



The Targeted Watershed Grants program started in 2002 to encourage community-based approaches to protect and restore the nation's watersheds. The program emphasizes that strong partnerships lead to measurable environmental results. The goal is to provide resources and build on the successes of strong public and private partnerships already working hard to improve their waterways. Nominees for the Targeted Watershed Grants program were required to set clear goals that include strong monitoring components. Watershed plans and project proposals were judged on criteria such as: innovation, environmental results, broad support, outreach, and financial integrity.

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# Narragansett Bay



## What Makes the Narragansett Bay Special?

- Narragansett Bay is 147 square mile estuary, mostly in Rhode Island, but about 7% in Massachusetts.
- The watershed covers 1,852 square miles and is 60% in Massachusetts.
- The estuary is a valuable, diverse and biologically productive ecosystem, providing spawning grounds, nurseries and habitat for species such as flounder, lobster, hardshell clams, oysters, seals.

## Why Does Narragansett Bay Need Attention?

- Nutrient over-enrichment; contaminated sediments; declining health and abundance of living resources; invasive species; need for fishery management; health risks to consumers of seafood; and adverse impacts to commercial and recreational uses are all concerns in the Bay.
- With the watershed in two states, the Bay poses a special challenge to creatively work together to identify and address threats to the Bay and conflicting uses.

## What are the Long Term Goals?

- The Governor's Narragansett Bay and Watershed Planning Commission, has the following shorter-term goals: restoration of, coastal wetlands, anadromous fish habitat, buffer, and protection of eelgrass habitat.

## Progress/Goals for the Future

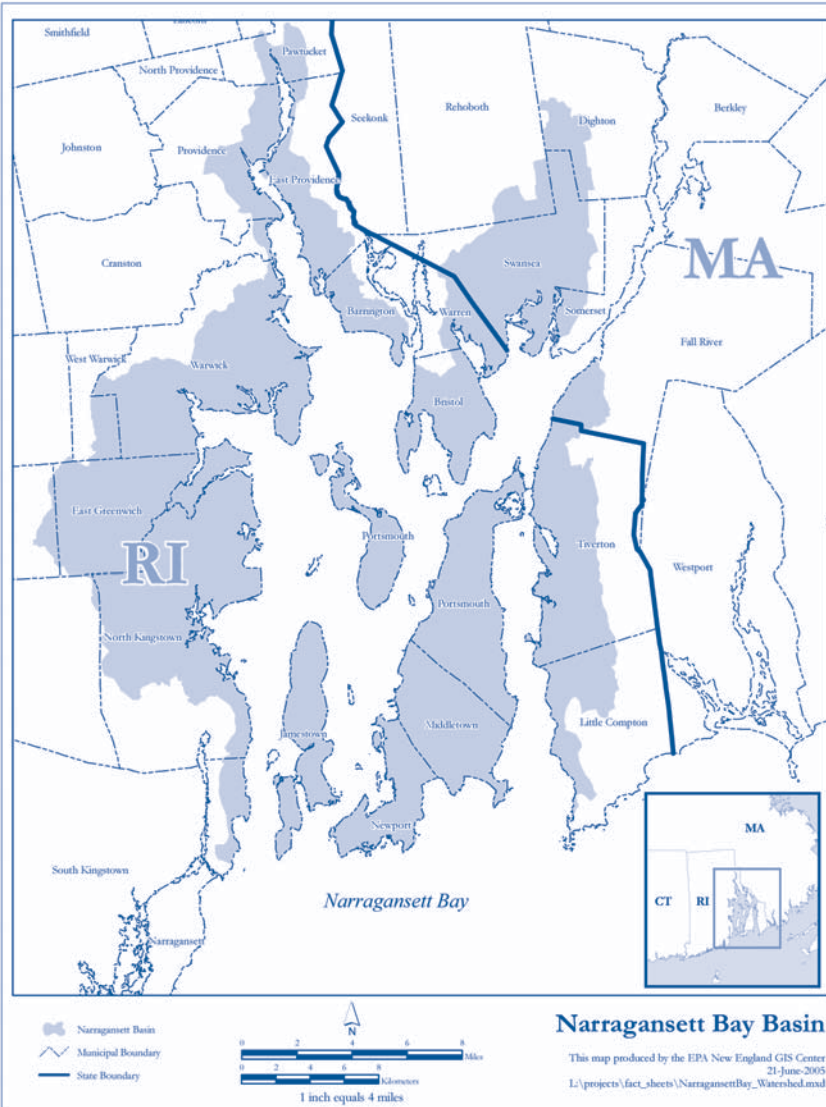
### What Progress Has Been Made?

- In 1987, Narragansett Bay was designated an estuary of national significance and selected into the National Estuary Program (NEP) to protect water quality and critical resource areas and restore degraded waters and dependent uses.
- In 1998, EPA and Rhode Island designated the State's coastal waters, including Narragansett Bay, a "No Discharge Area," prohibiting the discharge of boat sewage.
- A collaborative regional Habitat Restoration Team developed a coastal habitat restoration plan and is securing funding and partnerships for habitat and fisheries restoration. Seven restoration projects have been funded in MA and RI.
- The Association of National Estuary Programs supported a 40-acre salt marsh restoration in Portsmouth, RI; conducted spatial and trend analysis of dissolved oxygen used to support nutrient reduction targets, and gave funds to support watershed group activities.
- Was selected in 2003 for EPA's targeted Watershed Grant Program and received \$800,000 to fund six projects.

### What Actions are Planned for 2005-2006?

- Support implementation of the Phase I Report of the Governor's Narragansett Bay and Watershed visit: [www.ci.uri.edu/govcomm](http://www.ci.uri.edu/govcomm)

# Narragansett Bay



## What Actions are Planned for 2005-2006? (continued)

- ▶ Install storm water controls to address bacteria and nutrient sources to the Narrow River in RI.
- ▶ Restore flow controls at Leesville Pond (Kettle Brook) in MA to address nutrient, nuisance plant and low dissolved oxygen concerns.
- ▶ Install two fish ladders on the Three Mile River in MA.
- ▶ Test innovative methods to restore eelgrass in selected portions of Narragansett Bay.
- ▶ Rehabilitate a fishway at the Bradford Dam on the Wood-Pawcatuck River in RI to restore access to anadromous fish.
- ▶ Study alternative approaches to restore anadromous fish runs on the Pawtuxet River in RI via dam removal or a fish passage device.
- ▶ Implement storm water best management practices in Whiting's Pond (Ten Mile River) in MA to control nutrient loadings.

## Who are the Partners?

EPA New England • The Providence Plan • Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management • Rhode Island Department of Transportation • Rhode Island Department of Health • National Park Service • Army Corps of Engineers • Narragansett Bay Commission • Woonasquatucket River Watershed Coalition • US Geological Service • Olneyville Housing Corporation • Environmental Diversity Education Forum • The Urban League of Rhode Island • Save the Bay • The Audubon Society of Rhode Island • City of Providence, Office of Neighborhood Environmental Affairs and Department of Planning • Socio-Economic Development Center for South East Asians • Northern Rhode Island Conservation District • City of North Providence • Club Neopolski Creations

## For More Information:

Save The Bay, Narragansett Bay History [www.savebay.org/aboutbay/bay history.asp](http://www.savebay.org/aboutbay/bay%20history.asp)  
 The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, the Corridor, National Park Service, [www.nps.gov/blac/the\\_corridor/the-corridor.html](http://www.nps.gov/blac/the_corridor/the-corridor.html)  
 About the Valley: The Blackstone Valley Yesterday, Blackstone River Tourism Council, [www.tourblackstone.com/about.htm](http://www.tourblackstone.com/about.htm)



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