

Great Marsh Partnership – Resiliency Actions for the Great Marsh, MA

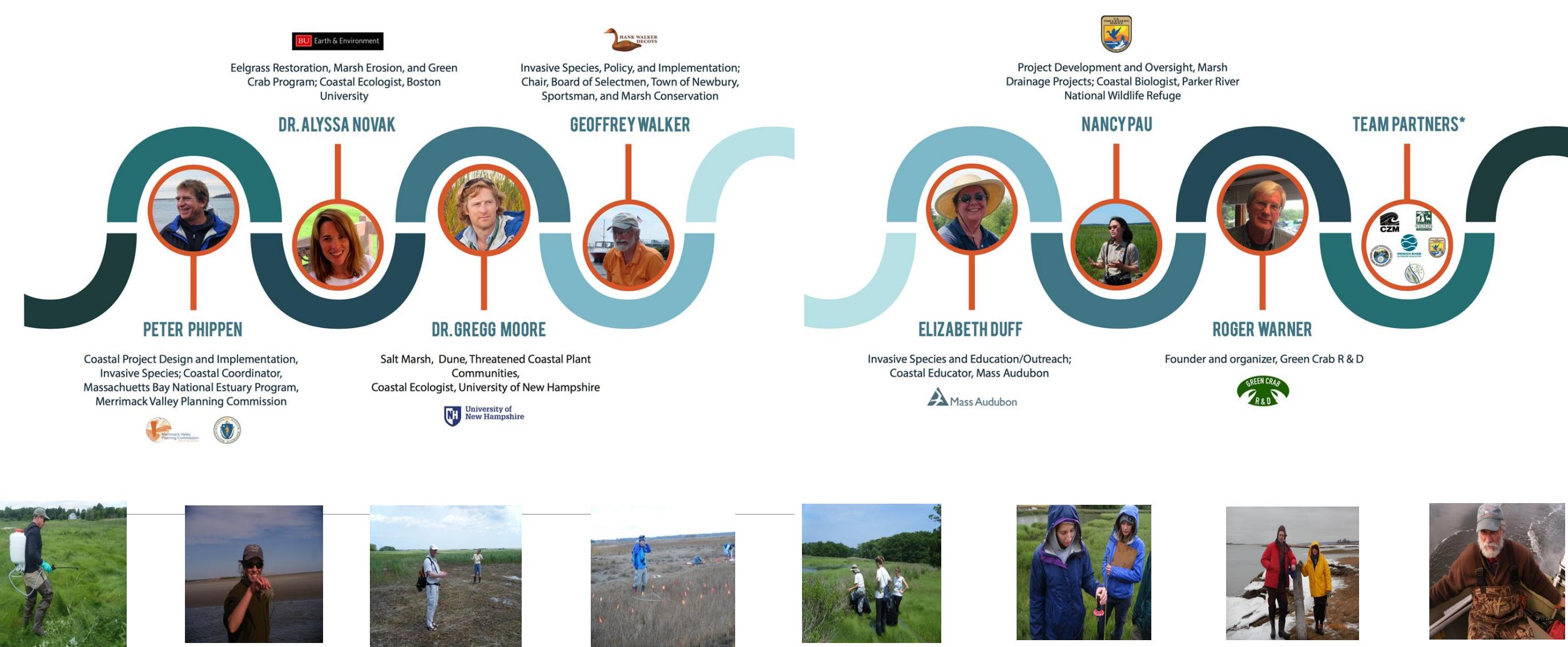
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Background

- The Great Marsh is the largest contiguous salt marsh in New England with over 25,000 acres of salt marsh, tidal creeks and barrier beaches.
- The **Great Marsh Partnership** is an ad hoc group of scientists, managers, and practitioners who have joined together to protect, restore, and improve the resiliency of the Great Marsh, both holistically and comprehensively at a marsh-wide and estuary-wide scale.



Team



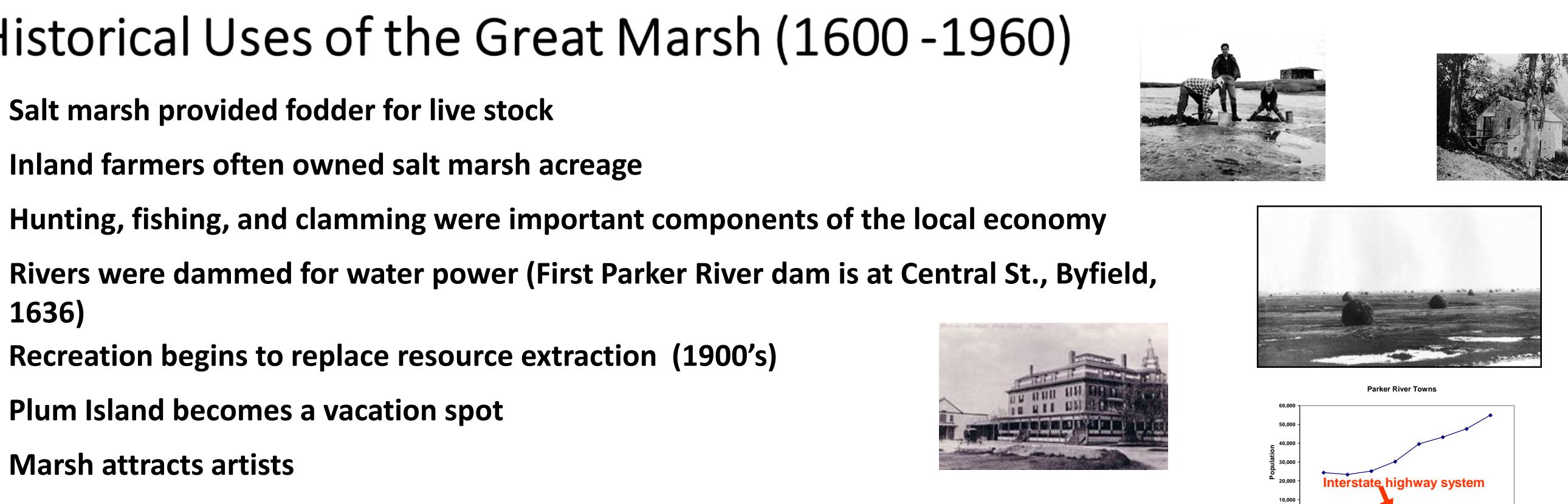
Value of the Great Marsh

OUR MISSION: To Preserve, Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Great Marsh.

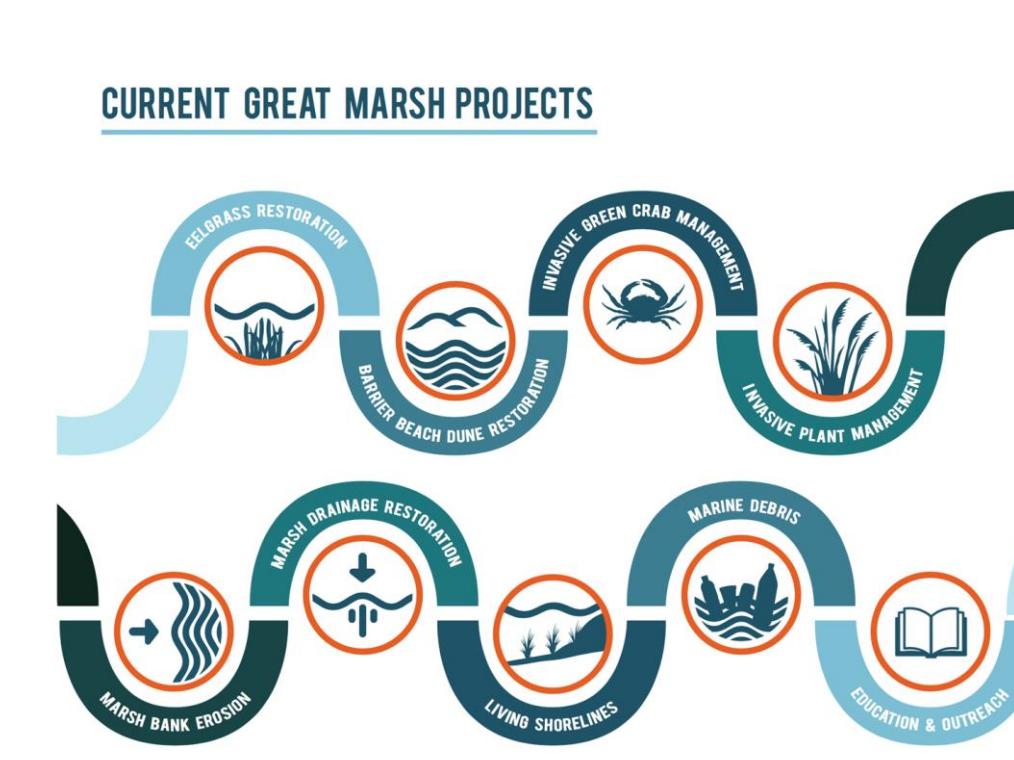
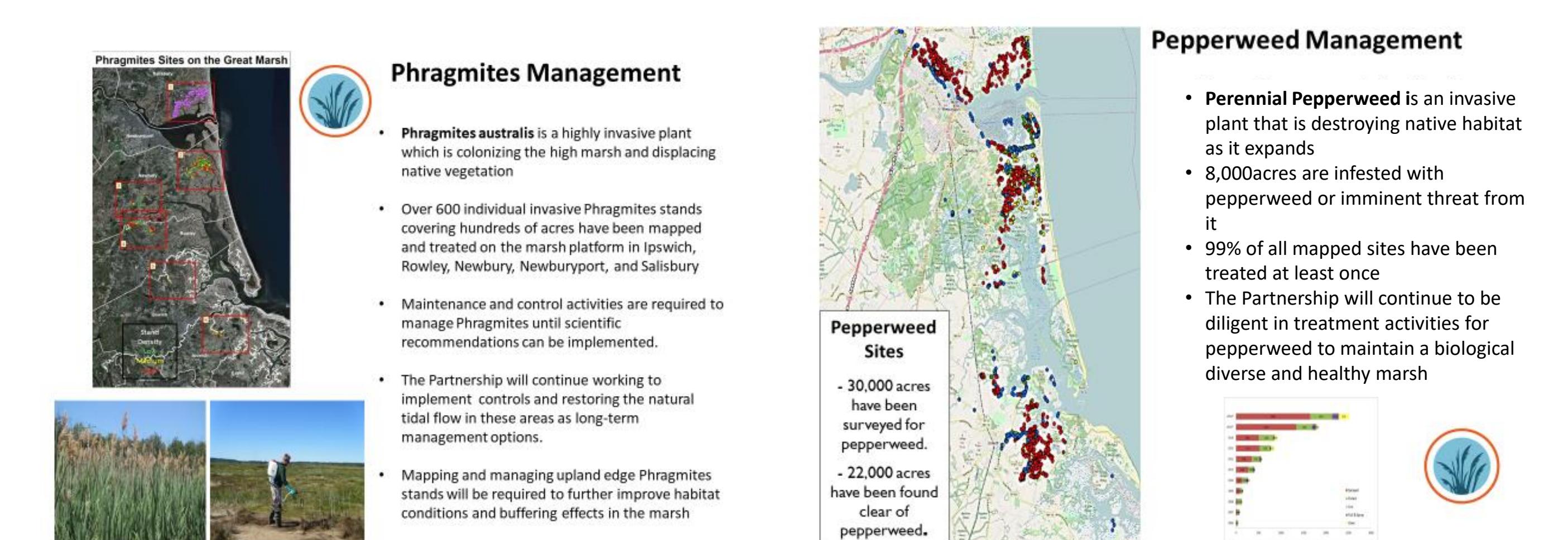


Historical Uses of the Great Marsh (1600 -1960)

- Salt marsh provided fodder for live stock
- Inland farmers often owned salt marsh acreage
- Hunting, fishing, and clamming were important components of the local economy
- Rivers were dammed for water power (First Parker River dam is at Central St., Byfield, 1636)
- Recreation begins to replace resource extraction (1900's)
- Plum Island becomes a vacation spot
- Marsh attracts artists
- New forms of transportation facilitate access to the estuary



Projects



Outreach and Volunteers

Great Marsh Partnership Education and Outreach

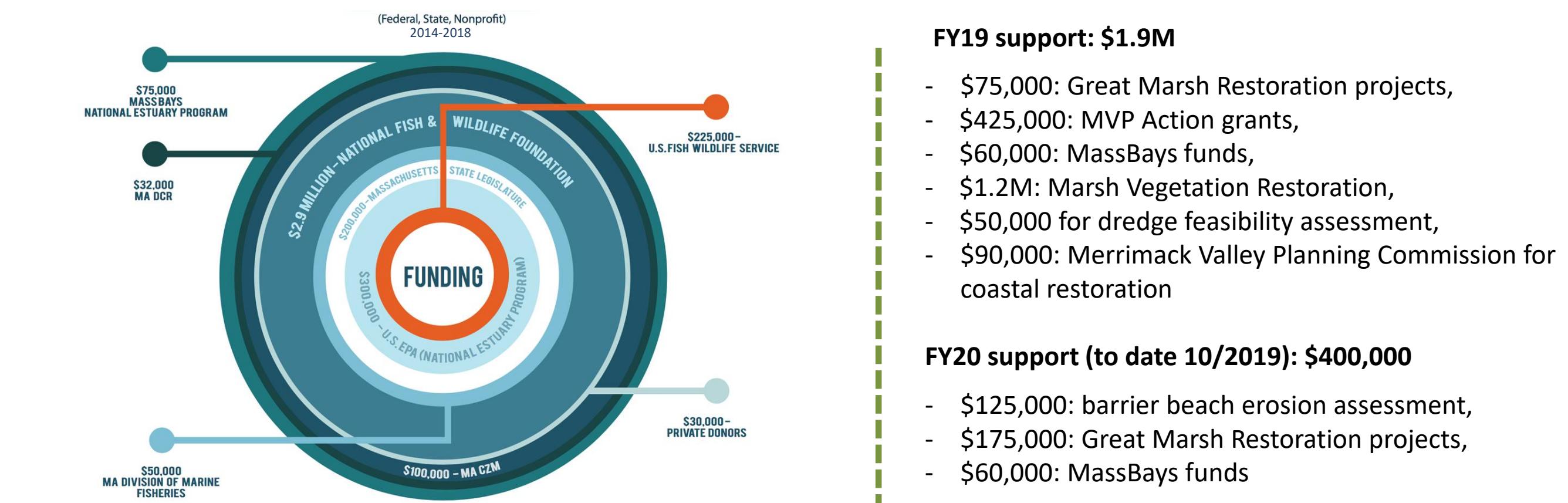
- Education and outreach** promotes stewardship of resources by local government, nonprofit organizations, property owners, and other stakeholders of the Great Marsh
- Public outreach, volunteer opportunities, and stakeholder input have been a mainstay of our restoration efforts
- Additional community engagement will ensure restoration activities are supported and will continue in Great Marsh



Partial list of Volunteer Organizations (450-500, volunteers)

City of Newburyport	New England Aquarium
8 Town & The Great Marsh Committee	New England Literature Program, University of Michigan
Clark School	Newburyport High School
Essex Technical High School	New Hampshire Coastal Program
First Church of Ipswich	North Shore UU Church
Great Marsh Communities Legislative Delegation	Nock Middle School
Alliance	Pingree School
Greenbelt	Robey Family
Gulf of Maine Institute	Salem Sound Coastwatch
Ipswich High School	Seaside Sustainability
Ipswich Middle School	Town of Newbury
Ipswich River Watershed Association	Town of Rowley
MA Department of Conservation & Recreation	Town of Salisbury
MA Dept of Fish and Game	Triton Regional High School
Mass Audubon	Nature Groups
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Merrohawk Nature School	
Nature Groups	

Recent Funding (2014 – 2018)



Great Marsh Partnership* and Valued Partners (partial)

