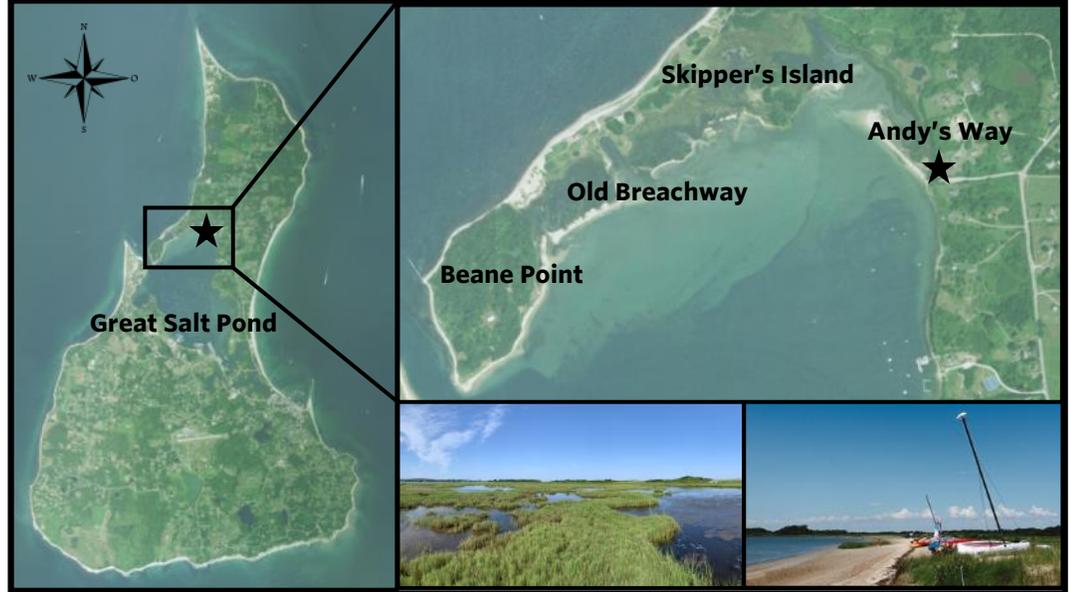




Andy's Way is one of the most treasured places on Block Island. This estuarine habitat is characterized by salt marsh and is home to a wide array of species. The tide moves in and out twice a day allowing many different organisms to forage and rest.



- Horseshoe Crab** Closer to spiders than crabs, these animals are harmless. Uses its tail to right itself if a wave flips it over.
- Striped Killifish** Common near shore, killifish can become stranded in tide pools but are able to flop head over tail on land for several yards to reach water.
- Northern Quahog** Found burrowed into the sediment leaving only their siphons exposed to feed.
- Snowy Egret (L)** Yellow feet, black bill; **Great Egret (R)** Black feet, yellow bill. Common in shallows of wetlands.
- Bay Scallop** Found close to shore, these filter-feeding bivalves move freely along the bottom sediment.
- American Oystercatcher** This loud, vigorous shorebird uses its bill to open shellfish for feeding.
- Green Fleece** This algae has spongy tubular branches resembling fingers; hence, its common name "Dead Man's Fingers".
- Fiddler Crab** Males have one enlarged claw while females are equal in size.
- Common Slipper Shell Snail** Often found in stacks – smaller males on top, larger females on bottom – males move downward, gradually turning into females.

Marsh mucking is the perfect activity for Andy's Way! Bring a beach bucket, binoculars and this guide to help identify some of the most common species found here. Mucking is all about the thrill of discovery as you learn to explore, see and pay attention to the wonders of nature.



While enjoying the Andy's Way ecosystem, please remember your presence will be stressful for the animals that live here. Please avoid trampling in the marsh by keeping a wide berth from the banks. Thank you!