



Mitigation, Permitting, and Long-Term Environmental Monitoring for Willowbend Golf Course

Mashpee, Massachusetts

Willowbend Development, LLC proposed the expansion of an existing 18-hole golf course and residential community within land located adjacent to commercial cranberry bogs and Shoestring Bay in Mashpee, Massachusetts. Willowbend retained Horsley Witten Group (HW) to conduct environmental impact assessments and obtain local, regional, and State environmental permits for the project. The final project design represents cooperative efforts between Willowbend, Horsley Witten Group, Town of Mashpee officials, the Mashpee Tribal Council, and the Cape Cod Commission.

The project included an extensive array of significant environmental mitigation measures, including a water conservation plan to reduce existing groundwater withdrawals, sewerage of a nearby condominium complex (Cotuit Bay Condos) to reduce nitrogen loading in Shoestring Bay, conversion of golf course turf to natural vegetation, wetland replication, creation of wildlife habitat, development of a stewardship program for the Bryant's Cove estuary, establishment of conservation restrictions throughout the property, and long term monitoring. Long term monitoring of groundwater, surface water, soil moisture quality, and streamflow and groundwater levels has been ongoing since 2003.

For this project, Horsley Witten Group, Willowbend, and the Cape Cod Commission were awarded the 2002 Environmental Award from the Mashpee Conservation Commission.

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