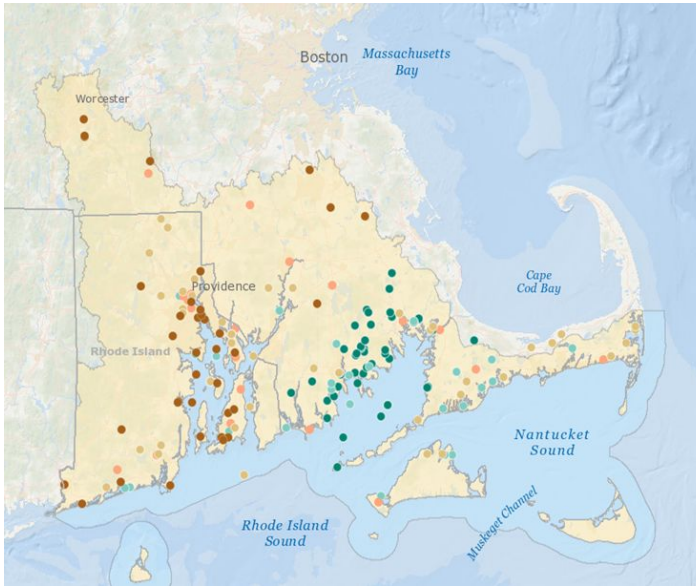
Funding Water Quality Restoration and Climate Resilience Projects in Rhode Island

March 15, 2023
10:00AM - 12:00PM

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network

The **SNEP Network** is a collaborative network of partners with expertise in stormwater management, financing, water quality and habitat restoration, green infrastructure, low impact development, and watershed-scale conservation and restoration.

- Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
- Cape Cod Commission
- The Environmental Finance Center at The University of North Carolina
- Save The Bay
- The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University
- Throwe Environmental
- Elizabeth Scott Consulting
- Mass Audubon
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Kimberly Groff Consulting
- The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island
- The University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center
- University of Rhode Island MPA Program



Request FREE Technical Assistance: https://snepnetwork.org/assistance-form/

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

SNEP Network Aims to Build Local Capacity



Community Capacity Building

Network Partners work with SNEP communities to increase their capacity to move their Stormwater and climate problems to solutions through a facilitated planning process

Organizational Capacity Building

Network shares resources and lessons learned to better support the needs of SNEP communities

Regional Capacity Building

Network Partners collaborate with community stakeholders and government entities to identify common roadblocks and work together to overcome these challenges

Empowering communities to achieve healthy watersheds, sustainable financing and long-term climate resilience through management of stormwater and restoration projects.

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

Municipal Resilience Program

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Funding amount:

- **$25.5mm allocated to date**
- ~$1mm per proposal
- 25% Match (½ Cash, ½ In-Kind)

Important dates:

RFP Release May 1st 2023
Deadline May 31st 2023

https://riib.org/solutions/programs/municipal-resilience-program/

PROJECT TYPES

Projects delivering solutions to climate change driven hazards across RI municipalities

Example Project Types:

- Removal or relocation of vulnerable infrastructure & structures
- Redesign of vulnerable infrastructure (e.g. resizing, floodproofing, elevation)
- Green infrastructure & nature-based solutions to reduce climate impacts (e.g. pervious pavers, dune restoration, urban tree planting, etc.)

Project Stages Funded:
Design, Engineering & Permitting and/or Construction

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Long-term, sustainable climate solutions
- Co-benefits
- Benefits to Env. Justice communities and disadvantaged groups
- Ready to proceed & have local buy in
- Last money in
- Outreach, engagement, and/or education component
- Green solutions, such as green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and/or clean energy
- 2 year timeline

Stormwater Project Accelerator

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Funding amount:

- $2mm currently available
- No interest, 1.5% Admin Fee

Important dates:

Application is Rolling

https://riib.org/solutions/programs/stormwater-project-accelerator/

PROJECT TYPES

SPA bridge loans support stormwater projects with grants in hand, but who need funds up front

Example Project Types:
Green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and stormwater best management practices which address water quality issues

Project Stages Funded:
Planning; Design, Engineering & Permitting; and/or Construction

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Key Priorities:

- Stormwater best practice delivering water quality benefits
- Green solutions, such as green infrastructure or nature-based solutions
- Grant in hand & ready to proceed
- Project timeline

Eligible Entities:

- Municipalities, non-profit organizations, and utilities

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Funding amount:

~$20mm available 2023

Interest subsidized at 33% below borrower's market rate

Important dates:

March 31 for DEM Project Priority List

https://riib.org/solutions/programs/clean-water-state-revolving-fund/

PROJECT TYPES

Clean Water SRF loans and principal forgiveness support RIDEM approved projects that improve water bodies in which pollution can negatively affect human health

Example Project Types:
Wastewater and stormwater collection and treatment facilities, non-point source pollution best management practices, and other water pollution abatement and water quality protection activities

Project Stages Funded:
Planning; Design, Engineering & Permitting; and/or Construction

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Key Considerations:

- Existing conditions addressed
- Project benefits delivered
- Water quality improvement delivered
- Intergovernmental benefits achieved
- Readiness to proceed

Eligible Entities:

- Local governmental units, corporations, and sewer authorities

SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants

Restore America's Estuaries

- $2.8 M total in 2023
- Grants typically $100 – $350k
- Max. $500k
- Some smaller grants ($20 - $50k)
- Match 33% of award; waivers possible

RFP Release: Feb. 21
Letter of Intent Deadline: Apr. 7
Awards final Sept. / Oct.
Info @ www.snepgrants.org

PROJECT TYPES

- Fund partnerships, projects and programs to restore ecosystems and foster sustainable communities throughout SE New England
- Clean water, habitat restoration, urban restoration, innovative technologies, policy initiatives, etc.
- Fund all stages: planning, permitting, design, construction, monitoring, etc.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

2023 themes:

- Small Cities & Urban Environments;
- Rural and Natural Landscapes;
- Innovate to Improve WQ
- Promote Environmental Justice and Equity;
- Address Environmental Change;
- Build & Sustain Local and Regional Partnerships; and
- Foster Regional Learning.

Competitive applications are those which present a clear vision for effecting positive change in the real world, and which raise the practice of restoration both locally and regionally.

National Coastal Resilience Fund

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Funding amount:

- ~140M total as of 2023
- ~100K-1M on average* for planning and design
- ~1M-10M on average* for implementation
- * There is no maximum award amount

Important dates:

- RFP release Mid-late Feb, 2023
- Pre-Proposals due April, 2023

PROJECT TYPES

- Nature based solutions (e.g. living shorelines, wetland buffers, etc) for reducing impacts from coastal hazards **and** enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife
- Project categories include
  - Community capacity building and planning
  - Site Assessment and Preliminary Design
  - Final Design and Permitting
  - Restoration Implementation

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Must include nature based solutions (NBS)
- Projects should provide coastal community resilience benefits (e.g. flood reduction, erosion control, etc) **and**
- Fish and wildlife habitat benefits
- Other priorities include projects that benefit or engage underserved communities, and projects that advance innovative, transferable, and/or sustainable solutions

PL-566 and Emergency Watershed Programs

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Funding Amount:
Limited by Congress

Required Match:
0 to 10%

Contact:
NRCS State Office
401-822-8800

PROJECT TYPES

- Flood Prevention and Damage Reduction
- Development of Rural Water Supply Sources
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
- Wetland Creation and Restoration
- Increased Recreational Opportunities
- Agricultural Water Management
- Watershed Protection
- Water Quality Management

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Works Through Local Government Sponsors
- Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Public Entities (Sponsors) for Planning and Implementing Authorized Projects
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program Removes Hazard and Restore Stream Hydrology to Pre-Disaster Conditions
- Apply Within 60 Days Post Disaster
- Flooding 2X within 10 years or recent damage
- Floodplain Easements and Relocation
- Resident Safety
- Sponsor required for implementation (Government, Tribal or Quasi-Government)

Habitat Restoration Project Planning in the Narragansett Bay Region

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

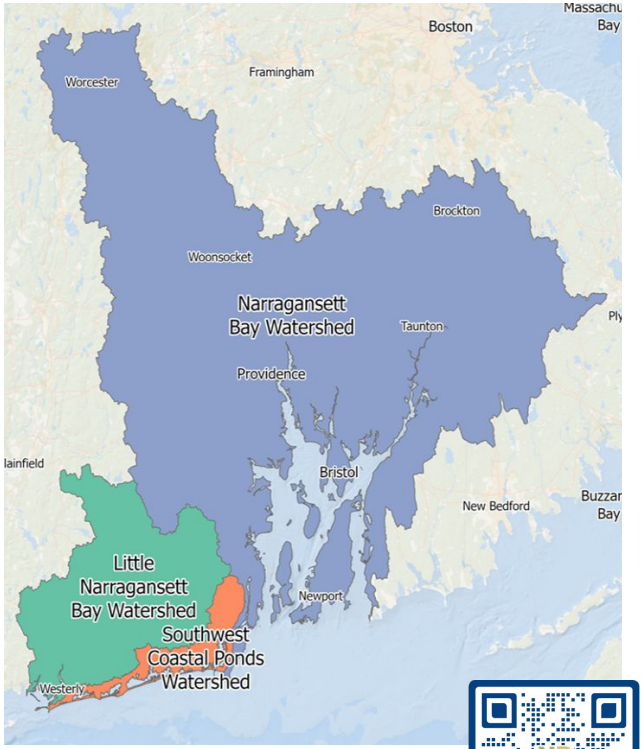
Funding amount:
$675,000 total
$50K - $200K per application
Required match: 25%

Important dates:
RFP for full proposals (no LOI) spring 2023

PROJECT TYPES & PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Watershed habitat restoration with a focus on publicly accessible spaces
- Project steps targeted by this RFP: stakeholder engagement, studies, assessments, concepts, plans, designs, and permitting
- Federal subawards; all funds reimbursable
- Projects taking place in environmental justice areas (as defined by the NBEP Environmental Justice Tool) receive additional points

Narragansett Bay Region



Is your project location eligible? Scan QR code for a searchable map of the NBEP Region

SEARCHABLE MAP

Nonpoint Source Program Section 319

RIDEM



$500-750k total

Up to 200k per application

Required match 40% (leveraged possible)

RFP: Fall 2023

PROJECT TYPES

- Generally construction/ implementation of BMPs. to mitigate NPS water quality issues. Final design can be funded, but only if implementation is completed as well.
- Generally must implement an approved 9-element watershed plan (list on DEM NPS website of plans) or alternative
- Typical eligible grantees include municipalities, 501(c)3 watershed/ environmental groups, schools, public entities

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- TMDL Implementation (subject to MS4 restrictions)
- Priority aquatic habitat restoration
- Riparian habitat restoration including control of invasive species
- Public septic systems
- NEW opportunities in urban areas

Narragansett Bay and Water Restoration Fund (BWRF)

RIDEM

$3 million total

No limit per application

Required match 50% (leveraged possible)

RFP: Fall 2023

PROJECT TYPES

- 4 sub funds
  - ❖ Governmental Entities Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Fund
  - ❖ Non-Governmental Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Fund
  - ❖ Riparian Buffer and Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund
  - ❖ Flood Prevention and Mitigation Fund

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Construction projects/ BMPs that mitigate, control, or eliminate the effects of stormwater pollution with a special focus on green infrastructure
- Control of aquatic invasive species
- In-lake nutrient management actions
- Riparian buffer and aquatic habitat restoration

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Climate Resilience Fund (CRF)

RIDEM

Funding amount:
~$1,000,000

May request between $25,000 and $250,000

Required match: 25%

RFP date: 2023

60-day application period once released

PROJECT TYPES

- In accordance with the CRF regulations and the goals of the RFP, a "*climate resilience project" shall mean projects that restore and/or improve the resilience of vulnerable coastal zones and rivers and stream floodplains and related habitats, in the face of climate change impacts*.

- Eligible applicants include:
  1) Govt. entities (yes, quasi-govt entities can apply)
  2) Non-profit entities

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Applications for funds to support resilience **planning** processes will not be considered.
- Climate resilience projects that involve the **acquisition of land** shall be considered so long as the acquisition is deemed part (50 percent or less) of the overall cost of the project.
- Climate resilience projects with the primary purpose to undertake scientific research, data analyses or vulnerability assessments will not be considered.

!! To be notified when this RFP is released, please send an email to doa.climatechangeri@doa.ri.gov and asked to be put on the RIEC4 email list for announcements !!

Ocean State Climate Adaptation & Resilience Fund

RIIB, CRMC, DEM

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Funding amount:
$4mm allocated to date

Important dates:
RFP release date TBD

PROJECT TYPES

Projects that protect or enhance coastal or riverine habitats to address climate change impacts

Example Project Types:
Removal or relocation of infrastructure, stream restoration, wetland revegetation, land acquisition for shoreline public access, culvert resizing, additional coastal adaptation & resilience projects

Project Stages Funded:
Planning; Design, Engineering & Permitting; and/or Construction

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Eligible Entities:

- Any entity that owns or controls public land

Key Priorities:

- Green infrastructure & nature based solutions
- Relocation of infrastructure from high hazard floodplain areas
- Other criteria to be determined by CRMC and DEM in the coming months

Southeast New England Program (SNEP)



Funding totals per opportunity:
Between ~$500k & ~$1.25M

$10k-$1M per application

No required match

Important dates:
TBD, but up to 3 opportunities in spring/summer 2023

Resources: Funding Opportunities; Newsletter Registration; SECoastalNE@epa.gov; SNEP Strategic Plan

PROJECT TYPES

Project types for FY23:

- Habitat restoration & protection
- Land protection
- Stormwater
- Climate resilience
- Wastewater
- Planning
- Research
- Environmental Justice

Project stage:

- Depending on the specific funding mechanism, anything from planning to implementation, research to monitoring

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Programmatic Themes:

- Increase capacity
- Diverse representation
- Innovative approaches
- Address common challenges
- Holistic approaches
- Multiple benefits
- Implement SNEP's Strategic Plan.

Eligible Entities:

- State, Local, and Tribal governments;
- Institutions of higher education;
- Nonprofit organizations
- Interstate agencies.