



# Saving the Mattapoisett River Tidelands

The Mattapoisett Land Trust (MLT) is working to conserve four parcels on the Mattapoisett River between Route 6 and the bike path. As described on the reverse page, placing these parcels in conservation protects important wildlife habitat, buffers our town from the impacts of sea level rise, and preserves the earliest sites in Mattapoisett settled by Europeans. Conservation also allows creation of riverside access for public recreation and maintains the area's scenic beauty.

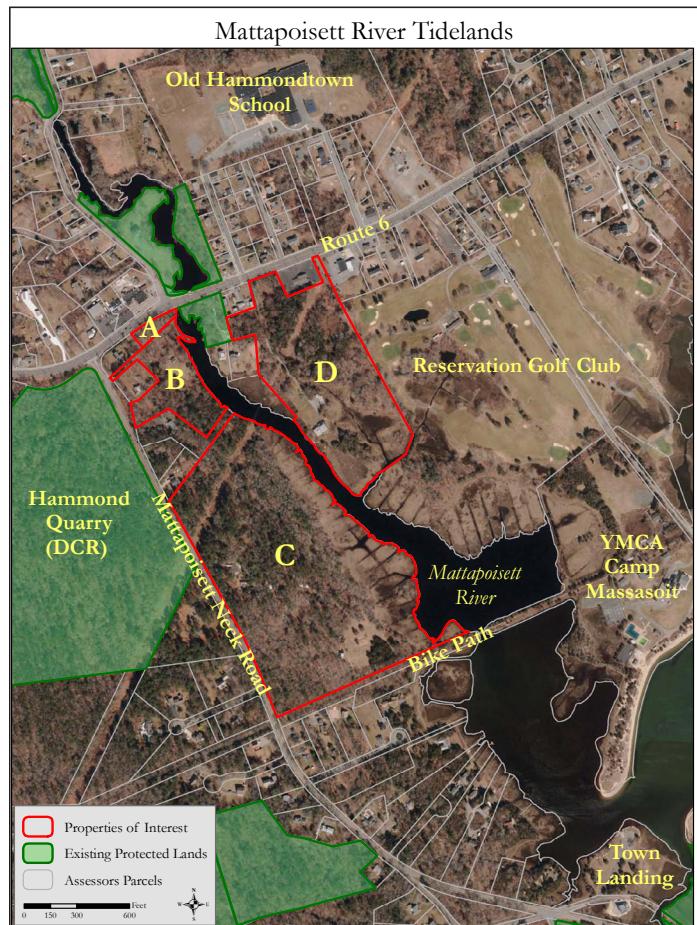
Parcels A, B, C, and D soon will be protected. Smaller riverfront lots, and salt marsh areas owned by Reservation Golf Club and the YMCA are not threatened by further development. Our immediate need is raise \$235,000 to complete purchase of Parcel B. We have received \$130,000 in federal and state conservation grants as well as nearly \$40,000 in private gifts. **We need your help now to raise the remaining \$65,000.**

**Parcel A:** We are negotiating to purchase this small parcel from owners who have never visited Mattapoisett and are open to selling if we can agree on a fair price.

**Parcel B:** Known as the Alves Riverfront Parcel, MLT has signed a Purchase & Sale Agreement to purchase this critical property. We must raise \$65,000 to complete this purchase by June 30, 2022 and prevent development of one or two riverfront homes.

**Parcel C:** This parcel is enrolled as open space under MA Chapter 61B, a program that grants property tax reductions on a year-by-year basis in return for keeping land undeveloped. The owners are committed to conserving their land permanently, and MLT is working with them to determine next steps: either a Conservation Restriction or purchase by MLT.

**Parcel D:** The owners have generously agreed to donate a Conservation Restriction to be held jointly by MLT and the Buzzards Bay Coalition. The CR will prevent any further development of this 14 acre parcel beyond the current single family home. MLT is working with the owners now to finalize the CR.



# Why Save the Tidelands?

## Wildlife Habitat and Scenic Values

Virtually all the Mattapoisett River Tidelands are designated as Priority Habitat of Rare Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). In addition, much of the area is designated as NHESP Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape. The ecological importance of the tidelands is clear from these designations. And the scenery is spectacular, both along the river and viewed from the Rt. 6 bridge, the Bike Path and Mattapoisett Neck Road. Bald eagles and other wildlife frequently are spotted in this area.

## Climate Resiliency

The Mattapoisett River Tidelands include large areas expected to evolve into salt marsh or other coastal habitat as sea level continues to rise and storms intensify. Thus conservation of the Tidelands is critical to build Mattapoisett's climate resiliency. Under current zoning over 20 new dwellings could be built in the Tidelands if these lands are not placed in conservation.

## Public Outdoor Recreation

Conservation of the Tidelands will provide enhanced public outdoor recreation. Most of the west bank is mature dry forest leading to a beautiful, largely unspoiled stretch of the Mattapoisett River. A walking path eventually could be installed along the west bank leading from Rt. 6 south to the bike path, with additional paths from parking along Mattapoisett Neck Road easterly to the river. These paths would allow public access to the river for walking, bird watching, fishing and kayaking. The Tidelands lie directly across Mattapoisett Neck Road from the Old Hammond Quarry, part of the larger Nasketucket Bay State Reservation owned by the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR.)

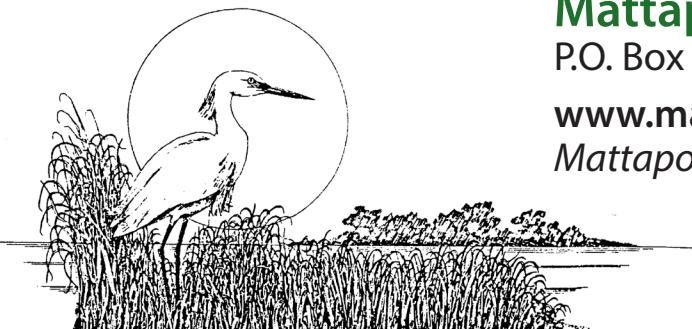
## Historic Preservation

Many of the earliest Europeans in Mattapoisett settled not in the present village but at the mouth of the Mattapoisett River. Beginning in the late 1680's landings, docks and small shipyards were built along the west bank of the river starting 100 yards below the present Route 6 bridge. Remains of a granite dock along the river are still present. This entire early settlement area would be protected.

## How you can help

Right now MLT must raise \$65,000 to complete the purchase of the Alves Waterfront Parcel. We hope you will join neighbors and friends throughout Mattapoisett in donating generously. We plan to close by June 30, 2022 but can accept gifts and pledges through the end of the year. The Alves Parcel is threatened with immediate development if we do not act promptly, and is a critical part of the Tidelands.

**Contact Mattapoisett Land Trust President Mike Huguenin (508-758-2661) with questions, for a tour of the Tidelands or to learn how you can make a gift or volunteer.**



**Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.**  
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Mattapoisett Land Trust is a 501(c) (3) organization.

*We preserve land to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations of Mattapoisett residents and visitors*