



Comprehensive Wetland Restoration



THREATS ADDRESSED

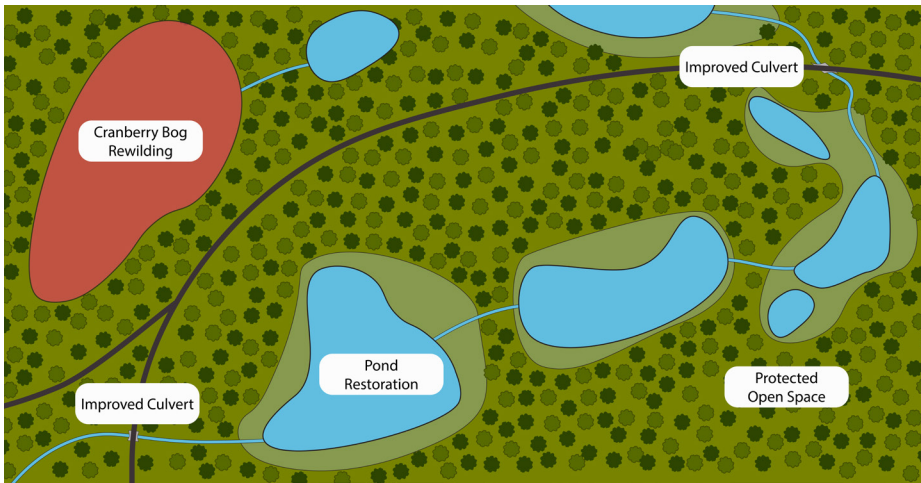
- Excess Nutrients
- Pollutant Inputs
- Algal Blooms
- Erosion
- Invasive/Nuisance Species

STRATEGY GOALS

- Protect
- Manage
- Rehabilitate

STRATEGY CO-BENEFITS

- Habitat Improve
- Aesthetics Improve
- Recreation Improve



- Permittable in Massachusetts**
Local and state review. List of potential permits available [here](#).
- Implemented on Cape Cod**
See examples of pond projects implemented on Cape Cod [here](#).
- Listed in 208 Plan Technologies Matrix**
Learn more about the nutrient management strategies in the Tech Matrix [here](#).
- Can be Performed at Homeowner Scale**
- Nature-based Solution**

DURATION OF BENEFITS

- Less than one month
- One season or year
- Multiple seasons or years

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Monthly
- Annually
- Infrequent

DESCRIPTION

Comprehensive wetland restoration involves the rehabilitation of multiple waterbodies within a waterway or watershed to meet multiple objectives, including protecting water quality and quantity and restoring wetland functions. This method uses a holistic approach to plan and implement multiple wetland restoration projects within a waterway to maximize benefits. Comprehensive wetland restoration protects water quality and quantity through restoration of degraded wetlands and adjacent uplands to a more natural state and function. Planning for comprehensive wetland restoration may benefit from being considered during other town or watershed planning processes such as local comprehensive planning, open space and recreation planning, and watershed management planning.

ADVANTAGES

- Takes a holistic rather than one-off approach to water resource protection and rehabilitation
- Has multiple co-benefits, with potential to improve habitat, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities





CONSTRAINTS

- Need willing landowners
- Need community buy-in



IMPLEMENTATION

POTENTIAL ACTORS

-  **Towns:** A town may propose or collaborate on comprehensive wetland restoration
-  **Pond Groups:** May support and collaborate
-  **Private Landowners:** May support and collaborate
-  **Land Trusts:** May propose, support and collaborate

SITING REQUIREMENTS

- All ponds

INFORMATION NEEDS

- Stakeholder engagement
- Locations of historical wetlands and their characteristics, if available
- Natural resources / baseline inventory
- Restoration plan(s)



IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

The [Coonamessett River Restoration Project](#) engaged numerous partners to restore health to the Coonamessett River and its bordering wetlands, including several freshwater ponds, in Falmouth. The project goals were to restore a healthy wetland ecosystem, increase climate resiliency, and enhance recreational and educational opportunities.

Several other river and cranberry bog restoration projects on and off the Cape will help restore health to connected ponds. These include the [Childs River Restoration Project](#) in Falmouth, the [Cold Brook Eco-Restoration Project](#) in Harwich, and the [Tidmarsh Farms Wetland Restoration Project](#) in Plymouth.

RESOURCES

- The Massachusetts' Department of Conservation and Recreation's [Lakes and Ponds Program](#) provides related resources.

COST ESTIMATE

Variable

Variable depending on size and value of area to be restored



ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS





Assessment: Appraisals of properties, natural resource/baseline inventory, outreach with landowners/stakeholders

Implementation: Acquisition costs vary with size and value of land, legal fees. Restoration costs vary with project scope.

Maintenance: Monitoring and stewardship costs vary with size and condition of land



POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

-  **Community Preservation Act**
-  **Capital Budget**
-  **Grants**
-  **Private Funding**

Additional information regarding potential funding sources is available [here](#).