

Protecting Quicksand Pond Watershed

Freshwater tributaries, coastal ponds and barrier beaches offer tides of life, waves of resources, recreation and spiritual renewal

Our shorelines are some of the most biologically-rich natural systems on the planet and are vitally important to people around the world.

The Nature Conservancy and its partners have long recognized that in the Northeast, our **freshwater tributaries, coastal ponds and barrier beaches are among the region's most valuable natural assets**. Yet, subdivision and development adjacent to shorelines and nutrient run-off from lawns and fields pose imminent threats to maintaining ecological health.

In seeking a solution to these threats, the Conservancy has identified the entire Quicksand Pond watershed as a protection priority. This is the place where freshwater meets the sea, and its ebbs and flows at Goosewing Beach support a web of bird and marine life unlike anywhere else in our region.

With your help, we can continue our work to protect the Quicksand Pond Watershed through land acquisition, conservation easements, research and restoration, species and watershed protection, and environmental education.

So why do we need to protect the watershed of one of the most unaltered coastal ponds along the North Atlantic Coast? To...

Safeguard a stunning diversity of aquatic species, including Atlantic striped bass, uncommonly large blue crabs, healthy oysters and spawning and feeding grounds for migratory fish.



Photography Geoff Dennis

Common ground – common sense. It takes a village to save a Piping Plover. For 22 years these fragile and charismatic birds have epitomized the plight of endangered species while gracing our shorelines and touching our hearts.

Protect shoreline flora and fauna habitats including those for the endangered Piping Plover and other migratory birds to nest and rare plant species to thrive.

Restore shorelines from invasive species such as phragmites, via research and management to preserve native plant communities, aquatic nursery areas and our view sheds.

Provide recreational and educational opportunities as well as for spiritual renewal. Each summer, naturalists and educators are on site at Goosewing Beach Preserve and its adjacent “living classroom” just north of South Shore Beach.

Preserve one of Rhode Island's most magnificent scenic sea views for future generations to enjoy.

At this time, 835 acres are under some form of protection in the Quicksand

Pond watershed. Land has been protected over a period of two decades at a cost of less than \$8,000/acre.

With your help, we must raise \$1.48 million in private funds (towards a total project cost of \$6.34 million) to protect 225 acres, renovate the shed at Goosewing Beach, and provide for on-going restoration and education programs. This includes:

Phase I: \$685,000 needed to pay off balance on 110 acres that were recently protected at the cost of \$5.04 million.

Phase II: \$800,000 needed to protect 100 acres more at the north of the pond, shed renovation, on-going restoration and education programs. Estimated cost to save 100 acres is \$1 million; their value is twice that.

Your gift will help protect one of the most pristine sections of the North Atlantic's shorelines and allow for continued educational opportunities.