

EMERGENCY ALERTS

HIDE ALERTS ▼

Coronavirus Update

Stay informed about coronavirus – COVID-19. Learn more.

Apr. 24th, 2020, 9:00

am [Read more](#) ▶



Mass.gov

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards Grants to Protect Habitat and Water Quality in the South Coast and Islands Regions

Over \$95,000 in Federal Funds Awarded to Three Towns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

6/05/2019

Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone
Management

MEDIA CONTACT

Katie Gronendyke

Phone

617-626-1129 (tel:6176261129)

Online

katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us

[s \(mailto:katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us \)](mailto:katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us)

BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$95,419 in federal grant awards for land protection and water quality projects in the Buzzards Bay watershed. The funding will help the Towns of Rochester and Gosnold protect critical habitat and allow the Town of Mattapoisett and its partner, the Buzzards Bay Coalition, to continue important water quality monitoring in Buzzards Bay. The three grants are being matched by \$79,540 in private contributions and in-kind services that will support the protection of important habitat in the region.

“The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to supporting local efforts to protect natural resources and promote sustainable outdoor recreation, and these grants provide needed funding and leverage to secure important local projects,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides.** “This local, state and federal partnership ensures the protection of Buzzards Bay, improves water quality and habitat health, and provides the public access to enjoy this beautiful area.”

The grants are being awarded by the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) through the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“These grants represent a true federal-state-local partnership that generates lasting results for the habitat and water quality of Buzzards Bay,” **said CZM Director Lisa Berry Engler**. “CZM is proud to support the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program in the important work they do with coastal communities and other local partners.”

“The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program focuses on protecting habitat and monitoring and preserving water quality in the Buzzards Bay region,” **said Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program Executive Director Joe Costa**. “These grants allow us to work directly with local communities to achieve these goals.”

The following grants were awarded:

The **Town of Rochester**, and its partner the Rochester Land Trust, will receive \$45,000 to purchase and permanently protect 20.9 acres of undeveloped land in the Mattapoissett River aquifer, which provides drinking water to four communities in the Buzzards Bay watershed. The property, which is mostly wooded with a perennial stream, contains designated habitat for rare species. Once acquired, the land will be owned and managed by the Rochester Land Trust, which will provide access to the public for passive recreational activities.

The **Town of Mattapoissett**, and its partner the Buzzards Bay Coalition, will receive \$30,000 to continue the Baywatchers monitoring program, which measures nutrient pollution in Buzzards Bay. For 27 years, this long-term monitoring program has collected basic water quality, nutrient, and algal pigment information at over 200 locations around Buzzards Bay during the summer months. The program also educates the public on their local water quality. The data collected is used by

both state and local natural resource managers to make informed water quality related decisions.

The **Town of Gosnold**, and its partner the Buzzards Bay Coalition, will receive \$20,419 toward the permanent protection of over 300 acres of undeveloped land on the island of Cuttyhunk. The funding will help match other state grants to acquire and protect 79 acres of privately owned, undeveloped land and secure a permanent conservation restriction on approximately 230 additional donated acres. The project area contains designated habitat for rare species. This project will also protect more than five miles of coastal shoreline and the island's only drinking water supply.

"Congress declared Buzzards Bay an estuary of national significance more than 30 years ago to protect and restore its vital natural resources," **said Congressman Bill Keating**. "These grants meet that goal by protecting habitat and providing data from citizen scientists to help formulate science-based solutions at the local level. Ensuring that funding is available for the National Estuary Program, and the Southern New England Program, have long been one of my top priorities in Congress. These grants will help to continue the work of restoring Buzzards Bay to its pristine state."

"The Town of Gosnold has always been environmentally conscious when it comes to conservation of its islands and this holds true for Cuttyhunk," **said State Senator Julian Cyr (D-Truro)**. "This beautiful island hosts a nature preserve full of piping plovers, least terns, Massachusetts' American oystercatchers, White-tail deer and various New England wildflowers. The island's ecosystem and unique coastal shoreline will be further protected with the land that today's grant will

help acquire.”

“We are very fortunate to live alongside the picturesque Buzzards Bay,” **said State Senator Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford)**. “These efforts to improve the overall health and vitality of this beautiful natural asset are critical toward protecting our regional water quality and public access for years to come.”

“These funds will support the great work done by the Town of Rochester and the Rochester Land Trust by allowing them to protect a vital natural resource in our community,” **said State Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport)**. “The Buzzards Bay watershed is immensely important to our region, and I applaud the Baker-Polito Administration’s efforts to support it.”

“Cuttyhunk is a hidden coastal gem of Massachusetts. It’s size and isolated nature make it all the more important to preserve the land, coastlines, and water sources that sustain the local residents as well as the environment and marine ecosystems,” **said State Representative Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth)**. “We thank the administration for prioritizing these projects and preserving this natural beauty for future generations to come.”

“I have always worked to protect the watershed and the water quality of Buzzards Bay starting with my work on the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission years ago. Preserving this important natural resource can continue with these timely grant awards,” **said State Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett)**.

The Office of Coastal Zone Management is EEA’s lead policy and

planning agency on coastal and ocean issues. Created in 1985, the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program provides grants and technical assistance to Buzzards Bay watershed communities to protect and restore water quality and natural resources in Buzzards Bay and its surrounding watershed and is one of 28 similar programs designated by the EPA.

###

Media Contact

Katie Gronendyke

Phone

617-626-1129 (tel:6176261129)

Online

katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us (mailto:katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us)

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental

Affairs (</orgs/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs>)

EEA seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

More (</orgs/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs>)

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone

Management (</orgs/massachusetts-office-of-coastal-zone-management>)

CZM is the lead policy, planning, and technical assistance agency on coastal and ocean issues within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and implements the state's coastal program under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

More (</orgs/massachusetts-office-of-coastal-zone-management>)

Did you find what you were looking for on this webpage?

☐ Yes ☐ No

SEND FEEDBACK