



The mission and vision of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is to protect, restore, and preserve Narragansett Bay and its bi-state watershed through partnerships that conserve and restore natural resources, enhance water quality, and promote community involvement and stewardship.



Who We Are

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is one of 28 programs designated as “estuaries of national significance” under the National Estuary Program. The program helps protect and restore the waters of the Narragansett Bay itself as well as the 1 million acres of land that surround and drain into the Bay.

Serving as a catalyst in the watershed, we work to attract and direct federal and other resources to build needed scientific information. This helps inform the public and policy makers, convene collaborative work-groups around key issues, and support local and grassroots-level organizations. Using skills in science, policy, and management, the Estuary Program seeks to address and advance key issues in the Narragansett Bay watershed.

Since its inception, the Estuary Program has been guided by a Steering Committee made up of critical partners and stakeholders in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

It is the collaboration and coordination of these partners throughout the Narragansett Bay watershed that continues to guide the priorities of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

Contact Us

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The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

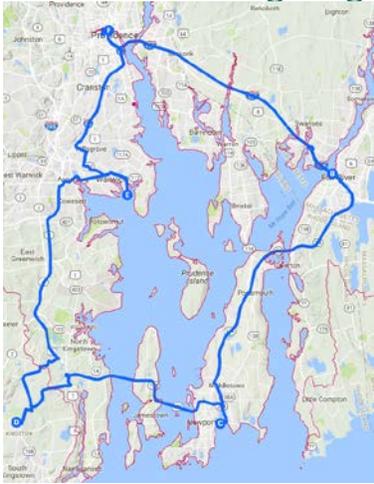


EPA Program Evaluation Site Visit

June 18-20, 2018

**NARRAGANSETT BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM**

Where are we going?



Tuesday, June 19th:

1. Fall River Heritage State Park, Fall River, MA – 9:00am-10:30am

Some of our Massachusetts partners will talk with us about their programs and the partnerships we've developed together. We will hear from MassAudubon, the Resilient Taunton Watershed Network, MA Division of Ecological Restoration, and MA Department of Environmental Protection.

2. Easton's Beach, Newport, RI – 11:15am-12:45pm

Dave McLaughlin, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Access, will give the group a tour of a public right of way access point that they mapped through an NBEP grant. Additionally, Dave will discuss two other NBEP funded projects: one regarding stormwater pathogens on Aquidneck Island and a marine beaches research project. We will also have a brief tour of the Save The Bay aquarium and hear from Topher Hamblett during our lunch.

3. University of Rhode Island, Soil Lab, Kingston, RI – 1:30pm-2:00pm

Professor Jose Amador of the URI Department of Natural Resources Science will give the group a tour of his soil and microbiology lab. Jose will discuss their project that optimized the performance of existing onsite wastewater treatment systems within the greater Narragansett Bay watershed to reduce nitrogen inputs.

4. Suburban Parkway Bioretention basins, Warwick, RI – 2:45pm-3:15pm

The City of Warwick installed a series of bioretention basins and vegetated swales within the medians of Suburban Parkway to help improve water quality in the vicinity of Oakland Beach and City Park Beach. City staff, Eric Hindinger, will give the group a presentation on the goals of this project and other outcomes.

Wednesday, June 20th:

5. Academy Cove Rain Garden, North Kingstown Library, RI – 9:45am-10:00am

The town of North Kingstown built a rain garden at the library to treat stormwater before it enters Wickford Harbor. The harbor is impaired by a lack of dissolved oxygen that threatens aquatic life. Town Engineer, Kim Wiegand, will give the group a brief tour of the rain garden, a pervious path, and educational signage.

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

NBEP has achieved much since 2013, including:

- ❖ Staff Scientist and GIS and Watershed specialist join as full time staff
- ❖ Rebranding: new logo, new website, Communication plan, Guiding Principles for Program Management
- ❖ New and emerging partnerships through engagement with academia, agencies, NGOs, watershed groups, and more with revitalized Massachusetts partnerships
- ❖ Growing regional importance of bi-state Science Advisory Committee with watershed thinking and coordinated science
- ❖ 500-page technical report (*2017 State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed*) focused on 24 indicator topics; 28-page summary report; and 4-page overview
- ❖ Active participation in approximately 590 activities for outreach and public engagement, ranging from meetings with partners to presentations at various watershed management groups and outreach education groups
- ❖ Supporting local and regional efforts through Section 320 and SNEP funding: 28 funded projects (>\$1,715,000) with more than \$450,000 in available funding for projects in the upcoming year