

Bill's Island is at Risk of Development

Bill's Island is a five-acre island along the south shore of Quonochontaug Pond. The owners of the island have asked the town of Charlestown to change the zoning designation from "open space" to "residential" and reportedly have a buyer/developer who wants to purchase it for the purpose of building a residence.

- ▶ Bill's Island provides unique wildlife habitat, and as an island, is less accessible to predators.
- ▶ Bill's Island, along with its adjacent wetlands, is a vital link in the Atlantic Flyway for major water-fowl populations.
- ▶ Quonnie Pond is experiencing environmental stress and is suffering from reduced species diversity. Addition of more runoff and nutrient leaching into the pond will add to the stress.
- ▶ Bill's Island is very visible from large sections of Quonnie Pond, including the popular state recreation area.
- ▶ Bill's Island contains unique vegetation within this important wildlife resource.
- ▶ Defoliation/deforestation in construction will result in soil erosion and sedimentation along shellfish beds around the island - including a recently designated oyster reintroduction site.
- ▶ Bill's Island is not accessible by land-based service and emergency vehicles, which will require ferry service.



Please help protect the water quality and wildlife habitat in Quonochontaug Pond and preserve the undeveloped uniqueness of its south barrier shore.

- Deliver a letter of opposition to RI DEM, by Nov. 3, regarding requested variances for septic design.
- Send letter to Charlestown Town Council opposing the proposed zoning change and expressing concern for habitat loss.
- Show your concern by attending the town council hearing on Nov. 10th at 7:00pm at the Charlestown Town Hall.

For additional information please visit
www.saltpondscoalition.org



**Salt Ponds
Coalition**

The area outlined in red is contiguous with Bill's Island is almost entirely undeveloped and protected. Bill's Island is an integral part of this important and unique resource.

