



York River Saltmarsh Restoration Project

Salt marshes are important! Capture and store carbon, protect shorelines from erosion, and provide valuable habitat for many species.

Concern – Megapools

Invested - 2024 YRSC dedicated funds to Northeast Wetland Restoration.

Partnered – Identified willing landowners – YLT and USFWS Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge (132 acres).
Identified project lead - Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and partners NPS and WERR.

Analyzed – Northeast Wetland Restoration – Geoff Wilson conducted research, field work, and produced a report that included a restoration plan. (Dec. 2025)

York River-Smelt Brook Salt Marsh Restoration Project

Northeast Wetland Restoration
17 Keay Road, Berwick, ME, 03901
207-252-4841

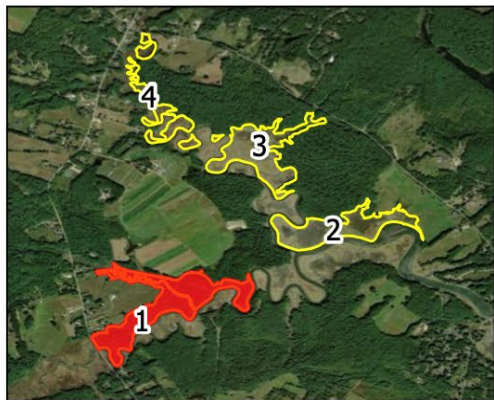
York, ME
August 27th, 2025

Project Area 1
Existing Conditions Plan
Sheet 1-2

Legend

Agricultural Infrastructure

- Early Period Embankments
- Late Period Embankments
- Clay Cored Embankments



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Funding – MCHT and partners developed a MNRCP grant application. (Project received the highest score of all applications received and was awarded \$374,900.)

Outreach – Public talks and walks, website info., and letters to neighbors.

Project Teams – Permitting, Outreach, Monitoring Plan development, Field work

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Pre-project preparation - documenting existing conditions
Audio recording and photo stations, and drone flights.
Vegetation plots, transects, and survey points.
Shorebird and saltmarsh sparrow surveys.

Site visits - Drake Island Marsh, Wells

Consultations - SHPO, THPOs, NDDDB



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York River-Smelt Brook Salt Marsh Restoration Project

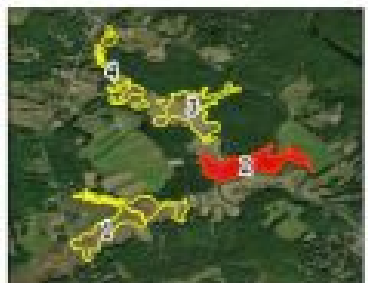
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Project Area 2
Proposed Conditions Plan (Single
Channel Hydrology)
Sheet 2-4

Legend

Tidal Channel Network
— Tidal Channel Network
Proposed Phragmites Control
— Brackish Ditch
— Marginal Ditch
— Phragmites Control Areas



Permitting – Army Corps of Engineers,
submitted May 2026, rec'd June 2026.

York – Shoreline permit

ME DEP PBR – Pre-app mtg Thursday

Project Initiation – Antic. Fall 2026

Timeline – Restoration work through
Winter 2029

Monitoring until 2032.

Long-term repair may take 60-80 years!

