

## How You Can Help Restore and Protect the Ipswich River Bank

There are multiple ways that the Town of Ipswich, through both municipal and citizen efforts, can help to reduce coastal bank erosion and restore the Ipswich river bank:



The section of the river bank along Water Street is impacted by foot traffic and boat storage, both of which can damage the vegetation that holds soil in place, leading to erosion.

- Never store boats on coastal bank.\*
- When accessing the river for canoeing, kayaking, or paddle boarding, launch at a public boat launching area whenever possible. Carry, don't drag, your boat. Step on rocks, not plants.
- When walking anywhere along the river, always use dedicated public access areas to reach the water. Do not step on fragile wetland plants or tree roots.
- Support the Ipswich Waterways Advisory Committee's efforts to improve public access to the river for non-motorized boating and other recreational uses. *(continued on back page)*

## How You Can Help Restore and Protect the Ipswich River Bank *(continued from inside page)*

- Get involved in invasive plant removal projects undertaken by conservation groups such as Mass Audubon and the Ipswich Open Space Program.
- Prevent stormwater runoff from rain and snowmelt by reducing pavement and other impervious surfaces. Establish vegetated areas that help water soak into the ground.
- Support the Ipswich Department of Public Works' projects for improved stormwater management.
- Always pick up dog waste and dispose of it properly.

*\* Please note: State regulations prohibit the storage of boats on tidal flats, salt marsh, and coastal bank. As of March 1, 2017, the Town is enforcing this prohibition.*

Holders of a licensed mooring near Water Street can talk with the Police Department to obtain a permit to store dinghies at a newly-expanded dinghy dock at the Town Wharf.

### For more information:

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[www.pie-rivers.org/ipswichriverbankproject](http://www.pie-rivers.org/ipswichriverbankproject)

Visit [www.ipswichriver.org](http://www.ipswichriver.org) to learn more ways to protect the river.

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# Enjoying, Restoring, & Protecting the Ipswich River Bank





*Kayakers paddle the Ipswich River near County Street.*

### Did you know that the Ipswich River:

- flows from its headwaters in Burlington, MA, for 45 miles to the Ipswich estuary?
- provides drinking water for 350,000 people and businesses?
- is home to many native plant, animal, and fish species such as swamp white oak, river otter, and river herring?
- is ideal for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, birding, and walking along?

As an Ipswich resident, there are multiple ways that you can enjoy the Ipswich River.

If you care about the river, you may also be concerned about its health. Keeping the water clean for a diversity of uses is one way our community can support the river. Another important way to protect the river is to keep its river bank—called “coastal bank” when located in tidal areas—healthy.

### Why Is Coastal Bank Important?

In 2017, the Town of Ipswich completed an assessment of the coastal bank along the publicly-owned land along the river, from the Ipswich Mills Dam at Ebsco to the Town Wharf. This analysis documented many areas of the river bank that are excessively eroded. To see a map of the project area and read the assessment report, visit: [www.pie-rivers.org/ipswichriverbankproject](http://www.pie-rivers.org/ipswichriverbankproject).



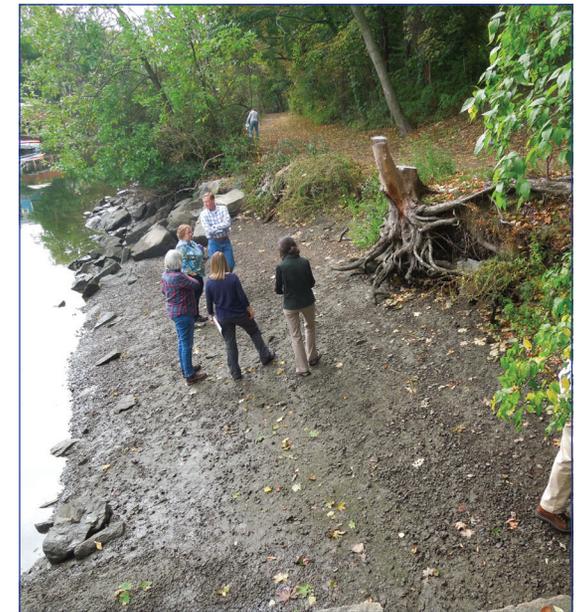
*Areas of erosion are visible along the Ipswich Riverwalk path near County Street.*

Erosion of the river bank is a serious concern for the Town. Immediately alongside this downtown stretch of the Ipswich River lies dense residential neighborhoods, roads, drinking water lines, sanitary and stormwater pipes, and utility poles (collectively called infrastructure). Many of the town's commercial businesses are located on the banks of the Ipswich River. The coastal bank acts as a buffer, helping to protect our homes and our municipal infrastructure from flooding and other storm damage. When the river bank erodes, it becomes a less effective buffer to these important community assets.

### Causes of Coastal Bank Erosion

Coastal geologists and engineers working with the Town have identified the following primary causes of erosion of the Ipswich coastal bank in the project area:

- Increased flooding (coastal and inland);
- Inadequately-managed rainwater and snowmelt running off roadways (called stormwater);
- Walking over the river bank and its associated wetlands to reach the water;
- Launching and storing small boats on coastal bank and wetlands.



*Severe erosion is assessed near Green Street and Town Hall.*