

Ellisville Marsh as It Was...

"I saw menhaden skipping in the pond as I came along—it being connected to the sea."

Henry David Thoreau, writing in his Journal upon visiting Ellisville on June 16, 1857



Photo by Henry Riter

About the Friends

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed in July 2007.
- Several board members' families have lived in Ellisville for a half century or more.
- 100% volunteer effort—no paid staff.
- No taxpayer money—all funds raised to date have come from individual/family donations and grants.
- More than 90% of funds have gone into the marsh restoration program.

Experience an environmental gem in your own backyard.

Savor the quiet beauty of a special place.

Escape to a world perfectly attuned to the needs of fish and wildlife.

Carry on the centuries-old tradition of stewardship.

Find your roots. Join with us.

Walk the shoreline and marvel at the dynamically changing beachscape.



Encounter rare birds, winter seals, crabs scurrying across tidal pools, and abundant wildlife.



Kayak in the tidal inlet channel and explore the marsh at high tide.



Imagine life as it was when Ellisville Marsh was a vibrant center for farming and fishing.



Experience Ellisville Marsh, a living classroom.

This brochure was made possible by a grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund.



Printed on recycled paper.



Photo by Eric Cody

Join the Friends of Ellisville Marsh

The Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Brief Overview

- The 71-acre Ellisville Marsh lies within Shifting Lots Preserve and Ellisville Harbor State Park; it is both fresh water estuary and salt marsh.
- Ellisville Marsh is designated as both an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and an Important Bird Area (IBA).
- Ellisville Marsh was a center of farming and fishing for centuries.
- The land was held in common ownership and the best farming lots were rotated among families.
- The inlet from Cape Cod Bay into the marsh was blocked by the "No-Name" storm in 1991 and tidal flows into and out of the marsh became severely restricted.
- The marsh ecosystem suffered deteriorating hydrology, water quality, and salinity leading to plant die-off.
- The channel was reopened in November 2003 under one-time, emergency permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers and the MA Department of Environmental Protection to a private property owner whose bluff was being eroded by the inlet channel.
- Tidal flow restriction began again with the Blizzard of 2005.
- The Friends successfully obtained all local, state, and federal permits to perform periodic maintenance of the Ellisville inlet in 2010.
- The Savery Pond Project was formalized in 2012 to improve water quality in one of Plymouth's most severely impaired ponds. In 2019, the project became its own nonprofit, the Savery Pond Conservancy.

Visit www.EllisvilleMarsh.org



Photo by David Marsh

The Friends' Goals

—Short Term—

- Obtain regulatory permits that enable relocation and ongoing maintenance of the Ellisville Marsh inlet channel.
- Collect baseline environmental data against which changes in the marsh and barrier beach can be measured over time.

—Long Term—

- Conduct environmental monitoring and support scientific research that aids understanding of factors and conditions that affect the health of Ellisville Marsh.
- Identify and help implement a sustainable, long-term solution to the problem of inlet blockage at Ellisville Marsh.



Photo by Don Maricle

As a member of the Friends, you are connected to past generations of Ellisville families who lived in close harmony with nature in a special place where land and sea meet.

Photo by Peter Hruby



Die-back of *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) at Ellisville Marsh

"There were many fish weirs around Cape Cod at this time—at Sagamore and Barnstable among other places. They were formed by a series of long oak poles set in the ocean floor about three-quarters of a mile off shore upon which the nets were hung to trap the fish. The most marketable fish caught were mackerel, codfish, some small quantities of mixed varieties, and, for a few years, large hauls of a variety named weak fish or quiteag. There were as many as 100 barrels a haul...."

*—From Ernest Clifton Ellis's
Reminiscences of Ellisville*



Photo by David Ellis Family

Yes, I want to join the Friends!

Membership Categories

Each membership category covers all family members in a household. Please check one:

- ☐ **Basic Member** (\$15)
- ☐ **Supporting Member** (\$50)
- ☐ **Sustaining Member** (\$100)
- ☐ **Patron** (\$250 or more)
- ☐ **Endowment Fund** (\$_____)

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Email (save us \$): _____

Telephone: _____

Possible volunteer interests:

- ☐ Environmental monitoring
- ☐ Helping organize events
- ☐ Monitoring Piping Plover activity
- ☐ Special skills/interests: _____

Does your employer have a matching gift program? If so, the Friends would greatly appreciate your request for the match. Our Federal Tax ID is 77-0691727.

Please join/contribute at our website — www.EllisvilleMarsh.org — or mail your completed application and dues to:

Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc.
PO Box 1728
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

Membership dues and other monetary gifts are fully tax-deductible—receipts for tax purposes will be sent for contributions of \$250 or more.