

FRESH RIVER TIDAL RESTORATION, WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town received a \$90,237 grant from Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM) to conduct the Fresh River Tidal Restoration, Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Project.

An undersized and failed culvert under Surf Drive restricts tidal flow into the Fresh River, which causes excessive sediment accumulation in the River. Additionally, sediment buildup in the inlet south of Surf Drive further restricts tidal flow, often completely blocking tidal exchange and preventing drainage during rainfall events. These conditions cause flooding in basements of the surrounding properties and adversely impact the habitat value of the system for spawning fish.

The project is scheduled to identify conceptual alternatives for restoring tidal flow, minimizing sediment accumulation, and improving coastal habitat. Results from the study will be used to apply for additional grant funding for engineering design, environmental permitting, and construction of the Project's preferred alternative.



The Town of Falmouth is holding a public meeting to introduce the Fresh River Tidal Restoration, Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Project

Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024

Time: 6 to 8 PM

Location: Gus Canty Recreation

Center, Room #1

PROJECT GOALS



RESTORE TIDAL FLOW

Modify the culvert under Surf Drive to ensure daily tidal flushing with Vineyard Sound



MINIMIZE SEDIMENT ACCUMULATION

Alter the inlet entrance to create a self-sustaining system that does not trap sediment



IMPROVE ECOSYSTEM HABITAT

Create a continuous opening with Vineyard Sound to restore 1.6 acres of coastal habitat and 1,870 linear ft of the fish run



IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

Maintain full tidal exchange with Vineyard Sound and remediate stormwater pollution to improve water quality

If you have any questions please contact:
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