

# Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program



*Buzzards Bay* was designated an estuary of national significance and entered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program (NEP) in 1987.

Established under the 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments, the NEP is a unique non-regulatory program that operates through partnerships with EPA and other public and private sector entities. Each NEP operates via an inclusive, collaborative decision-making process to deliver on-the-ground results, making the NEP a leading model of watershed management.

## Protection and Restoration

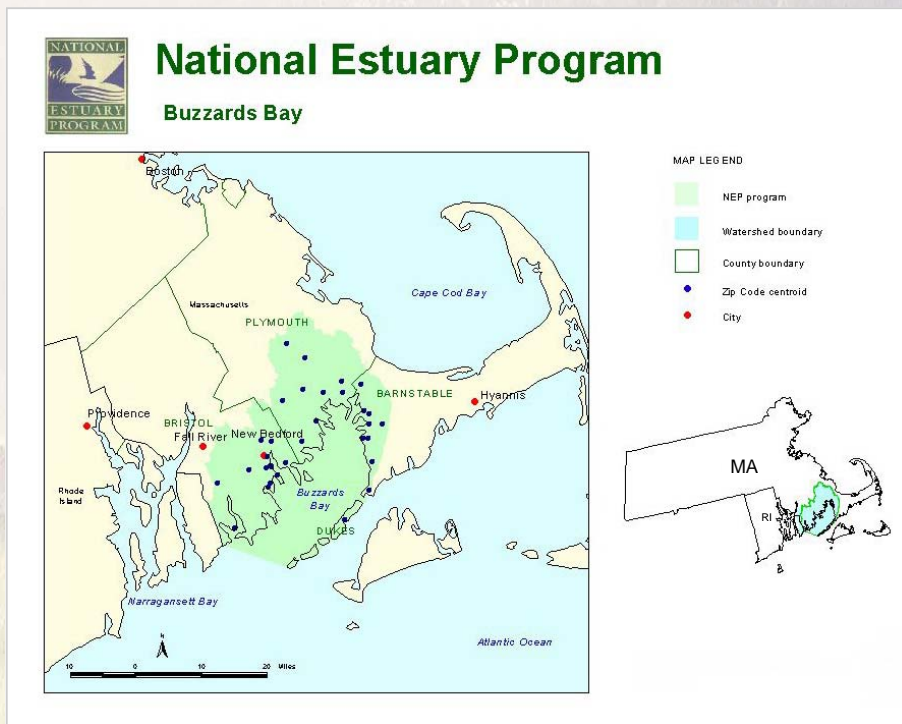
The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) provides leadership and coordination to restore and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. Between 2000 and 2006, the BBNEP and its partners protected or restored 160,368 acres of important habitats within the watershed of Buzzards Bay. These habitats help protect water quality and sustain shellfish, fish, and wildlife. They also promote the local and regional economies that increasingly rely on tourism, fishing, boating, and other water-dependent activities.

## Funds Leveraged

One major aspect of the BBNEP's leadership is its effective use of funds provided by EPA to leverage additional support. For example, during the period 2003-2006, the BBNEP used its annual EPA grant to secure an additional \$17.4 million in leveraged resources from public and private funders. The resources were used to help address the BBNEP's priority problems, including: habitat loss and deterioration, stormwater runoff, and urban growth.

## Accomplishments

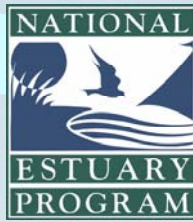
- In 2007 the BBNEP awarded \$112,000 in grants to nine municipalities to map stormwater discharges, treat stormwater discharges that close shellfish beds, protect and restore wetland habitat, and update geographic information system databases. These grants complement a highly successful ongoing technical assistance program. BBNEP staff review local projects, develop local management plans, prepare conceptual designs, prepare grant applications, and help draft local regulations. The BBNEP also has provided distinguished leadership in promoting Low Impact Development, especially strategies to minimize the discharge of untreated stormwater to surface waters. This effort has been instrumental in assisting town boards to adopt consistent regulations to treat stormwater and meet the goals of EPA's stormwater program.
- The BBNEP continues to help guide damage assessment and restoration activities in the aftermath of the 2003 oil spill in Buzzards Bay. Since 2004, the BBNEP has partnered with environmental groups to develop more than \$6 million in proposed projects funded by fines levied under the terms of the North American Wetland Conservation Act.



## Buzzards Bay



<http://www.buzzardsbay.org>



## What has the NEP accomplished?

*The 28 National Estuary Programs are demonstrating success in improving environmental conditions, securing and leveraging funds, and improving public education and citizen participation. All this has been done in close partnership with many Federal, State, and private entities.*

### Environmental Results

The NEPs have protected or restored over one million acres of habitat since 2000, through activities such as land acquisition, installation of fish passages, repair of tidegates, enhancement of shellfish beds, and removal of invasive plants. The types of habitats protected and restored include tidal wetlands, forests, meadows, and streambanks, among many others.

### Reaching and Involving the Public

Informing and educating the public about estuaries, and including them in the decision-making process is a strong underpinning of the NEP and essential to the continued improvement of these vital resources. Each NEP has engaged community members through a variety of means such as:

- 1) public meetings to define problems and design actions,
- 2) hands-on involvement in volunteer water quality monitoring or restoration, or
- 3) "State of the Estuary" conferences to provide information on progress being made by the NEP to improve conditions in the estuary.

### Leveraging Funds

By developing strategic alliances, the NEPs have leveraged approximately \$16.50 for every dollar of EPA funding. As a result, nearly \$1.11 billion through individual, private, local, State and Federal partnerships over the past few years (2003-2006) has been generated. These additional resources have been used primarily for wastewater treatment and land acquisition projects.

Office of Wetlands,  
Oceans, and Watersheds  
EPA842-F-07-006  
[www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries](http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries)  
March 2007

## NEP Websites

**Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds**  
<http://www.apnep.org>

**Barataria-Terrebonne**  
<http://www.btnep.org>

**Barnegat Bay**  
<http://www.bbep.org>

**Buzzards Bay**  
<http://www.buzzardsbay.org>

**Casco Bay**  
<http://www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu>

**Charlotte Harbor**  
<http://www.chnep.org>

**Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries**  
<http://www.cbbep.org>

**Delaware Estuary**  
<http://www.delawareestuary.org>

**Delaware Inland Bays**  
<http://www.inlandbays.org>

**Galveston Bay**  
<http://www.gbep.state.tx.us>

**Indian River Lagoon**  
<http://www.sjrwmd.com/programs/outreach/irlnep/index.html>

**Long Island Sound**  
<http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net>

**Lower Columbia River Estuary**  
<http://www.lcrep.org>

**Maryland Coastal Bays**  
<http://www.mdcoastalbays.org>

**Massachusetts Bays**  
<http://www.massbays.org>

**Mobile Bay**  
<http://www.mobilebaynep.com>

**Morro Bay**  
<http://www.mbnep.org>

**Narragansett Bay**  
<http://www.nbep.org>

**New Hampshire Estuaries**  
<http://www.nhep.unh.edu>

**New York-New Jersey Harbor**  
<http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/hep>

**Peconic Estuary Program**  
<http://www.peconicestuary.org>

**Puget Sound**  
<http://www.psat.wa.gov>

**San Francisco Estuary**  
<http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/sfep.html>

**San Juan Bay**  
<http://www.estuario.org>

**Santa Monica Bay**  
<http://www.santamonibabay.org>

**Sarasota Bay**  
<http://www.sarasotabay.org>

**Tampa Bay**  
<http://www.tbep.org>

**Tillamook Bay**  
<http://www.tbnep.org>