



Casco Bay Currents Summer 2020

1 message

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Casco Bay Currents, an email newsletter of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

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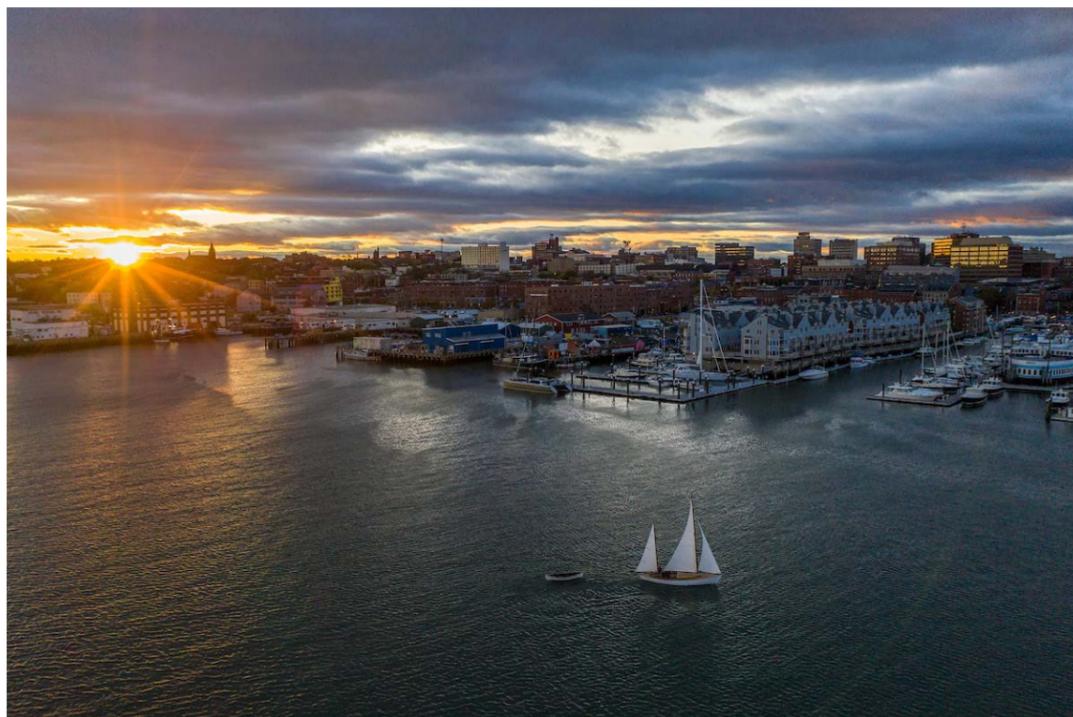


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Welcome,

to the Summer 2020 edition of *Casco Bay Currents*, the newsletter for Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP).

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@Jerry and Marcy Monkman/[EcoPhotography](#)

Reflections on Racism and the Environment



Photo: @jerryandmarcymonkman, [ecophotography.com](https://www.ecophotography.com)

Recent events have sadly shone a light on the systemic racism that exists in our society, with devastating consequences to black lives and the lives of other people of color. Racism and environmental degradation are intertwined and need to be tackled head-on. This can seem overwhelming. To start, we must all acknowledge that climate and environmental crises have an unequal impact on people of color. We also need to recognize that there is often unequal access to clean water, air, and livable land. How can we commit to anti-racism in our important work to protect the places we love? [This article](#) provides some useful and informative links to further reading on this issue. The [NAACP](#) is also a good place to start.

CBEP is looking ahead to our Casco Bay Plan update in 2021 and commit to ensuring that racial equity and inclusion are centered in that plan, and that communities of color have a seat at the table.

Maine Climate Council Looking for Feedback

Governor Mills has made combating climate change and encouraging clean energy policy one of her top administration priorities. The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future is coordinating the work of the [Maine Climate Council](#). The goals of the Climate Council are bold emissions reductions, mitigation, resilience, and transition. A four-year State Climate Action Plan will be completed by December 2020.

To achieve Maine's climate goals, six working groups have developed a set of strategies for the Council to consider for the State Climate Action Plan. You can review these strategies here at the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future [website](#). Detailed feedback from the public about the recommended strategies will be sought via survey beginning in early July. Please sign up for the Maine Climate Council newsletter on the [homepage](#) to learn about the launch of this survey.

You can join some upcoming virtual meetings to hear the Working Groups' proposed strategies on **June 17** (Buildings, Energy, and Transportation Working Groups) and **June 18** (Natural & Working Lands, Coastal & Marine, and Community Resilience Working Groups).

Links to register:

June 18 and June 19: [Maine Climate Council \(Virtual\)](#). 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. [Day 1 registration](#). [Day 2 registration](#).

Living Shorelines Projects in Action



A team of colleagues from municipal and state government, nonprofits, and private consultants, led by Pete Slovinsky, Marine Geologist at Maine Geological Survey, installed pilot living shorelines construction projects in May and early June in Brunswick.

Living shoreline is a broad term that encompasses a range of shoreline stabilization techniques along estuarine coasts, bays, sheltered coastlines, and tributaries.

The team set up demonstration sites at **Wharton Point** and **Maquoit Bay Conservation Lands** in Brunswick (a third site, **Lanes Island** in Yarmouth, is still under consideration). Recycled and aged oyster shell and fallen trees were chosen as treatments as they beneficially reuse naturally occurring materials common to Casco Bay.

CBEP is leading a long-term (five-year) monitoring program to track the efficacy of the different installations in curtailing erosion, the impacts of the treatments to surrounding habitats, and how well these installations can survive in Maine's harsh winter climate.

Learn more about this project on the Maine Geological Survey website [here](#).

Photos: Maine Geological Survey

CBEP Habitat Protection Fund Awards



Royal River Conservation Trust is adding 170+ acres to its existing 128-acre Intervale Preserve, which hosts wild brook trout, inland wading bird, and waterfowl habitat.
Photo: Royal River Conservation Trust.

CBEP released our Spring 2020 Habitat Protection Fund RFP, which generated four proposals, supporting fee acquisitions totaling 279 acres.

- Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, for a 25-acre parcel on Chebeague Island;
- Falmouth Land Trust, for a 52-acre parcel on Norton Brook, a tributary to Mill Creek;
- Loon Echo Land Trust, for two parcels totaling 22 acres adjacent to the Tiger Hill Preserve; and
- Royal River Conservation Trust, for multiple parcels totaling 180 acres adjacent to the Intervale Preserve in New Gloucester.

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