

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Falmouth Awarded Funding through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Restore America's Estuaries to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution in Snug Harbor.

Date: October 2025

From: Town of Falmouth Department of Public Works and the Water Quality Management Committee

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The Town of Falmouth is pleased to announce that our project, "Mitigating Legacy Nitrogen Pollution in a Tidal Basin with a Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB)," has been selected for funding through the National Estuary Program Watershed Grant Program. This nationally competitive award supports innovative efforts to protect and restore vital coastal ecosystems. Nearly \$450,000 is being funded through this program with an additional equivalent of \$200,000 of in-kind contributions from the project partners.

This funding will support a groundwater cleanup project in Snug Harbor, the uppermost part of West Falmouth Harbor—an estuary long impacted by nitrogen pollution from historic wastewater discharges and localized sources.

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### **About the Project**

This project will install two Permeable Reactive Barriers (PRBs) utilizing two different techniques along the shoreline to intercept and remove nitrogen before it enters the harbor. The project will utilize Emulsified Vegetable Oil (EVO) injections and woodchip columns both which supply a carbon source to feed the bacteria responsible for eliminating the nitrate in the groundwater. The proposed location is based upon thermal imagery that identified the site of a major groundwater seep at the shoreline.

Together, these PRBs are expected to remove a significant amount of nitrogen per year, while the town pursues an ocean outfall to eliminate all municipal discharge to West Falmouth Harbor. It is believed that these PRBs will create localized water quality improvements within Snug Harbor with some downstream benefits in West Falmouth Harbor including reducing algae blooms and improving water clarity for recreation and wildlife.

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### **Key Project Details**

The anticipated start for construction is Spring/Summer 2026. Construction will be carefully managed to minimize disruption, with most work occurring in the public right-of-way or on Town-owned land. Construction completion is estimated to be within six weeks after initiation.

The project partners involved in making this PRB possible include; The US Environmental Protection Agency, Restore Americas Estuaries, The Town of Falmouth Public Works, The Town of Falmouth Water Quality Management Committee, In-Situ Oxidative Technologies, Inc., and Marine

### How Can You Help?

Community support plays a vital role in expanding the impact of this project. The Town of Falmouth gratefully accepts monetary donations to help offset project costs. Additional funding will allow the PRB to be extended further, treating more groundwater and accelerating recovery in West Falmouth Harbor. Every contribution helps us protect and restore this treasured natural resource. If interested in making a contribution, please reach out to the WQMC ([wqmc@falmouthma.gov](mailto:wqmc@falmouthma.gov)) for further details.

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### Stay Informed

Public updates will be provided at Falmouth Water Quality Management Committee meetings, and published in local media.

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The Town of Falmouth thanks the NEP for its support and looks forward to contributing to the water quality improvement efforts in Snug Harbor.



Proposed locations for the PRBs.