McBride, Susan (1989). “Stratigraphic Sequences and Evidences of Post-Glacial Sea Level Rise, Sprague River Marsh, Phippsburg, Maine”. Standard Theses.

The Sprague River Marsh is part of a back-barrier depositional system associated with Small Point Beach. The stratigraphic sequences of the upland borders of the marsh indicate a rise in sea level within the late Holocene transgression. The stratigraphic sequences elsewhere in the marsh indicate that a title flat gradually filled in with tidally influenced vegetation and associated peat deposits to form the marsh as it exists today.

Because the marsh is protected by a barrier beach, the rate of accumulation has kept pace with the estimated sea level rise of 2.4 mm / year. Two possibilities for the future of the marsh are predicted: a) The marsh will continue to rise in elevation from the accumulation of peat deposits until the marsh is no longer tidally influenced, or b) with a steady or rising rate of sea level, the more marine sediments will encroach upon the less marine, and the marine sediments will eventually be deposited over the now terrestrial environment.