

## **Great Bay Wins Award**

Monday, April 23, 2007

PORTSMOUTH — The Great Bay Resource Partnership recently earned the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Merit Award for its success in protecting ecologically important lands in one of New Hampshire's fastest growing areas.

Given out by the EPA since 1970, the merit awards honor individuals and groups who have shown particular ingenuity and commitment in their efforts to preserve the region's environment.

This is the second time the partnership has earned the award.

The Great Bay Resource Partnership is a comprehensive approach to identify Great Bay's most critical habitats and protect them. Since 1994 the partnership has protected 4,170 acres around Great Bay.

With The Nature Conservancy as lead acquisition agent, the partners include Ducks Unlimited, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Natural Resources Conservation Service, New Hampshire Audubon, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The partnership was one of three New Hampshire groups selected from the 54 nominated.