20 SumCo ECO-CONTRACTING

20 YEARS OF RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE

Coonamessett River Bog Restoration, Falmouth, MA

Windswept Bog Wetland Restoration – Nantucket, MA

Tidmarsh Farms Restoration, Plymouth, MA

> *"Every day, on every project, we are helping to create a more adaptive, resilient, and sustainable world."*

Turning Former Cranberry Bogs into Thriving Wetlands

Over the past 15 years, SumCo Eco-Contracting has returned over a dozen former cranberry bogs back into thriving wetlands. Nearly 500 acres of bog have been returned to a natural flow state allowing for improved aquatic habitat and the return of native plant species previously buried below the bog surface. Restoring a cranberry bog back into a saltmarsh (if it's coastal and tidal) or freshwater wetland (if inland) has a wide range of ecological and community benefits including:

Restoring Natural Habitat: Transforming a former cranberry bog into a functional wetland restores the natural ecological framework—microtopography, vegetation zonation, and hydrologic connectivity—that supports diverse and resilient habitats. In New England, these restorations have enhanced cold-water fish habitat, reestablished river connectivity for migratory fish species, and on some projects, provided marsh migration pathways for salt marsh ecosystems adapting to sea level rise.

Improving Water Quality: Historic cranberry bog infrastructure—ditches, berms, and sand layers—disrupted natural filtration and accelerated nutrient and sediment runoff. Restoration reestablishes filtration through organic soils and wetland vegetation, slowing water flow and improving nutrient uptake. In Southeastern Massachusetts, communities are turning to bog restoration to protect drinking water and reduce eutrophication by preventing excess nitrogen from entering sensitive aquifers and waterbodies.

Carbon Storage: Restoring natural hydrology raises water levels, slows decomposition, and promotes peat formation—reactivating the wetland's ability to capture and store atmospheric carbon. These re-wetted landscapes serve as long-term carbon sinks and play a vital role in advancing regional climate resilience.

Restored Hydrology & Groundwater Recharge: Removing artificial drainage structures and reestablishing natural flow paths resets the site's water balance. This enhances groundwater recharge, moderates flood events, and mitigates drought, benefiting ecosystems and surrounding communities.

EBC Environmental Business Council of New England
OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION: TIDMARSH BOG (2018)

ACEC American Council of Engineering Companies of MA
PROJECT PARTNER AWARD WINNER: COONAMESSETT BOG RESTORATION (2022) AND COLD BROOK ECO-RESTORATION (2025)

Partners and affiliations include:

Harwich Conservation Trust · Coonamessett River Trust · Division of Ecological Restoration · Massachusetts · USDA NRCS · Nantucket Conservation Foundation

CONTACT OUR EXPERIENCED BOG RESTORATION TEAMS: (978) 744-1515.

Jonathan Gawrys
jgawrys@sumcoeco.com

Travis Sumner
tsumner@sumcoeco.com

www.sumcoeco.com

Follow us:

Eel River Headwaters Restoration – Plymouth, MA

SumCo Eco helped to transform 60-acres of former commercial cranberry farm into self-sustaining freshwater wetlands. The project removed barriers to aquatic connectivity throughout the site, including Sawmill Pond Dam, two undersized culverts, and multiple water control structures. We created 2 miles of new river channel, replaced 2 river crossings, and planted over 24,000 native trees and shrubs to re-establish a rare Atlantic white cedar wetland. Techniques pioneered at Eel River have since been used at similar sites throughout the northeast.

Tidmarsh Farms Restoration – Plymouth, MA

The project consisted of the total restoration and naturalization of a former 150-acre cranberry bog (225-acre total restoration area), and a dam and 7 additional water control structure removals. It was the largest freshwater wetland and river restoration ever undertaken in the state. Naturalizing the bog included backfilling and grading the countless ditches, excavation and stabilization of a new "Main Stem" channel meandering the length of the bog and the creation of numerous smaller tributary channels, two flow-through ponds, along with new vehicular bridge and culvert replacement.

Cold Brook Cranberry Bog Restoration – Harwich, MA

SumCo Eco naturalized this retired cranberry bog to restore nearly a mile of stream sinuosity and over 44-acres of adjacent wetland habitat. The project delivered fish passage, improved habitat, water quality, and ecological resiliency. In addition to the bog restoration, the project also includes 4 bridges and a boardwalk as part of the trail system, including a 1-mile long all-persons trail. Harwich taxpayers contributed $2M to the project for Nitrogen reduction into harbor with expected future savings of $6M in avoided infrastructure costs for the watershed.

Coonamessett River Bog Restoration – Falmouth, MA

Phase 1, completed in early 2018, included the removal of Lower Bog dam, installation of a public access boardwalk, reconstruction of the river channel, and restoration of 17-acres of wetlands. Phase 2, completed in June 2020, included the installation of a public access boardwalk and restoration of 39-acres wetlands by removing former commercial cranberry bogs. In addition, the replacement of three failing culverts with a large box culvert will allow migratory fish to access their upstream habitat, including the 158-acre Coonamessett Pond.

Windswept Bog Restoration (Phase 1 & 2) – Nantucket Island, MA

In this 2 phase project, SumCo Eco restored approximately 40 acres of a former cranberry bog into self-sustaining natural wetlands. Work consisted of deconstruction of earthen berms, removal of water control structures, construction of cobble riffles and stone/earth grade controls, and wetland grading and microtopography within the former bog cells. Material removed from the bog cells were reused on site within depositional areas to create upland habitat diversity.

Other Projects

Sampsons Brook Bog and Stream Restoration (12-acres)
Kingston, MA

Mill Brook Bog Restoration (48-acres)
Freetown, MA

Hinkley's Pond Herring River Headwaters Eco-restoration (30-acres)
Harwich & Brewster, MA

Contact

SumCo Eco-Contracting
20 Years of Restoration and Resilience

401 Edgewater Drive, Suite 680, Wakefield, MA 01880

CONTACT OUR TEAM TO DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT:
(978) 744-1515

www.sumcoeco.com

Follow us:

Jonathan Gawrys: jgawrys@sumcoeco.com
Travis Sumner: tsumner@sumcoeco.com

Our Full List of Services

Ecosystem Restoration & Mitigation
Freshwater Wetlands
Salt Marshes
Cranberry Bog Restoration
Lakes & Ponds
Upland Forest & Grasslands

Dam Removal & River Restoration
Fish Passage
Bank Stabilization
Stream Restoration

Coastal Stabilization
Living Shorelines
Bioengineered Solutions
Dune Restoration
& Beach Nourishment
Sea Walls & Revetments

Infrastructure & Resiliency
Dam Rehabilitation
Culverts & Bridges
Flood Control
Site Development
Green Infrastructure
Stormwater Systems

Dredging & Marine Construction
Hydraulic & Mechanical Dredging
Beneficial Use of Dredge Materials
Subtidal Infrastructure
Jetties, Piers, & Bulkheads
CDF Infrastructure

Parks & Open Spaces
Landscape Installation
Golf Course Water Features
Boardwalks & Bridges
Trails & Public Access
Water Access/Boat Ramps

Native Plant Communities
Planting & Site Restoration
Seeding
Invasive Species Management

Remediation
Contaminated Soils
Soil Treatment & Disposal
Brownfield Redevelopment

Service areas: From Maine to Virginia