

Dear Friends,

Let me begin with a sincere thank you for your dedication to APCC and to the future of Cape Cod. Your commitment supports and sustains all of our work to preserve the unique and fragile environment that defines our Cape Cod home.

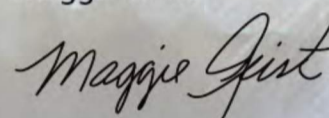
2009 marked a year of significant achievements for our organization. APCC worked to pass a landmark zoning bylaw in Brewster that will preserve the most environmentally sensitive areas of the town, and we spearheaded the advocacy effort that led to Congressional authorization of the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project, which will protect and restore thousands of acres of salt marsh, spawning habitat for fish, and shellfish growing areas. APCC also launched a new initiative to draw attention to the importance of preserving our agricultural heritage on Cape Cod. In this annual report, we highlight these and other accomplishments that demonstrate the remarkable results of APCC's tireless advocacy, strategic programming and extensive outreach.

At the heart of APCC's philosophy is the notion of conservation of resources. We work to protect our lands and waters because we recognize, respect and revere our intimately dependent relationship with the Earth. As a small part of that understanding, we make every effort in our office to reduce the use of energy and other resources. For example, we make more of our materials available electronically to reduce our use of paper. At the same time we know it is critical that we inform our members and the larger community of our efforts and that sometimes, and for some members, we need to use paper to do so.

We have made one of the graphics in this annual report into a postcard. In this way our annual report can serve dual purposes. It can provide you with an update of our activities that are made possible through your generous support, and give you an attractive card to enjoy and then send on to inspire and motivate others to join in our mission to protect Cape Cod. While last year's successes are impressive, there is much work to be done to achieve an environmentally sensitive way of life on Cape Cod. Your support, and the support of others like you, is critical to our continued success.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,

Maggie Geist



Executive Director

2009 Accomplishments

Landmark Land Protection Bylaw Adopted

APCC spearheaded a successful effort to establish a Natural Resource Protection Design bylaw in the town of Brewster in order to protect critical water resources. This landmark zoning bylaw, creating 3- and 5-acre density districts, is arguably the most important land use tool adopted on Cape Cod in decades and offers other towns a model they can use to preserve open space and protect sensitive resource areas.

Cape Cod Watershed Project Authorized

2009 was a banner year for thousands of acres of salt marshes, fish runs and shellfish beds when the U.S. Congress authorized the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's watershed restoration project for Cape Cod. APCC created a coalition and led the successful advocacy effort that resulted in approval of the project, which calls for \$24 million in federal funding over 10 years.

Herring River, Salt Marsh Restoration

Diked in the early 1900s, this 1,100-acre salt marsh system in Wellfleet and Truro will be the largest marsh restoration project in New England. As APCC first advocated for restoration of this marsh and provided research and monitoring in support of restoration in the 1970s, we are delighted to be part of the core team actively working on the restoration today.

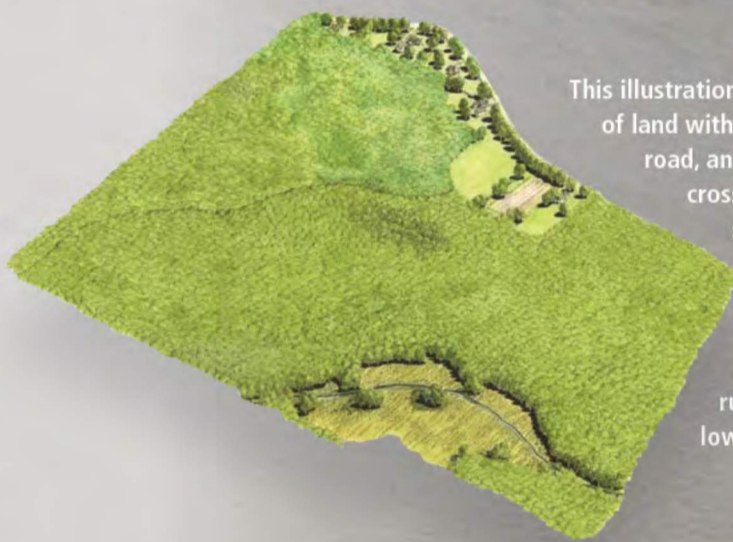
Cape Cod Agriculture

APCC has drawn attention to the importance of agriculture on Cape Cod by undertaking an analysis of the history, current status and future prospects for farming on the Cape. APCC also brought Joel Salatin, who was featured in "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and "Food, Inc.," to Cape Cod in October 2009 as a guest speaker following our annual meeting.

APCC was busy in other arenas as well:

- Monitoring fish runs and salt marshes
- Advocating for reform of the state zoning act
- Promoting sound wastewater infrastructure planning and implementation
- Supporting efforts to direct growth into existing town centers and away from natural resource areas
- Advocating for a management plan for NSTAR right of ways that will not pose threats to sensitive resources
- Providing technical assistance to towns, organizations and community groups
- Offering in-depth educational opportunities through short- and long-term internships
- Protecting our resources through critical review of proposed developments
- Reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation such as the state Ocean Management Plan

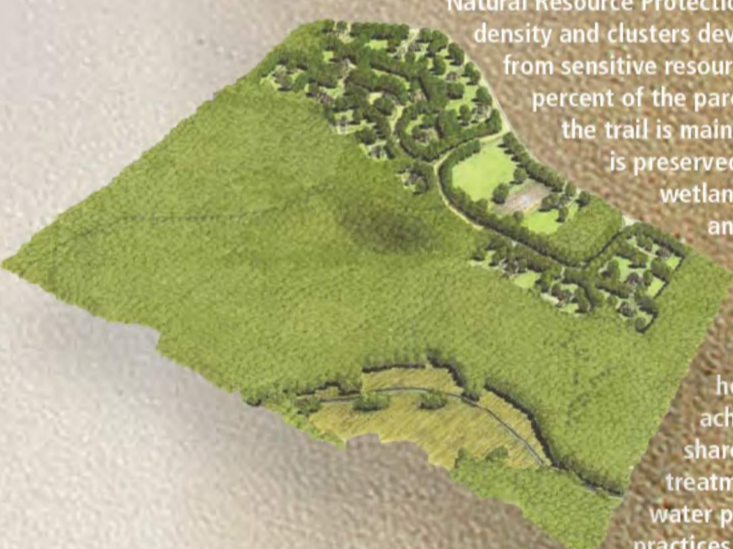
How Natural Resource Protection Design Works



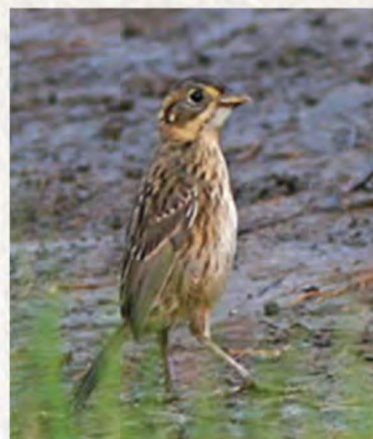
This illustration depicts a parcel of land with a field near the road, an existing trail crosses from the rear, steep slopes are located in the center, and a stream and wetlands area run through the lower right.



Under conventional zoning, a subdivision with excessive impervious surfaces sprawls across the parcel. Little open space is preserved, the trail is lost, the field developed, and houses encroach upon the wetland buffer area.



Natural Resource Protection Design lowers density and clusters development away from sensitive resources. Up to 80 percent of the parcel is preserved, the trail is maintained, the field is preserved, the stream and wetlands are protected, and impervious surfaces are minimized. Density bonuses for additional housing can be achieved by utilizing shared wastewater treatment and other water protection practices.



Cape Cod

"A man may stand there and put all America behind him."

Henry David Thoreau

