

## What is the coastal floodplain?

The coastal floodplain is the buffer between the sea and the land. It is defined as any area of land subject to flooding by coastal storms. This includes areas which flood daily with the tides, as well as areas that flood due to the storm that has a 1% chance of occurring in a given year.

Coastal floodplains are called "Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage" or LSCSF in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Refer to the FEMA maps to determine the location of the floodplain boundary.



## Shores of Change

COASTAL FLOODPLAIN RESILIENCE



## Our Vital Coastal Floodplains

[www.mass.gov/info-details/shores-of-change](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/shores-of-change)



MassDEP



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# Why are coastal floodplains important?

Coastal floodplains provide many essential functions for us, for wildlife, and for the environment.

When other wetland resource areas (like salt marsh) overlap coastal floodplains, they provide habitat for wildlife and fisheries.

Allowing existing vegetation to act as a filter to prevent pollution.

Coastal floodplains provide a buffer against the force of the ocean, absorbing wave energy, protecting inland areas from coastal erosion, flooding and storm damage.

Coastal floodplains infiltrate flood water into low-lying areas and permeable soils during storms and extreme high tides.

Coastal floodplains help to protect coastal communities from sea level rise.

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## Am I in a coastal floodplain?

Massachusetts has many types of coastal floodplains - from salt marshes and coastal beaches, to tidal rivers and developed urban and rural areas.

Some parts of our coastal floodplain, like the Great Marsh or Belle Isle Marsh provide important refuges for fish and wildlife. Their soils absorb and trap carbon, filter water, and protect inland areas from erosion, storm damage and flooding.

Other areas within the floodplain are more developed, and support important commercial, industrial, and historic hubs. Revere is one of the fastest growing cities largely situated within coastal floodplain. The historic Town of Plymouth relies on the coastal floodplain to provide storm damage protection and flood control from the force of storms, and to support the tourism and marine economy.

Knowing if you are located in a coastal floodplain is important for understanding flood and storm risks. As sea levels rise, flood risks in many coastal floodplains are changing. You can check your current and future coastal flood risk using our interactive map and QR code.



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