



Broad Meadows Marsh Salt Marsh Restoration Project

Quincy, Massachusetts

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**BUILDING STRONG®**

Project Name and Corps Authority: Broad Meadows Marsh, Salt Marsh Habitat Restoration, Section 1135 Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL 99-662).

Location of Project: Broad Meadows Marsh is located in the city of Quincy in eastern Massachusetts.

Project Description: The project's objective is to restore the salt marsh and salt pond habitats within Broad Meadows marsh. These estuarine habitats were degraded when dredged material from the Town River Federal navigation project was disposed of in the marsh in 1938 and in 1956. Approximately 106 acres of tidal marsh were filled and consequently converted to non-tidal habitat dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*). The project restores tidal flushing to the salt marsh system by excavating dredged material, lowering the surface elevation to pre-1950's levels. The new elevation will provide the conditions necessary for salt marsh redevelopment. The project involves the excavation, transport and redistribution of approximately 393,000 cubic yards of former dredged material. The project restores approximately 31 acres salt marsh including salt pannes and tidal channels, four acres of wet meadow grasses, and 23 acres of coastal grasslands. The project includes public gravel pathways.

Schedule: The construction contract was awarded on November 24, 2009. Excavation is ongoing.

Costs: The project is cost shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the city of Quincy. Project costs including the feasibility report, plans and specifications, and construction are estimated at \$6 million. The project is shared on a 75% Federal, 25% non-Federal basis. The estimated sponsor's share is \$1.5 million (including lands, easements, and rights of way). City of Quincy is the project sponsor. The sponsor funding includes a generous donation from the Neponset River Watershed Association. The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration is also a partner in the project.



Aerial views of Broad Meadow Marsh; photograph above was taken in 1930, and the one below was taken in 2009.





Tour of Broad Meadow Marsh, fall 2009, after Federal funding was received from Congress.



Phragmites mowing prior to construction 2010.



Corps of Engineers reviewing construction of new tidal inlet



Active construction



A view of the existing healthy salt marsh adjacent to the restoration area and shows conditions similar to those expected for the restoration site once the project is complete.