

We are concerned about the past and present poor health and functionality of Stewarts Creek salt marsh. Good planning now could preserve and enhance the future for critical habitat of endangered birds, fish, shellfish, plants and diverse animal species living and migrating in the area. Alternatively, continued poor health and functionality degrades Lewis Bay, Nantucket Sound, as well as social well-being and infrastructure of the community. That is why we advocate allowing the 40 acre Twin Brooks property to remain as protected open space because of its strategic position between 2 freshwater brooks adjacent to the salt marsh; and its existence as the last piece of open greenspace in Hyannis.

STB aims to:

- promote Twin Brooks salt marsh and fresh water creeks' ability to accommodate future sea level rise due to climate change by engineering adaptations and restoration.
- foster urban resiliency for EJ neighborhoods who need clean air provided by trees and soils which sequester carbon
- Cape Cod's wetlands are degraded
 - Barnstable Clean Water Coalition shows that fish will not survive in our nearby Osterville bays and ponds where biodiversity is dying due to invasive species and excess nutrient pollution.
 - contaminated waters challenging health of our bays starving them of dissolved oxygen.
 - severe weather like drought and heat increase fish kills
- Other ecological restoration projects in process on Cape Cod:
 - restoration of natural wetlands from previous cranberry bogs at Marstons Mills River and North Bay.
 - Wellfleet Herring River Restoration
 - Barnstable Great Marsh Salt Marsh Restoration Project
 - Resilient Woods Hole assessing threats of sea level events and developing solutions to the local community
 - Stony Brook salt marsh and fish passage restoration project in Brewster
 - Weir Creek Salt Marsh restoration project in Dennis
 - Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project
 - Cape Cod National Seashore program of salt marsh restoration
 - East Harbor Truro, Moon Meadow, Salt Meadow
 - Hatches Harbor Provincetown
- The Town of Barnstable has not moved forward with next steps to further the restoration of Twin Brooks marsh system, nor has it addressed local stakeholder concerns.
- The Woods Hole Group recommended in 2018 a Master Planning Document including phragmites eradication and sediment management components at Twin Brooks.
- This has not happened. As a result:
 - The Woods Hole Group 2019 Stewart's Creek Five year Monitoring Report states that the new box culvert and bar screen are still a significant restriction to the system.
 - Mean high water does not reach high enough to inundate the marsh plain properly.
 - Parts of the salt marsh have gone dry due to accumulated sediment.

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