



Friends of Ellisville Marsh

Annual Report 2021-22

Another Remarkable Year

Record Shorebird Results / Shift in Long-term Strategy / Ellisville Inlet Restored / Website Revitalized / Return to In-person Events / MassDEP Permits Extended Again / Changes on the Board

2022 Annual Meeting - **NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION!**

The Friends' 2022 Annual Meeting will be held in-person on Saturday, July 9th from 10-11 am at the **Little Red School House**, 1144 Long Pond Road (at the corner of Herring Pond Road) Join us for a recounting of the past year's successes and exciting news about the year ahead. Your inputs, ideas, and feedback will again be welcomed. Coffee and donuts will be served. Come join us!

A Record Year for Threatened Shorebirds

The 2021 shorebird nesting season was highly successful. Although only three pairs of Piping Plovers were present on Ellisville Beach at Shifting Lots Preserve, EIGHT chicks hatched and survived long enough to fledge! This is by far the best result we've had in the fifteen years the Friends have been monitoring shorebirds at this site. In a typical year, about two plover chicks fledge. On top of this, a Least Tern colony formed and a number of Least Tern chicks fledged as well. 2022 is off to a promising start with our first quartet of plover chicks hatching on June 23rd. They are in the company of a significant number of Least Tern and



Killdeer chicks. On the down side, high tides washed away four plover nests and predators took two more so the jury is still out on the kind of results we'll see. Stay tuned!

(Photo courtesy of Diane Jordan)



"Who said you could be here?"
Photo courtesy of Diane Jordan.

Shift in Long-term Strategy

We have periodically reported on the progress of the Ellisville Inlet Stabilization Project the Commonwealth of Massachusetts undertook with the Town of Plymouth in 2017 at our urging. Phase 2 of the project provided a cost estimate and detailed specification for the rebuilding of the rock jetty that borders the northern side of the Ellisville Marsh inlet on Ellisville Harbor State Park. The estimate to dismantle and rebuild the 1960s-era jetty and restore dunes north of the jetty came in at \$6 million, with another \$1.5 million every five years to replenish sand for the dunes. After careful consideration, the Friends' board concluded that the project was over-engineered, the cost prohibitive (taxpayer money still comes from us!), and the potential for environmental harm by heavy equipment too great. Moreover, long-term funding was not assured, nor was the state agency that would become the permit holder identified. The Friends notified the town and state in April 2022 that our organization was withdrawing its support for the project. We are currently engaged in discussions with the Town of Plymouth that we hope will lead

to a sustainable, long-term solution to the problem of inlet blockage.

Ellisville Inlet Restored

Two days was all it took for our trusted contractor, G.R. Richmond, Inc., to reopen the blocked Ellisville Marsh inlet and fully restore tidal flows. Click on photos to enlarge.

(Photos courtesy of Mike Brennan)



The diverted inlet prior to maintenance



The restored inlet in late March

MassDEP Permits Extended Again

The COVID pandemic produced an unexpected benefit for the Ellisville Inlet Maintenance Project. Earlier this year, the Friends' two state permits were each extended by 462 days as the result of an order issued by Governor Baker. These two permits are now scheduled to expire in October 2026.

Website Revitalized

After serving the Friends well for most of fifteen years, our website crashed in 2021 and the decision was made to move it to a new, more stable platform. Fortunately for us, Nick Frascarella, a capable web designer and son of Friends' director Linda Frascarella, stepped up and rebuilt the site. A number of new features have been incorporated. Take a look for yourself and let us know what you think!

[Click here](#)



Spring Bird Walk Co-hosted by the Friends, Wildlands Trust, and Manomet.

Return to In-person Events

Spring of 2022 marked the return of in-person events. Cleanup Day and the Welcome Spring! Bird Walk returned and were well-attended. Information about future events and opportunities for member involvement will be broadcast via email and posted on the Friends' revitalized website at: <https://ellisvillemarsh.org/events>.

Changes on the Board

Friends co-founder and longtime director Peter Hruby is stepping down from the board after fifteen years. His sister Adela Hruby has stepped up to fill his seat. Frank Doyle, who has served as treasurer for many years, will hand that role over to Susan Pleadwell and remain a director. Our sincere thanks go to Frank and Peter for their contributions to the success of the Friends over many years. Accordingly, the Friends' 2022-23 board is comprised of: Eric Cody, president; Susan Pleadwell, secretary/treasurer; Frank Doyle; Jack Scambos; Ellen Russell; Linda Frascarella; Diane Jordan; Paula Marcoux; and Adela Hruby.

Our membership year begins July 1st. Click here to renew!

Visit us at: www.EllisvilleMarsh.org

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