



Volunteer Information Sheet

Our Mission

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a membership-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research, and advocacy.

History

Buzzards Bay was designated as an 'Estuary of National Significance' in 1985. It was then that a group of local residents began to meet to guide government officials charged with drafting a management plan for the Bay. This group of concerned citizens quickly realized that what the Bay needed more than federal recognition was a community-based organization that would always be here to speak on behalf of Buzzards Bay and its watershed.

The Buzzards Bay was officially incorporated as The Coalition for Buzzards Bay in July 1987, as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

How We Work

- **Science and Advocacy**
 - Sound science forms the foundation of all our advocacy efforts to restore and protect clean water.
 - For 30 years, the Coalition has kept a watchful eye on Buzzards Bay's health through our award-winning Baywatchers water quality monitoring program. This data helps us better understand the Bay ecosystem's response to human-related impacts.
 - We pursue the restoration and protection of the Bay ecosystem at all levels of government: local, state, and federal.
- **Watershed Protection**
 - The Coalition pursues a Bay-focused land protection and restoration strategy. We focus on the most vulnerable forests, streams, and wetlands in the watershed – natural areas that the Bay cannot afford to lose.
 - We've protected more than 9,000 acres throughout the Buzzards Bay watershed.
- **Community Engagement and Education**
 - Connecting people to the Bay is a fundamental component of the Coalition's work.
 - Every year, we lead thousands of children and adults on Bay Adventures, outdoor exploration programs across the watershed at little or no cost.
 - We're building a network of Bay discovery sites where all people can get outside.
 - Through annual events like our Swim and Watershed Ride, we're sustaining these connections to the places across our irreplaceable Bay that people love.

Challenges Facing Buzzards Bay

- **Nitrogen pollution** from septic systems and wastewater treatment plants
- **Rising sea levels** due to climate change
- The continued threat of **oil spills**
- **Bacterial contamination** from polluted stormwater runoff and wastewater systems