
Duck Cove Marsh Restoration Project North Kingstown, RI

Following the failure of an 18-inch culvert that restricted tidal flushing of Duck Cove, the shores of the cove became dense with Phragmites, an exotic invasive reed. The Duck Cove Bluffs Association called on the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD) to help restore the ecology of Duck Cove.

SRICD coordinated the planning, design, and installation of an enlarged culvert (3x4-foot) to enhance tidal flushing to the cove. With the new culvert in place as of November 2001, SRICD began a 5-year monitoring project that already is showing how important salt water intrusion is to eradicating Phragmites and allowing native marsh plant species to return.

Duck Cove was one of the first salt marsh restoration projects in the state.



After only one year of enhanced tidal flushing to Duck Cove, the salt water is successfully killing off the Phragmites (the brown reeds seen in the top part of the above photo).



SRICD successfully led the effort to replace an old 18-inch culvert (shown at left) with a 3x4-foot box culvert (shown at right). The new culvert restores tidal flushing, which in turn, is eradicating exotic invasive plants and allowing the return of native marsh plant communities to Duck Cove.