

Wellfleet Conservation Trust “Walks in Wellfleet”

--- a historic and educational
visit to the *Herring River* and
Griffin Island



9:00 am, Saturday, September 15, 2007
(Rain date Sunday September 16, 2007)

in cooperation with

**Cape Cod National Seashore
Herring River Restoration Project
Wellfleet Open Space Committee**

Wellfleet Conservation Trust

The Wellfleet Conservation Trust was founded in 1984. Its mission is to conserve the natural beauty of Wellfleet in perpetuity.

Individuals have gifted to the Trust, made bargain sales or set aside in conservation restriction over 300 acres in Town.

The Trust is a qualified non-profit land trust administered by an elected volunteer Board.

**The Wellfleet Conservation Trust
PO Box 84
Wellfleet, MA 02667**

<http://home.comcast.net/~wellfleet.conservation.trust/>

Cape Cod National Seashore



The Cape Cod National Seashore, established in 1961, includes about 8,000 acres in Wellfleet, or 61 percent of the Wellfleet's 13,100 acre total area. Land management of the Herring River basin is a National Park Service responsibility.

Wellfleet Open Space Committee



The Committee is a Town of Wellfleet volunteer committee which advises the Town on open space matters.

Griffin (Griffith's) Island

Everett Nye noted the island was probably named after an early owner (Griffith). “Bounded on the north by Bound Brook Island and on the south by Great Island, Griffith's Island was home to 12-15 early settler families in the 1700s. They were fisherman and sailors. Whaling was a major industry. The first wharf in Wellfleet was built on Griffith's Island. The closing of Duck Harbor and increased ship size led to the abandoning of the island. The last remaining house on Griffith's Island burned in 1890.”

Ref: *History of Wellfleet from Early Days to Present Time*,
Everett I. Nye, 1920

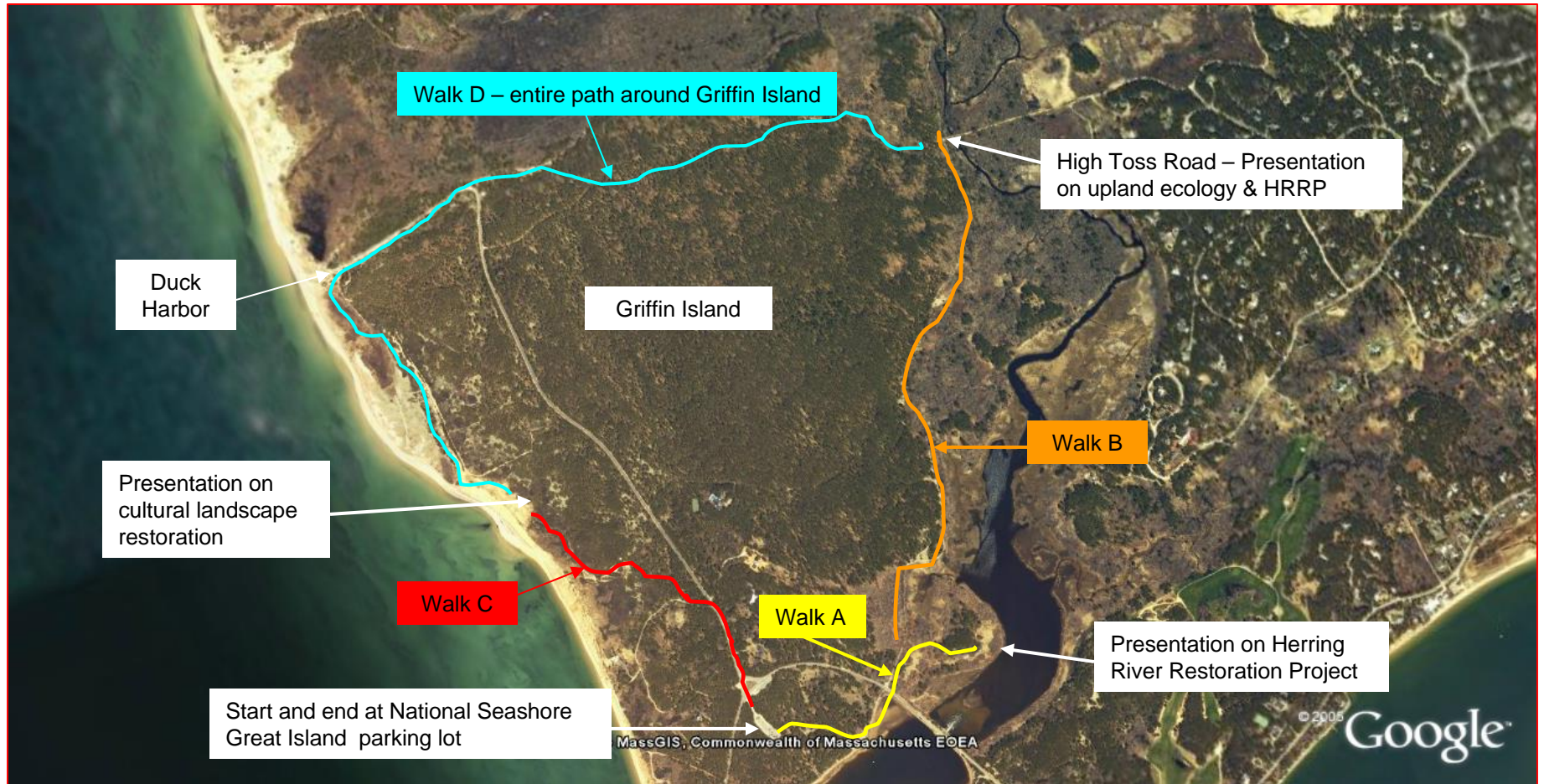
Herring River Restoration Project



The Herring River, encompassing more than 1,100 acres, is the largest estuary on Lower Cape Cod. In 1908 the Chequessett Neck Road Dike was built to control mosquitoes. The dike altered natural tidal patterns, wetlands were lost and natural salt marsh plants were overrun by invasive freshwater and upland vegetation. The salt marsh has been reduced to approximately seven acres.

In 2005 the Town of Wellfleet, the Cape Cod National Seashore, which owns 80% of the Herring River floodplain, state and federal agencies and private conservation groups agreed to work together to restore the salt marsh. The Town, the Cape Cod National Seashore and many other federal and state agencies are working together to develop a tidal restoration plan.





Walk A: 1 mile, one hour - Easy walk to the Herring River from the parking lot and return – presentation on the Herring River Restoration Project (HRRP) – John Portnoy – CCNS Ecologist, Herring River Salt Marsh Restoration

Walk B: 2 miles, two hours - Follows Walk A and continues with an easy walk on level dirt road along the Herring River to High Toss Road and return – presentation on upland ecology and HRRP – Stephen Smith, CCNS Plant Ecologist

Walk C: 2 miles, two hours - Moderate walk with loose sand and a few steep slopes through uplands to high dunes along the Bay and return – great views of the Bay and presentation on cultural landscape restoration – Evan Gwilliam, CCNS Aquatic Ecologist

Walk D: 3 miles, three hours plus - Difficult walk around the island – follows Walk C through the upland to the Bay and continues on to Duck Harbor, then heads east across the upland to High Toss Road and returns via Walk B and Walk A paths - includes all three presentations