



10-2004

## Freshwater Wetlands Inventory Outreach Activities for the Freshwater Wetland Mitigation Inventory of Nineteen Coastal Communities Report

New Hampshire Estuaries Project

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FRESHWATER WETLANDS INVENTORY  
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES  
For the  
FRESHWATER WETLAND MITIGATION INVENTORY  
FOR NINETEEN COASTAL COMMUNITIES  
Report

Prepared for:  
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Submitted by



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And



538 Central Avenue, Suite B  
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October 2004

This report was funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 320 of the Clean Water Act



## **Introduction**

As requested by the New Hampshire Office of Energy & Planning, this is a final report of all outreach activities for the Freshwater Wetlands Inventory conducted through 2003-2004 for the nineteen coastal communities of New Hampshire. This report includes all of the outreach activities that were conducted, the details and attendance of each presentation, and an example of the PowerPoint presentation shown at each meeting.

## **Outreach Activities**

West Environmental, Inc., in conjunction with Carex EcoSciences and the NH Estuaries Project, scheduled and presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Freshwater Wetland Mitigation Inventory for Nineteen Coastal Communities" to each of the nineteen town Conservation Commissions from 6/30/04 – 10/14/04. This presentation was customized for each town meeting to include two or three of the town's suggested mitigation sites with pictures and maps to illustrate the wetland's potential value and functions.

West Environmental, Inc. began by contacting each of the town Conservation Commissions either by phone, mail, or e-mail, requesting a specific presentation date. Once a presentation date was established and confirmed, the presenter was selected and the PowerPoint presentation was reviewed to include town specific information as noted above. At each Conservation Commission meeting, the presentation was shown and questions were answered. Two bound color copies of the Final Report were submitted to each town.

Also, Dave Kellum at the New Hampshire Estuaries Project created a press release summarizing the "Freshwater Wetland Mitigation Inventory for Nineteen Coastal Communities" written report. Using this press release and interviews with Mr. Kellum, Peter Britz and Mark West, Nancy Cicco of the Portsmouth Herald wrote a more detailed article on this project, which was published on October 26, 2004 (see attached article).

## Presentation Details

The following table details the date, number of attendees and presenter for each individual town presentation:

### Complete List of OSP Town Presentations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u># Attendees</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
06/30/04	Rockingham Planning - Rye	30	Lenny Lord
07/22/04	Newmarket	8	Mark West
08/19/04	Rye	10	Lenny Lord
08/24/04	Hampton	10	Mark West
09/01/04	Rochester	15	Lenny Lord
09/07/04	Greenland	8	Lorraine Neal
09/08/04	Somersworth	9	Lenny Lord
09/09/04	Durham	9	Lenny Lord
09/13/04	Dover	12	Lenny Lord
09/16/04	Rollinsford	5	Lenny Lord
09/20/04	Newfields	11	Mark West
09/22/04	Stratham	12	Mark West
09/23/04	Newington	14	Mark West
09/27/04	Madbury	7	Lenny Lord
10/05/04	New Castle	14	Lenny Lord
10/11/04	Seabrook	8	Mark West
10/12/04	North Hampton	7	Mark West
10/12/04	Exeter	9	Mark West
10/13/04	Portsmouth	15	Lenny Lord
10/14/04	Hampton Falls	<u>6</u>	Mark West
	Total # of Attendees:	<u><u>219</u></u>	

This concludes our report at this time. If you have any questions or would like further information, please call our office at (603) 659-0416. Thank you.

# FRESHWATER WETLAND MITIGATION INVENTORY FOR NINETEEN COASTAL COMMUNITIES

## Report Overview

Presented By

Mark C. West  
President, West Environmental, Inc.

# FRESHWATER WETLAND MITIGATION INVENTORY FOR NINETEEN COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Reports prepared by



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- Collectively Managed
- Directed by a Management Plan (2000)
- Produces State of the Estuaries Reports

## **WETLAND MITIGATION**

Creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands to compensate for the loss of wetland functions due to a development project.

## FRESHWATER WETLAND MITIGATION INVENTORY PROJECT

### Need:

- New mitigation rules
- History
- Planning

### Goal

Empower communities to protect and restore freshwater resources by providing them with data on potential mitigation sites.

### Study Area



## THREE OPTIONS

- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Creation
- Upland Buffer to Wetlands Preservation

## METHODOLOGIES

- Site Selection
- Field Evaluation



FRESHWATER WETLAND MITIGATION INVENTORY  
For  
NINETEEN COASTAL COMMUNITIES  
Town of North Hampton



A Final Report to  
The New Hampshire Estuaries Project

Submitted by

WEST  
2000 UNIVERSITY  
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Lak, NH 03051

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134 Canal Avenue, Suite B  
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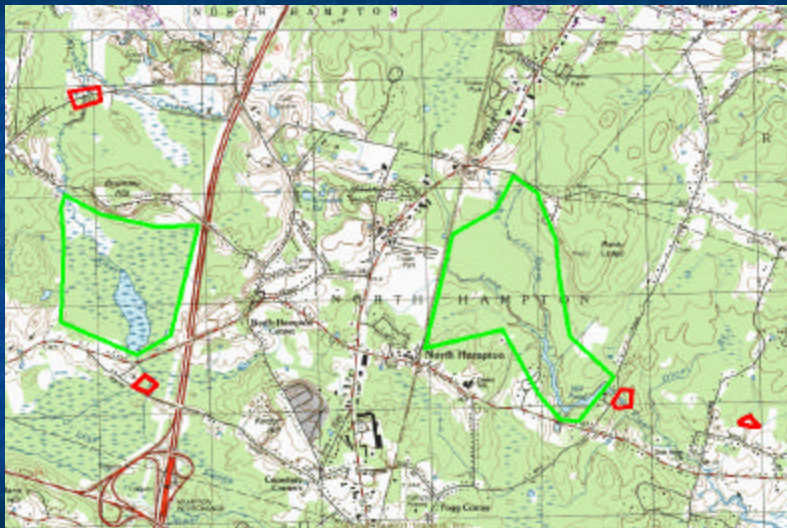
In Cooperation With  
NH  
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September 2003

This report was funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 103 of the Clean Water Act

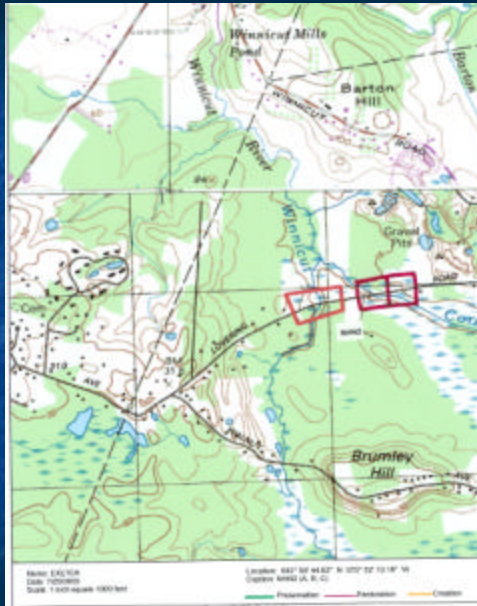


## Town Map: North Hampton, NH

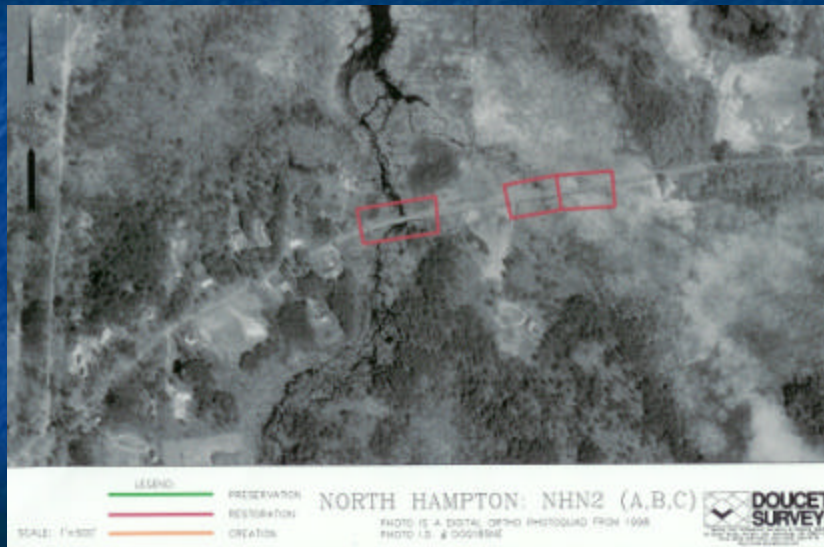




# Site Map: NHN2



# Ortho: NHN2



## Photos of Site: NHN2



NHN2- Photo A: This scrub-shrub wetland system is frequently flooded off Lovering Road to the north.

## Photos of Site: NHN2



NHN2- Photo B: Note this culvert in center of photo. Potential restoration site with culvert improvements.

## Photos of Site: NHN2



NHN2- Photo C: Nutrient attenuation/runoff from road.

## Photos of Site: NHN2



NHN2- Photo D: Wild turkey crossing Lovering Road in early spring.



Questions?

Site Map:  
NHN8



## Ortho: NHN8



## Photos of Site: NHN8



NHN8- Photo A: A section of the North Brook/Little Brook area watershed just north of North Road. This area includes predominantly an emergent marsh, but system includes many wetland types.



## Photos of Site: NHN8



NHN8- Photo B: The potential upland buffer includes a mature white pine and oak forest.

Questions?

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## Study identifies area wetlands, provides resource for preservation

By Nancy Cicco  
 ncicco@seacoastonline.com

PORTSMOUTH - A new study about the city's wetlands could help the Conservation Commission and other city planners preserve these areas for future generations.

The study, called the "Freshwater Wetland Mitigation Inventory," identifies nine areas in the city that would benefit from wetland restoration or creation, or upland protection.

Environmentalists hope the study will be a resource to the commission when members consider the impacts of proposed development within the city.

Developers whose projects impact wetlands need to get state and municipal approval to move forward with filling those wetlands, if in fact developers show that process is essential to the project.

If developers fill wetlands, they are required to replace the lost wetland area by creating or restoring another wetland of equal ecological value, or by protecting upland areas around a wetland, according to information from David Kellum, a principal planner with the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, which funded the study.

"Many times, a developer will suggest that a mitigation project be located on the



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building site, which often is not the best ecological 'bang for the buck,'" he said in a written statement. "This inventory provides the Conservation Commission with many mitigation options that an objective scientist has determined would help protect significant natural resources and thus benefit the entire community."

Peter Britz, the city's environmental planner, said on Wednesday city planners are "very strict" when it comes to allowing developers to fill wetlands.

"I strongly support not filling the wetlands unless there were a need for it," he said.

Not only do developers need permits to fill freshwater wetlands that are larger than a half-acre, they need the city's approval to fill within 100 feet of a wetland. When developers do move forward to fill and then "recreate" a filled wetland, the new survey will give them a reference guide to help them do that, he said.

Among the nine areas identified in the study are wetlands associated with Berry Brook and the Great Bog and wetlands in the area of Banfield and Ocean roads, Britz said.

The new survey augments work the city performed in 2002, when officials identified all of Portsmouth's wetlands, Britz said. Some of those same wetlands - in the Berry Brook area and the Great Bog, in particular - were singled out as potential "prime" wetlands, a designation Britz said he hopes city councilors will consider making in the coming year. Prime wetlands that may be so designated by the city council are ones that provide outstanding water quality and animal and plant habitats, among other characteristics, Britz said. The new study will also be a resource to city planners when they apply for grant funding to buy and restore wetlands, Britz said.

The study costs \$40,000, according to Mark West, of West Environmental in Lee, who helped compile the survey. Nineteen towns in the Seacoast were given town-specific study reports that identified six to 12 wetlands sites in each community that would benefit from restoration, creation or protection. Evaluations, photographs and maps about each of those sites are included in the report.

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