

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

Supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) has supported the mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since its inception in 2000. The goals of NOAA's Fisheries Service and Ocean Service are accomplished through partnership and collaboration with the Coastal America Corporate Partnership. CWRP appreciates the leadership of NOAA in the Coastal America Partnership and their willingness to enhance and further the CWRP mission. Coastal America serves NOAA by facilitating action and making projects come to life on the ground that accomplish NOAA's mission. Coastal America and the Corporate Partnership's broad mission goals to protect, preserve and restore America's coastal heritage complement many of NOAA's efforts and provide a valuable mechanism through which the agency's priorities can be affected. NOAA benefits from the partnership with Coastal America in many ways.

Peconic Fishway Project - Enhancing Fish Habitat

Coastal America and the CWRP have helped NOAA achieve its vision to "... conserve, protect, and manage living marine resources in a way that ensures their continuation as functioning components of marine ecosystems ..." throughout the past 10 years. For example, for almost a decade, the Peconic Estuary Program has been working to install a rock ramp/rock riffle at the Grangebels Park South Spillway on the main stem of the Peconic River, suitable for passing Alewife and American eels. The project received five separate NOAA grants amounting to more than \$1,000,000, but due to an unexpected budget shortfall the project was in jeopardy. The Corporate Partnership donated \$45,000, which enabled the project to continue. In the absence of the CWRP's nonfederal matching funds, the grant money would have expired, without the project ever being able to move forward.



Peconic Fishway Project

Partners: NY CWRP: Spectra Energy, National Grid; The Town of Riverhead, NY; The Peconic River Fish Restoration Commission, USFWS, NOAA, EPA, The Peconic Estuary Program, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Suffolk County.

Drakes Island Salt Marsh Restoration

NOAA mission goal to "protect, restore and maintain the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" is accomplished through the Coastal America Corporate Partnership.

The Drakes Island project restored approximately 77 acres of salt marsh by enhancing tidal inundation and circulation in the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. The salt marsh provides important habitat for both aquatic species such as fish and shellfish, but also important nesting habitat for birds. This demonstration project included the removal of an existing undersized culvert, which was replaced by the first self-regulating tide gate in the state of Maine. This new technology is designed to allow for flood protection to low-lying adjacent properties as well as facilitating salt marsh restoration. This successful project has led to many more restoration projects using this technology throughout Maine.



Drake Island

Partners: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wells National Estuarine Reserve, Conservation Law Foundation, Town of Wells, ME Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Gulf Of Maine Council Habitat Restoration Partnership and Committee.

NOAA/Bahia Grande Restoration Project

The Bahia Grande is an 11,000 acre complex of three estuarine basins between Brownsville and Port Isabel in Cameron County, Texas. Once a highly productive shallow water system, it became a massive, salty sand flat in the 1930s, when the Port of Brownsville dredged the Brownsville ship channel and the resulting spoil banks cut off the water supply for this tidal system. The Bahia Grande dried up, and its drifting sands became the source of numerous health and industrial problems in the Brownsville area. In 2000, the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program began working with the Ocean Trust and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to plan for a system of channels to re-flood this estuary, returning it to its natural state and relieving local communities of blowing dust. In July of 2005, a pilot channel connecting the Brownsville Ship Channel to the Bahia Grande was opened, allowing limited tidal exchange for the purpose of relieving the problems associated with the dust. More than sixty partnering organizations have committed funding or in-kind contributions to the Bahia Grande project. With funding support through NOAA's partnership with the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, plant nurseries were constructed at the project site and on the campus of the University of Texas at Brownsville to provide native vegetation, such as mangroves and marsh grasses, for the restoration effort. Local community members and students volunteered hundreds of hours to maintain these nurseries and to plant mangroves.



Bahia Grande Restoration Project

Partners: NOAA Restoration Program, Texas CWRP, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Laguna Atascosa NWR and Coastal Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, City of Brownsville, Town of South Padre Island, Chase Bank, Ocean Trust, University of Texas, Brownsville, Gulf of Mexico Foundation, American Electric and Power, Texas Sea Grant, Girls Scouts, Texas General Lands Office.

Fort Covington Dam Removal Project

The Fort Covington Dam was the first man-made barrier on the Salmon River, located in the Town of Fort Covington in Franklin County, NY. The spillway crest was nine feet above the top of its concrete apron. The dam was located five miles upstream of the Salmon River's confluence with the St. Lawrence River and just north of State Route 37. The watershed originates in the Loon Lake region of the Adirondack Mountains and extends north, crossing the United States and Canadian border to join the St. Lawrence River. Removal of the obsolete and deteriorated dam restored riverine connectivity, and in the longer term will benefit fisheries from Malone, NY to the St. Lawrence River, and subsequently the Atlantic Ocean. Removal of the dam reestablished access to more than 35 miles of the Salmon River and tributaries. The removed dam will eliminate a public safety hazard, improve recreational boating opportunities, and alleviate localized flooding that was exacerbated by the dam's presence.

Partners: American Rivers, Cooper Environmental, Fish America Foundation, Great Lakes Protection Fund, Milone and MacBroom, Inc., NY CWRP, NOAA Restoration Center, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of State - Division of Coastal Resources, NY State Senator Elizabeth Little, New York Power Authority, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, State University of New York – Environmental Studies and Forestry, Tatro Construction, Town of Fort Covington, US EPA – Great Lakes National Program Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state, and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Executive Office of the President, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation.