



HALLS CREEK DREDGING PROJECT

Autumn 2022

HALLS CREEK

All of us who live, work and play around Halls Creek appreciate its beauty, the ecosystem it supports, and its contribution to our quality of Cape Cod life – and importantly, our property values.



A TOUCHSTONE FOR THE AVENUES



Halls Creek is a physical and emotional touchstone for the Avenues.

It is the thread that connects the generations of families that call our neighborhood home.

ACTIVITIES THAT MAKE LASTING MEMORIES

As our children and grandchildren play there, they are enjoying the same activities that kept many of us busy as children – climbing on the big rock, catching crabs from the end of the jetty, and wading over to Squaw Island at low tide (and swimming back with our towels on our heads at the end of the day.)



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FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO CREATE THE SAME KINDS OF MEMORIES



THE CREEK IS IN PERIL

The Creek – and its delicately balanced and thriving ecosystem, of wildlife, shell and fin fish, birds, and plant life – are in peril.

If we don't act now and dredge the channel leading in from Nantucket Sound, the Creek will fill up with silt and die – destroying a fragile ecosystem, diminishing our property values, and robbing future generations the chance to create their own set of creek memories.

We have a unique opportunity to serve as environmental stewards of this threatened ecosystem.



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A DELICATE BALANCE

- There is a delicate balance within this estuary. As the Creek fills in, the ecosystem and wildlife dependent on it, will start to break down, making the area uninhabitable, malodorous and grossly unattractive.
- As sand fills Halls Creek, tidal flushing is down significantly. The narrowest part of the channel has decreased by 45% in 10 years.
- Increased sand coupled with increased freshwater infiltration is making the water brackish. The shallower bottom, now exposed to sunlight, is drying up the oxygen levels.
- This new environment is killing fish life and the ecosystem that lives off of it. It is perpetuating the growth of phragmites and algae. It is creating muddy silted shorelines, ice rafting, bugs and awful smells.

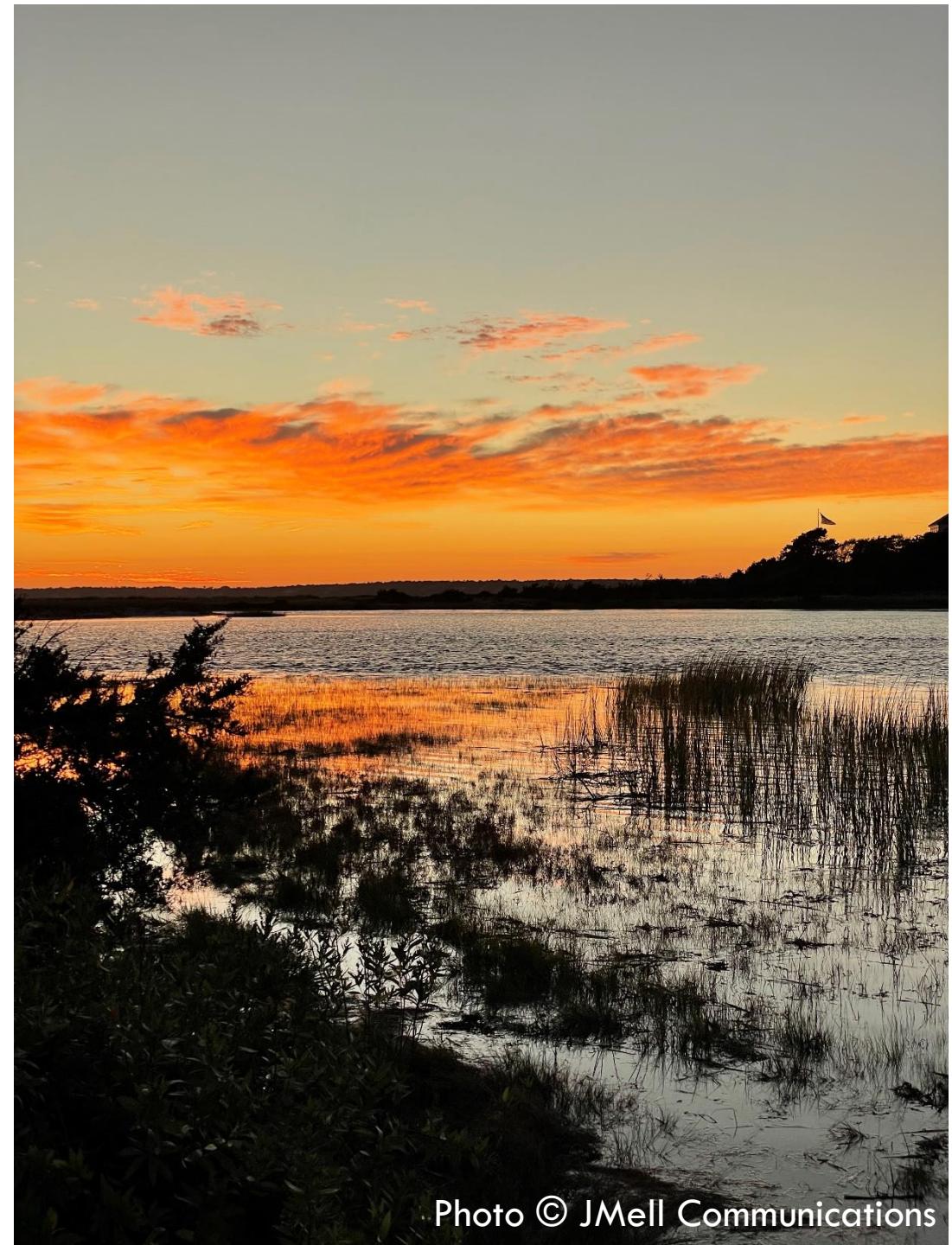


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IT'S ALREADY STARTED



Ice rafting is causing silt deposits/ice scouring of marsh system with increased levels of fresh water.

This is helping to create the muddy, smelly shoreline and breaks away chunks of marsh, which acts as a natural filter.

Eventually, this will take over the coastline

AGGRESSIVE PHRAGMITES

Phragmites thrive in brackish water environments. Increased salinity levels can naturally help slow down the spread of this aggressive invasive plant.



WE CAN SAVE THIS TREASURE

Fortunately, we're not in this alone.

We're joining forces with the Hyannisport Golf Club and our neighbors on Squaw Island and Green Dunes.

Together we can save this treasure that makes our corner of the world the best place to enjoy the Cape's summer breezes and create new memories.



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THREE-PRONGED PROJECT

Channel dredging:

- The channel is governed by its narrowest point. In 2009, the narrowest point was 46' wide; in 2012 the narrowest point had diminished to 21' feet
- This is a choke point for the brackish water to leave the system and salt water to come back in
- Opening up the channel through dredging will allow the creek to flush itself out and stay healthy



Barrier beach restoration

- The barrier beach is eroding, pushing sand into the system, filling the creek and exposing the bottom to sunlight. This harms shellfish, marine plants break down
- Putting sand from the dredging on the barrier beach will help stop erosion



Channel jetty repair:

- The channel jetty is breaking down because the natural flow of water wants to work its way around the jetty. This drives even more sand (from Green Dunes private beach) into Halls Creek, sealing off the channel flow.
- Repairing the jetty will help keep the channel open allowing for flushing.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Storm water protection
- Increased tidal flow
- Improved tidal flushing
- Increased drainage out of marsh system
- Increased salinity
- Reduced spread of invasive phragmites
- Improved shellfish/fin fish habitat
- Improved bird life for plovers and others
- Reduced siltation of inner shoreline
- Increased oxygen levels
- Reduced algae blooms (sea lettuce)
- Reduced odor (anaerobic conditions)
- Increased nitrogen flushing (208 Plan)
- Increased height of barrier beach



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Overall improved water quality within Hall's Creek

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Permit application filed with MEPA in 2021
- Environmental Notification Form filed May 2022
- Due to changes in the law and the location of an “Environmental Justice Population” (language based), we now must file an Environmental Impact Review
- Cape Cod Commission may or may not require a DRI filing (working this in parallel)

The following are expected to move quickly, given MEPA coordination

- Mass Historical Commission signoff
- Mass Board of Underwater Archaeology signoff
- Mass Division of Marine Fisheries signoff
- Mass Natural Heritage & Endangered Species notice of No Take
- Mass Division of Waterways Permit (requires a signoff from Town Planning Board and Town Zoning Enforcement Officer)
- Mass Coastal Zone Management Consistency Review
- Mass 401 Water Quality Certification
- US Army Corp of Engineers Permit

- Shovels in the Ground TARGET – November 2023
- Dredging season: Sept 1 – Jan 31.....2 or 3 week project

THE NUMBERS AND OUR ASK

- The total project is estimated to cost ~\$2.0 million.
- SPIA contribution will likely need to be ~\$1.0 million, with the other stakeholders providing the additional ~\$1.0 million in funding.
- Our goal is 100% participation by all the homeowners in the SPIA community:
 - We are seeking a core group of homeowners who would be willing to consider a substantial investment in this project.
 - Additionally, we are seeking general funding from each homeowner that would be calculated based on assessed property value, proximity to the shoreline.



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CONTACT INFO

To make a donation/pledge, or if you have any questions, please reach out to:

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