



Society of Wetland Scientists New England Chapter 2023 Annual Conference

2023 SWS-NE Annual Conference Abstract Information	
Presenter Name	Matt Burne, PWS
Presenter Job Title	Senior Ecologist
Presenter Affiliation	BSC Group, Inc.
Abstract Title	Planning Restoration and Resiliency on the Stow Acres Golf Course
Abstract	<p>Restoration Ecology is becoming an increasingly important discipline for ecological and wetland consulting companies, and opportunities are growing quickly for restoration work of all sorts. The Stow Acres master planning process is one such opportunity to step back and look at a large parcel in a landscape context and think about restoring historically altered ecological systems and processes and at the same time to take steps to increase climate resiliency of the site within its broader context. Both the frequency and intensity of storms are increasing due to climate change, and the hydrology of the site is expected to change dramatically with the cessation of golf course management.</p> <p>The master planning process will involve an analysis of historic, existing, and proposed conditions with the goal of identifying a wide range of opportunities for ecological restoration of the landscape. A primary focus will be identifying filled wetland areas to expand flood storage capacity associated with several natural brooks on the site and attempting to restore natural drainage patterns that have been manipulated over time. We will use a variety of tools to find potential wetland restoration sites, including indicator of reduction in soils (IRIS) tubes which provide a simple means of detecting reducing conditions in the upper part of a soil profile.</p> <p>Increasing wetland areas through restoration and new construction are nature-based solutions that help communities improve resilience by taking advantage of the ecosystem services that wetlands provide – storm damage prevention, increased flood storage volume, and pollution mitigation among them.</p>