

# Annapolis Royal Marsh

Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

**Coordinates:** N44° 44.655 W065° 30.841

**Geocaching.com code:** GC11X03

**Type of Cache:** Earthcache\*



The Annapolis Royal Marsh was developed through a partnership with Ducks Unlimited and the town of Annapolis Royal. This constructed freshwater wetland/marsh was completed in 2002 and is primarily used to treat the community's wastewater before it enters the Annapolis River. However, it also provides habitat for a wide variety of wetland species, such as frogs and muskrats, and serves as an important breeding ground for waterfowl. Great blue heron, sandpipers, black duck, blue and green-winged teal, grebes, sora rails, red-winged blackbirds, song sparrows and yellow warblers have been spotted in this marsh.

A recreational trail, French Basin Trail, surrounds the marsh. Interpretative panels are located at various spots along the trail during the summer season and enable visitors to explore the marsh and learn about the importance of wetland conservation. The constructed wetland has become a major attraction in the community and has made nature very accessible to residents and visitors. The local schools are also starting to incorporate field trips to the wetland into their program of study.



Ashley Sprague

Nearby, on the causeway over the Annapolis River, you can also find the **Annapolis Royal Power Generating Station (N 44° 45.222 W 065° 30.687)**. Opened in 1984, the generating station was initially designed as a pilot project to determine the viability of larger tidal generation on the Bay of Fundy. This 20 MW tidal power station is currently the only modern tidal generating station in North America and it harnesses the tidal difference created by the large tidal range. While effectively generating enough 'clean' electricity to power over 4000 homes, increased river bank erosion has been experienced both upstream and downstream and there have been two notable cases of impacts on marine life.

## Learn more about this area:

[www.annapolisriver.ca/frenchbasintrail.php](http://www.annapolisriver.ca/frenchbasintrail.php)

[www.nspower.ca/en/home/about-us/how-we-make-electricity/renewable-electricity/annapolis-tidal-station.aspx](http://www.nspower.ca/en/home/about-us/how-we-make-electricity/renewable-electricity/annapolis-tidal-station.aspx)

**Thank you to:** pharma-geologist (cache owner), Ashley Sprague (NS Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture)

## Passport Question:

- According to the panel "The French Basin Trail", what ship visited Port Royal in 1636?

**\*Please note:** To log this Earthcache, please visit [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com) for additional tasks or questions to be completed.

**The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's (GOMC) 2012-2017 Action Plan** identifies goals for three broad issues that benefit significantly from regional collaboration:

1. Restore and conserve habitat
2. Environmental and human health
3. Sustainable communities

More information on the GOMC, its partners and its activities can be found at [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)



**Did You Know:** In 2002, the Gulf of Maine Council presented an award to **Ducks Unlimited Canada** for its efforts in impacting 17,686 hectares (43,701 acres) of wetland and associated upland habitats in Nova Scotia since the 1970's. Their work includes creating freshwater wetlands, conserving landscapes with wetland habitats, and working with landowners to restore riparian buffer zones, promote soil conservation, and on wastewater management projects. In 2007 and 2009, the Gulf of Maine Council's Habitat Restoration Program awarded grants to the **Clean Annapolis River Project** for restoration planning at the French Basin Salt Marsh and the assessment and removal of the Clementsport Dam.