

1998 CONNECTICUT DEP HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRESS

During this time period five Tidal Wetland restoration projects, five *Phragmites* control projects, one Beaches and Dunes project, and three Riverine Migratory Corridor projects were completed. Significant progress was made toward implementation of other projects and in developing strategies for meeting the goals of the Habitat Restoration Initiative. Individual projects are listed below:

TIDAL FLOW/WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECTS			
Town	Location	Acres	Activity
Cromwell	Cromwell Meadows WMA	30	Fresh tidal marsh restoration - including restoration of ponds.
Guilford	Long Cove	2	Tidal marsh restoration - maintenance of outlet channel; part of prior restoration project.
New Haven	Quinnipiac River Bulk Waste Removal	2	Tidal marsh restoration - waste removal. The Wetland Restoration Unit used a low ground pressure excavator to remove tires and steel tanks off the brackish tidal marsh. All tires and steel tanks were moved to an upland disposal sight.
Old Saybrook	Ferry Road Marsh	10	Tidal marsh restoration - flow restoration, channel excavation, and restoration of several ponds.
Preston	Route 2A Marsh	1.4	Fill removal as condition of permit; culvert replacement.
	TOTAL	45.4	
PHRAGMITES CONTROL PROJECTS			
Faulkner=s Island	Faulkner=s Island	1	<i>Phragmites</i> control
Guilford	Long Cove	7	<i>Phragmites</i> control
Guilford	Vineyard Meadows	7	<i>Phragmites</i> control
Lyme	Nott Island	40	Phase 1 of tidal marsh restoration - <i>Phragmites</i> control. Phase 2 will begin in the spring of 1999 and consist of creek excavation, ditch cleaning, and pond creation.
North Haven	Quinnipiac River	50	Phase 1 of tidal marsh restoration - common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) control activities at six different locations along the Quinnipiac River. The low ground pressure mulching mower was used to herbicide and mulch <i>Phragmites</i> . Phase 2 will consist of creek excavation, ditch cleaning and pond creation.
	TOTAL	105	
BEACHES AND DUNES PROJECTS			
Milford	Silver Sands State Park	4.3	Dune restoration and beachgrass planting was completed. All old pavement, bulkhead and riprap have been removed from beach.

RIVERINE MIGRATORY CORRIDOR PROJECTS (RMC)			
Sprague	Versailles Pond Fishway	1.75	Fishway built on the first dam on the Little River, a tributary of Shetucket.
Guilford	Landon Dam Fishway	0.5	First dam on the West River in Guilford, a short distance upstream from I-95 and behind the new police station.
Norwich	Trading Cove Brook	5.9	Fishway built on the first dam on this brook, which is the boundary between Norwich and Montville [completed in 1999]
Old Lyme	Mill Brook	0.85	Mary Griswold Steube Fishway (aka Lower Millpond Dam Fishway)
	Miles of RMC	3.1	(or 9.0 miles if Trading Cove Brook is counted)

OTHER HABITAT RESTORATION ACTIVITY:

Final design was completed and a contractor selected for restoration of Mill Meadows Marsh in Old Saybrook using Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funding. Construction will begin in April, 1999. A preliminary engineering study for Sybil Creek, Branford, was completed and final design approach for Leete=s Island, Guilford, has been agreed to. Several fishway projects are undergoing construction or are in final design phase.

The Army Corps of Engineers completed a reconnaissance study and prepared scopes of work for four tidal wetland sites (West River, Lighthouse Point, Sluice Creek, and River Street) and 13 fish passage sites. The Long Island Sound License Plate fund was used to support the acquisition of Quinnipiac Meadows by the New Haven Land Trust, and a grant was awarded to the Branford Land Trust to conduct a baseline study of Sybil Creek prior to restoration.

Research funds from the LIS License Plate Program were awarded to Yale University to study the genetic structuring of common reed on the tidelands of the CT River. A *Phragmites* working group consisting of managers, scientists, and other interested parties has been established to develop a strategy for dealing with *Phragmites* invasion, particularly on the lower CT River. A new database was developed to track the restoration and funding through the Coves and Embayments Program for all of CT=s habitat restoration projects.

\$116,000 in CT Mosquito Management Funds was used to purchase a low ground-pressure excavator which will be used to support wetland restoration and open marsh water management.

Two more habitat restoration chapters were completed. A technical document that provides restoration guidance for each habitat type is expected to be completed in early 1999. Work continues on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Habitat Restoration Partners. This should be finalized by summer 1999.

Office of Long Island Sound Programs staff examined a request to replace 1 of 3 culverts at Otter Creek in Old Saybrook. It was determined that the collapsed culvert had not changed the tidal hydrology and so no action was taken. Staff also provided technical assistance to the cities of New Haven and West Haven in the development of a conceptual recreation plan for the West River in New Haven. This now makes it possible to proceed with the development of a tidal river and tidal wetland restoration design.