole and Martha's Vineyard, but also features ideas on ways to have fun in the great outdoors. Check it out at [discoverbuzzardsbay.org](http://discoverbuzzardsbay.org).



### Finding ways to be together, at a distance

The Bay Adventures program looked a little different this year, but still it continued and connected hundreds of people with the outdoors, spanning a broad range of interests—meditation and mindfulness, trail running and cycling, bird-watching and fishing, photography and painting.



### Growing community at The Sawmill

Apple trees and blueberry and raspberry bushes are growing at The Sawmill in Acushnet, the first plants in what is slated to be a community garden. The garden is located on land that was purchased through partnership with the City of New Bedford Community Preservation Committee. The project also included expanding parking, kayak spaces, and enhanced handicap access to the Coalition's most popular reserve.



**WITH PEOPLE** | *Looking Ahead*

## Working together to address shared problems

### THE UPPER BAY WASTEWATER PROJECT ENTERS A NEW PHASE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The towns of upper Buzzards Bay share a common problem: the need to expand and improve their ability to treat wastewater. Fortunately, there is a solution: the Upper Bay Wastewater Project, which has the potential to dramatically reduce nitrogen pollution and help to protect and improve the quality of the coastal environment that we cherish.

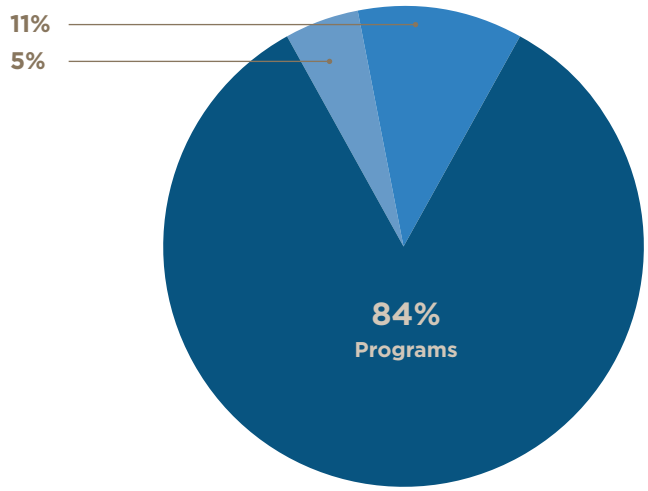
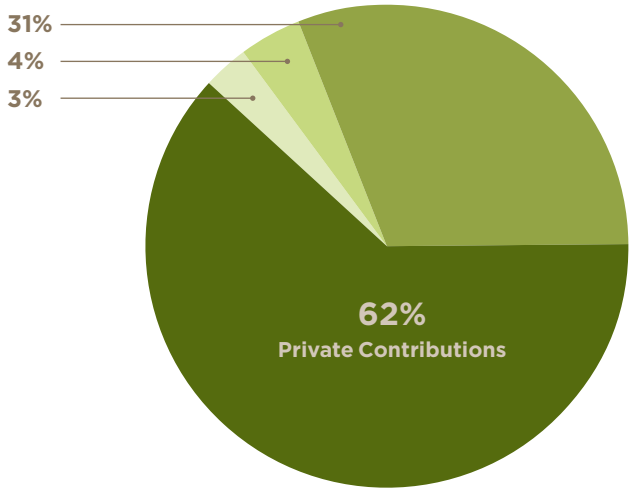
Over the past five years, we've worked with scientists; engineers; municipal officials in Bourne, Marion, Plymouth, and Wareham; and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy to envision an effective and cost-effective solution that could provide excellent water treatment, support economic development, and reduce municipal costs. This year, the conversation will expand to engage local residents in advancing a regional solution. Learn more at [savebuzzardsbay.org/upper-bay-project](https://savebuzzardsbay.org/upper-bay-project).

*“Although much work has to be done to understand the far-reaching implications of the project, MMA has been enthusiastic about the potential of the Upper Bay regional wastewater idea from the beginning. The project hits on three important priorities for us: doing what we can to protect our coastal waters, planning for the long term sustainability of our campus, and supporting economic development in the town of Bourne. We look forward to seeing the idea fully evaluated and considered in the year ahead.”*

*Rear Admiral Francis X. McDonald, President,  
Massachusetts Maritime Academy*

**ABOVE** Gray Gables Beach in Bourne offers a peaceful place to relax and play at the mouth of the Cape Cod Canal.

**FISCAL YEAR 2020**    October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020



**REVENUE**

Grants and Contributions	5,520,852
Government Grants*	2,729,130
Investment and Other Income	386,670
Events	286,051
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>8,922,703</b>

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

Program Services	6,702,511
Fundraising	841,792
Administration	397,114
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,941,417</b>

**NET ASSETS**

Beginning	26,916,255
Increase in Net Assets	981,286
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	<b>27,897,541</b>

**TREASURER’S REPORT:  
RUSSELL KEELER**



In a year of real challenges for all of us, I’m proud to report that the Buzzards Bay Coalition continues to operate from a position of financial strength and make a profound impact on our community. The Coalition’s fiscal health and its organizational impact are a direct outgrowth of the steadfast support of members like you. The Board of Directors and I remain focused on ensuring that your contributions for clean water and protected watershed lands will be used wisely for the benefit of Buzzards Bay.

This year, the Coalition realized a nearly \$1 million increase in net assets, which reflects the ongoing progress of our Buzzards Bay Generations Capital Campaign. In 2020, campaign gifts and government grants\* made possible the acquisition of 68 acres on Cuttyhunk, a once-in-a-generation opportunity, as well as other land conservation and restoration projects.

The FY2020 Financial Statements were audited by the firm of Alexander Aronson Finning CPAs, Westborough, MA and are available upon request.



Dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed. We work to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy.

## OUR VISION

- A Bay shoreline defined by safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds, and stretches of scenic natural areas for all to enjoy.
- Healthy waters that support abundant fish, shellfish, and wildlife populations.
- A Bay safe from the threats of oil spills, industrial and sewer discharges, and ocean dumping.
- A watershed where rivers, streams, inland forests, and wetlands that buffer the Bay are protected.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Ryan Shachoy, Esq., *Chair*  
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Sam P. Gray, *Vice-Chair*  
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Skylah Reis  
Christian Schade  
Stephen Smith  
Hilary L. Vineyard

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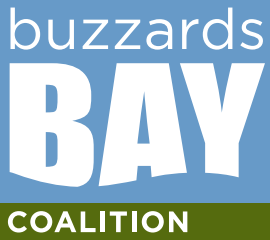
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The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a membership-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works throughout the Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound watersheds to protect and restore coastal, river, and drinking water quality and the upland forests, wetlands, and streams that support a healthy ecosystem.

[www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org)



#savebuzzardsbay