



## Town of Wells Marsh Walk Project



### PARTNERS

United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Bureau of Parks & Lands

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION (completed June 2016)

The FY16 Coastal Community Grant provided funding for engineering and design work for the future construction of a 1,210-linear foot walking path to gain accessibility to the picturesque views along the marsh inlet with a viewing platform to complement the existing uses in the harbor such as boating, kayak rentals and sailing.

### APPROACH

Wright-Pierce Engineering was retained to work with the stakeholders and the Town. The kick-off meeting took place in December 2015 to appoint the advisory committee. Project partners brought experts from within their organizations that were familiar with the terrain and natural habitat of local wildlife and plant species. Existing conditions and mapping were shown with a potential rough layout of the proposed trail. A representative from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection was also in attendance to provide guidance and continued to attend all of the meetings through the process proving to be an asset through the process. A site walk with the stakeholders was done in February 2015. A workshop/informational meeting took place with the Board of Selectmen in June 2016 showing great support for all the efforts the stakeholders took in the details helping to design the marsh walk.



## **RESULTS**

Updated mapping to include survey work, projected sea level rise, marsh migration, Sea, Lake and Overland Surges for Hurricanes (SLOSH) data and topography mapping is now available for this project and future development of the Wells Marsh Walk Plan. This project is in compliance with the Town of Wells Harbor Management Plan and endorsed by all agencies involved in the process.

## **NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The Town has received a preliminary cost to build the 1,210-linear foot marsh walk from Wright-Pierce with the Town's Public Works Department doing a large percentage of the work. The Town may consider other grant opportunities in the future and will also need to plan this project into its Capital Improvement Plan as part of the Wells Harbor Management Program.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

The ability to work with other agencies towards a common goal. Respecting the stewardship and guidelines that everyone has to work within but still being able to maintain a natural habitat for the public to enjoy without endangering or sacrificing the natural or wildlife habitat in the process.

## **APPLICABILITY FOR OTHER MUNICIPALITIES**

Reaching out to other agency stakeholders and working in conjunction with those agencies can not only help make the project successful, it builds relationships and trust that is worthwhile long after the project is finished.

### **For additional information**

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