



Located in Lincoln, Rhode Island, Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project was identified through a comprehensive watershed evaluation of ecological restoration opportunities in the Blackstone River Watershed.

The project involved the restoration of 17 acres of habitat by removing the former drive-in theater and transforming the asphalt site into a wetland. The site now has 10 acres of riparian habitat and seven acres of wetland, with 3.6 acres of emergent and open water habitat and 3.4 acres of shrub and forested swamp.

New Strategy to Help Corals Survive Climate Change

Climate change is destroying tropical marine ecosystems through sea temperature increase and ocean acidification—20 percent of coral reefs have already been wrecked, and a further 50 percent are facing immediate or long-term danger of collapse.

A new report, *Coral Reef Resilience and Resistance to Bleaching*, published by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), shows that the fate of corals may not yet be sealed. By fighting other stress factors, such as pollution or overfishing impacting on coral reefs, reefs will be able to better adapt to climate change impacts.

Another report, *Managing Mangroves for Resilience to Climate Change*, follows a similar strategy. To help mangroves, especially threatened by sea level rise, and corals survive in the face of climate change, the two reports publish a series of strategies and tools to fight the other stress factors impacting them.

“The two reports give a clear, positive message: while we cannot stop climate change in the short term, we can help tropical marine ecosystems survive. If reef managers and politicians follow the measures proposed in these publications, we may be able to reverse the trend,” said Carl Gustaf Lundin, head of the IUCN Global Marine Programme.

According to the reports, increased sea surface temperatures and ocean acidification (due to higher levels of dissolved carbon dioxide) lead to increased mass coral bleaching and mortality, reduced growth of corals and weakened animal skeletons. Rapid sea level rise, more violent tropical storms and changes in rainfall and salinity are also affecting coral reefs and mangroves. The idea behind these measures is to keep other disturbances and threats off the reefs, to make them healthier and more resilient to climate change impacts.

Other ideas include protecting “refuges” of particularly healthy and climate change-resilient sites that may be able to help regenerate degraded coral reefs and mangroves in the future, and monitoring of coral reefs before, during and after a bleaching event to raise awareness amongst managers and politicians.

“Rising temperatures and sea levels challenge reef managers to be flexible and adapt their approaches to make the reefs and mangroves under their care more resilient to climate change as new science and understanding emerges,” said Rodney Salm of the TNC. [/st/](#)

[-back to top-](#)

For More Information Please Contact



Compass Publications, Inc.
1501 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1001
Arlington, VA 22209

Tel: (703) 524-3136
Fax: (703) 841-0852