



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH 2007-08

HIGHLIGHTS OF A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

LAUNCH OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit on July 16th, 2007 and has grown to approximately 100 dues-paying members from across the Plymouth community and beyond. No legal expenses were incurred during incorporation or the subsequent application to the IRS for tax-exempt status, which was quickly granted.

FUND RAISING

Almost \$50,000 of the \$82,000 estimated cost of the Ellisville Marsh Restoration Project has been raised, an extraordinary accomplishment in an organization's start-up year. \$28,000 of this came in the form of grants from Entergy's Environmental Stewardship Fund and the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund, for which we are deeply grateful. Renew now to reduce the shortfall!



PERMITTING PROGRESS

The Friends completed preparations for requesting regulatory permits to reopen the blocked channel inlet. Our surveyor, Land Management Systems, Inc. of Manomet prepared updated conditions

survey plans of the inlet and adjacent barrier beach, which we submitted to the MA Department of Environmental Protection in April 2008.

INLET DESIGN CONCEPT

LEC Environmental of Plymouth has been retained by the Friends to assist with the complex regulatory permitting process. The firm has developed a conceptual design for the inlet relocation that is being finalized for permit applications we expect to be filing this month.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Several programs have been undertaken with the participation of volunteers from the Friends' membership. These include: Piping Plover Monitoring and Protection (partnering with Mass Audubon), barrier beach elevation monitoring (assisted by the MA Office of Coastal Zone Management), and water quality sampling (2007 - under the MA DEP's South Coastal Basin Estuaries Monitoring program). The information and insights gained from our participation in these programs are proving invaluable to our mission of restoring Ellisville Marsh.



Photo courtesy of Friends Member Henry Riter