



## OUR PARTNERS ON THE POND SERIES



The Block Island Land Trust (BILT) is responsible for the protection of several parcels of land along the shores of the Great Salt Pond, and is proud to work together with the Committee for the Great Salt Pond (CGSP) in protecting and preserving the Pond.

In the mid 1980's a small, group of concerned citizens came together to form the Land Trust and since that time have carried out its mission of acquiring, managing, and protecting

the open, agricultural, and coastal lands of Block Island. For 36 years, the Block Island Land Trust, led by a team of five elected volunteers, has worked to conserve the Island's open spaces. Created through an act of the state legislature, the BILT generates revenue through a transfer fee, currently 3%, on all sales of real property on the Island. In addition, the BILT has the authority to issue bonds, and work with property owners to collaborate with the Block Island Conservancy (BIC), The Nature Conservancy, The Town of New Shoreham and state/ federal agencies to preserve the Island's notable places, many of which are adjacent to or near the Great Salt Pond. Some of these properties include:

**Ball-O'Brien Park:** A children's playground with picnic areas, places for skate boarding, basketball, tennis, and access to the Great Salt Pond. This property was acquired in one of the first partnerships with the Town of New Shoreham, and the RI Department of Environmental Management.

**Mosquito Beach:** Provides boardwalk access to the Great Salt Pond, making it possible to observe migratory shorebirds, horseshoe crabs, and other salt marsh dwellers. This parcel was obtained through a partnership with the Town of New Shoreham.

**Tip of Trim's Pond:** For the enjoyment of all people, this half-acre parcel was acquired from the Ocean Land Company. Several years ago, this spot was a documented nesting site for the American Oyster Catcher, a state species of concern.

**Protection of Island resources:** For the past 20 years, the Land Trust has combined efforts with the Town, BIC, and CGSP to stop threats posed by development, and now, because of the additional threats of climate change and sea level rise, there has never been a more important time for the BILT to work together with its valued partners.

For more details, visit [new-shoreham.com](http://new-shoreham.com) and follow the link to the Block Island Land Trust information or call 401.466.3201. *Many thanks to Barbara Macmullan and Heidi Tarbox for the information used in this article.*



*Mosquito Beach courtesy of [visitrhodeisland.com](http://visitrhodeisland.com)*



*Trim's Pond courtesy of BILT*



*Ball-O'Brien Park courtesy of [tripadvisor.com](http://tripadvisor.com)*

**OUR MISSION:** To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond, including its shorelines and wetlands, and to promote appropriate and productive uses of the Pond's resources by residents, visitors and local businesses.

**FUNDING:** Individual contributions, membership dues, special events, program grants. IRS 501(c)3 non-profit. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consider becoming a member of The Committee for the Great Salt Pond. For information and details, visit our website at [cgsblockisland.org](http://cgsblockisland.org).