

# THE RHODE ISLAND RIVERS COUNCIL

[www.ririvers.org](http://www.ririvers.org)



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Mike Walker for Stefan Pryor, Commerce Corporation  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

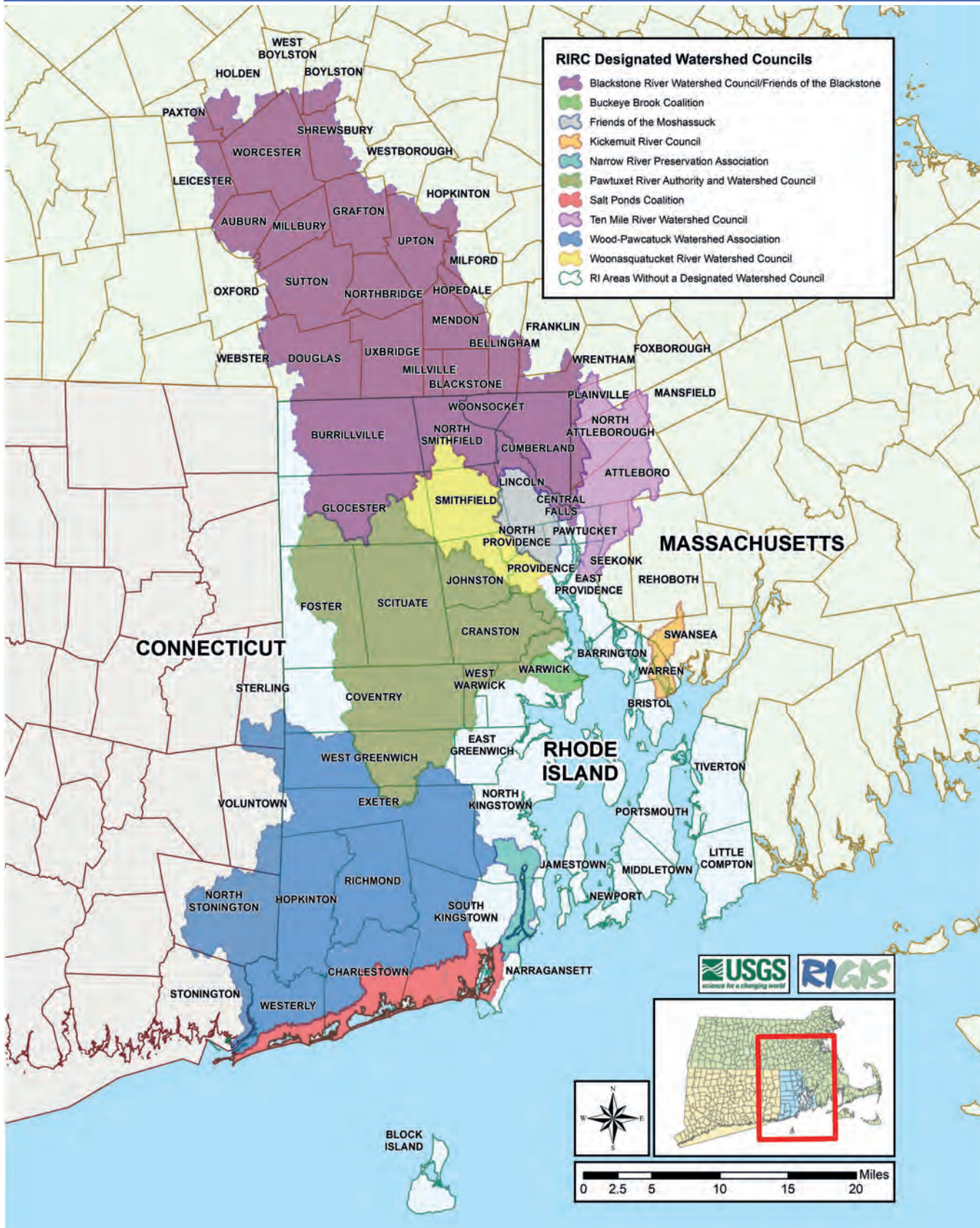
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Carol Hagan McEntee, (D-District 33, South Kingstown/Narragansett)  
Robert E. Craven, Sr., (D-District 32, North Kingstown)



# RHODE ISLAND WATERSHEDS MAP



# RHODE ISLAND RIVERS COUNCIL

## ABOUT US



The Rhode Island Rivers Council (RIRC) is charged with coordinating state policies to protect rivers and watersheds. Our unique contribution is to strengthen local watershed councils as partners in rivers and watershed protection.

Created by statute (RIGL 46-28) in 1991 as an associated function of the Rhode Island Water Resources Board, the RIRC mission is to preserve and improve the quality of Rhode Island's rivers and their watersheds and to work with public entities to develop plans to safely increase river use. Under the Rhode Island Rivers Council statute, rivers are defined as "a flowing body of water or estuary, including streams, creeks, brooks, ponds, coastal ponds, small lakes, and reservoirs."

## WHAT WE DO

The RIRC plays a key role in the state's comprehensive environmental efforts. We work collaboratively with a variety of state and non-profit partners to educate and advocate for our water resources.

Some of our key activities include:

- Advising state agencies and municipalities about programs and measures to protect and improve river quality.
- Designating watershed councils to have "standing" before local and state agencies and courts and to testify on issues affecting their watersheds.
- Offering annual grants to advance the work of designated watershed councils.
- Fostering public involvement in river planning and decision-making through public education and promotional activities.
- Implementing and updating the Rhode Island State Rivers Policy and Classification Plan.
- Participating in the State Guide Plan advisory committees and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

## OUR IMPACT

The RIRC strives to succeed at building a statewide community of dedicated groups, citizens and stakeholders who will help secure a healthy future for Rhode Island's rivers and watersheds.

Our accomplishments include:

- Designating ten watershed councils that encompass 71% of the state.
- Improved official river naming on the state tourism and transportation maps.
- Made recommendations for riparian and shoreline buffers, including reduced taxation for buffer properties.
- Issued dozens of grants to address water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, public area enhancement, and education.
- Developed a conservation organization self-assessment tool in partnership with the RI Land Trust Council.
- Offered a Watershed Stewardship Program to citizens interested in learning how to protect their watersheds.
- Supported the Watershed Science for Educators course offered at the URI Bay Campus.





## THE WATERS OF RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island may be “the Ocean State” but there is a large diversity of water systems that can be found throughout the state. For example, Rhode Island has rivers, freshwater lakes, estuaries, and coastal salt ponds.

Every Rhode Islander lives in a watershed and has a connection to the water bodies that surround them. The rivers of Rhode Island have suffered from over 200 years of toxic pollution that began with the Industrial Revolution. Other water bodies, such as estuaries and coastal ponds, face pressures from increasing numbers of people living close to the shore. Today, the major sources of pollution are stormwater runoff and wastewater from treatment plants and septic systems.

Rivers and streams are important habitat for a variety of wildlife and are also highly valued recreational use areas. They also provide very important connections between vegetated wetlands for water flow and aquatic wildlife travel.

Keeping our rivers and streams clean also helps to keep our salt water resources closer to the ocean clean as well. Rhode Island’s coastal waters consist of 159 square miles of estuarine and marine shoreline waters.

Estuaries are transition zones from freshwater to salt water and are highly productive ecosystems that provide nursery habitat for important commercial and recreational fisheries. Our coastal waters are not only important for wildlife but are economically vital for Rhode Island’s tourism industry.



## WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

All Rhode Islanders depend on clean water in every aspect of their lives. Whether we are aware of it or not, clean water...

- supplies our drinking, household, and business needs,
- provides critical habitat for plants and animals,
- enables local agriculture and aquaculture,
- supports greenways for open space,
- creates recreational activities for residents and tourists,
- supports our economy in countless other ways!

***“We have to be stewards not only of the natural resources but of people’s LOVE of these resources.***

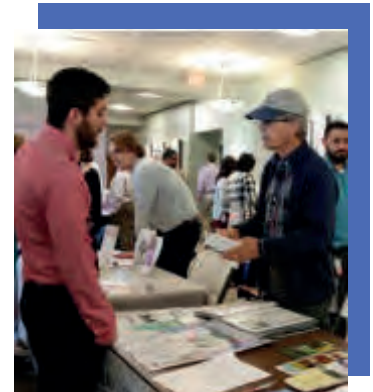
***We need to cultivate that affection.”***

***-Ken Payne,***

***Framer of the original legislation establishing the RIRC***

## ADVOCACY

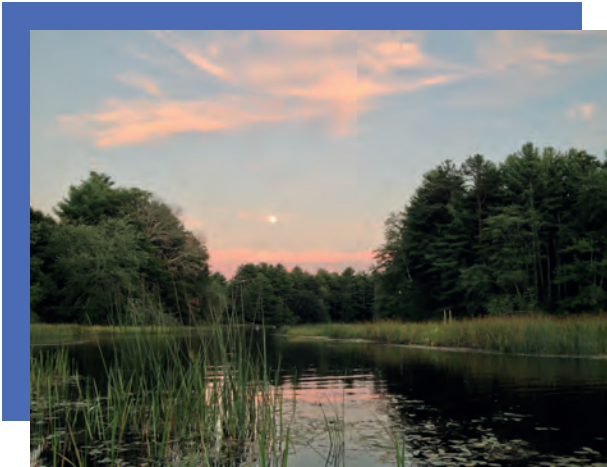
The RIRC is proud to be among the stewards of Rhode Island’s natural resources. Annually, we participate in local, state and national events to promote watershed preservation and educate citizens of all ages on the status and protection of our waterways. In addition, we serve as advocates for watershed preservation and as policy advisors. Some of our more recent activities include participation in the Rhode Island’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the TF Green Airport Improvements Environmental Impact Statement Intergovernmental Review Team. RIRC members stay informed of current events, issues, and education by attending local, regional and national seminars.



## RIVERS COUNCIL MILESTONES

On November 18, 2015, the RI Rivers Council approved "state designation" for the Ten Mile River Watershed Council (TMRWC). The TMRWC is the tenth local watershed council operating with state designation.

On December 19th, 2014, President Obama signed the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Establishment Act and Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act into law which gave national park status to designated parts of the Blackstone River Valley and provided a preliminary step towards National Wild & Scenic River status to designated parts of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed.



## GET INVOLVED

The RIRC continually seeks dedicated partners, citizens, and stakeholders to assist us in advancing our work and broadening our scope of stewardship. Attending our public meetings, collaborating on grants and projects, and serving as champions for RIRC statewide and nationally are just some of the ways to help.

We also encourage community organizers and associations to consider pursuing watershed council designation to fill unmet needs especially in these areas:

- Aquidneck Island
- Hunt River
- Saugatucket River
- Tiverton/Little Compton

Interested parties can learn more about the watershed council designation process by visiting [www.ririvers.org](http://www.ririvers.org) or by emailing us at [info@ririvers.org](mailto:info@ririvers.org).



*"I think the most important thing people can do is to learn about their watershed. And it's something no one knows."*

*- Alexandra Cousteau*

*"Boundaries don't protect rivers, people do"*  
*- Brad Arrowsmith, Landowner along the Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska*

# WATERSHED COUNCILS

## PURPOSE OF WATERSHED COUNCILS

Watershed councils are organizations that, once recognized by the RI Rivers Council, are responsible for protecting and enhancing the quality and use of Rhode Island's rivers, lakes, ponds and estuaries. They are designated for a 5-year term and may be existing tax exempt organizations, subordinates, or new organizations.

Watershed councils implement the Rivers Policy Classification Plan. The Plan's objectives are to:

- Protect drinking water supplies and pristine rivers
- Encourage recreational uses of rivers
- Foster the creation of greenways
- Provide for the clean-up of rivers

## WATERSHED

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a river, estuary, pond, ocean or public water supply. Every body of water has a watershed and every piece of land belongs to a watershed.



## ROLE OF WATERSHED COUNCILS

Watershed councils are on-the-ground implementers of plans to protect and enhance Rhode Island's waterways. They are proactive in advocating for their watershed and stay abreast of state and local proceedings that affect the water quality or recreational, natural, or cultural values of rivers and associated lands in their watershed. They are empowered to testify before local and state hearings on issues affecting their watershed and are eligible for state grants through the Rivers Council.

All Watershed Councils work to:

- Preserve open space, natural resources and features, and scenic landscapes
- Preserve cultural and historic landscapes and features
- Preserve opportunities for recreational use of rivers
- Encourage the establishment of greenways
- Continue the regional and comprehensive planning for rivers, water quality and land use conducted by the RIDEM and the RI Statewide Planning Program

## CURRENT WATERSHED COUNCILS

- Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of Blackstone
- Buckeye Brook Coalition
- Friends of the Moshassuck
- Kickemuit River Council
- Narrow River Preservation Association
- Pawtuxet River Authority & Watershed Council
- Salt Ponds Coalition
- Ten Mile River Watershed Council
- Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

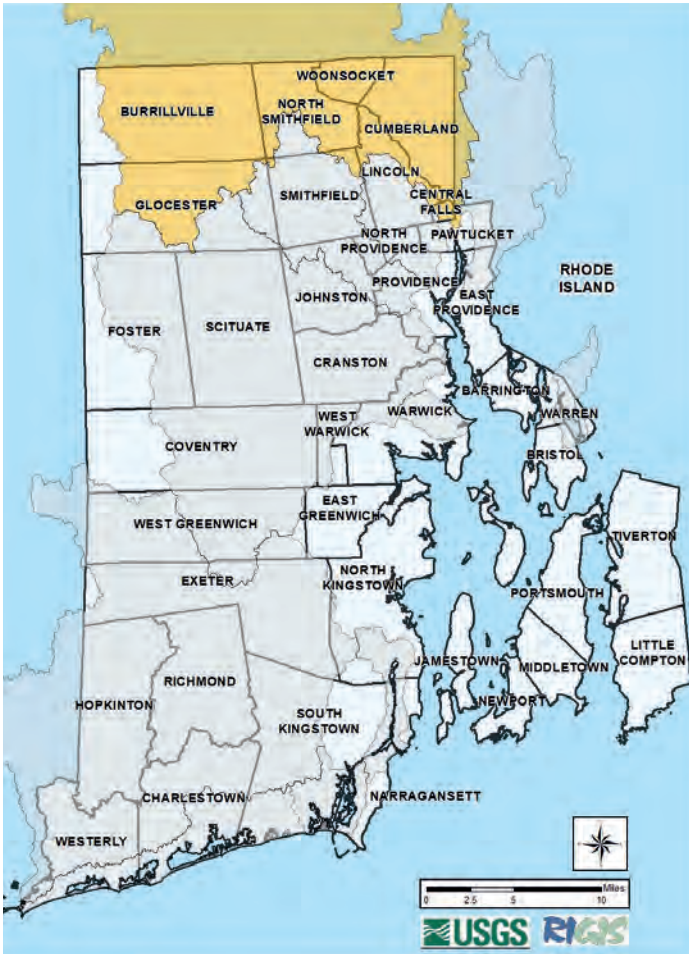






### WHO WE ARE

Originating as two separate groups in the 1990's, The Blackstone River Watershed Council/The Friends of the Blackstone (BRWC/FOB) combined to become a single, 100% volunteer staffed non-profit in 2005. Guided by a Board of Directors, we are dedicated to restoring, enhancing and preserving the physical, historical, and cultural integrity of the Blackstone River and watershed through public advocacy, education, recreation, stewardship and the promotion of our unique Blackstone Valley resource.



### THE BLACKSTONE WATERSHED

The Blackstone River Watershed covers 258 square miles in Rhode Island, including all or part of nine cities and towns: Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Gloucester, Lincoln, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Smithfield, and Woonsocket. The river originates in Worcester, Massachusetts and runs for forty-eight miles, twenty-four in Rhode Island, ending in Narragansett Bay. There are nine dams on the main stem of the river. The western part is wooded and rural.

### SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Our **River Rat and youth education programs** offer hands-on learning for students and scouts at our environmental center located on the Blackstone River. We teach water quality monitoring, river ecology concepts, and citizen science. We also offer excursion-based environmental studies and canoe safety.

Several times a year we host **free community nature talks** at our education center on topics such as geology, astronomy, flowers and birds.

Through a technical assistance grant from the EPA we are able to continue to **play an active role in the remediation and oversight of the Peterson-Puritan Superfund site**, an area encompassing approximately two miles of mixed industrial and residential property in Lincoln and Cumberland.

For fourteen years we have been conducting **our water quality monitoring program** at eighteen sites throughout the watershed. We test for nitrates, phosphates, turbidity and more.

### FACTS

For the past twenty-eight years, the BRWC/FOB has been a driving force in cleaning up the Blackstone River. We have removed over 25,000 tires and tons of debris from the river and its wetlands. Each year we provide the manpower and services to clear the Pratt Dam of full size trees and logs blocking the flow of the water. All of this done with volunteer labor!

We recently constructed a new 832 sq. foot addition to our building that serves as an education center for youth and adults to learn about the diversity of wildlife that the Blackstone River supports, build future leaders of our organization, and inspire people to experience the beauty of the river.

### CONTACT US

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RI Representative Districts: 40, 45-53, 56-60  
 RI Senate Districts: 8, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24



# BUCKEYE BROOK COALITION

[www.buckeyebrook.org](http://www.buckeyebrook.org)



## WHO WE ARE

The Buckeye Brook Coalition (BBC) was founded in 2002 to protect, preserve, and restore Buckeye Brook, its watershed, and the alewives and blueback river herring that annually spawn in these waters. BBC supports activities that work to improve water quality, habitat, and the recreational value of the watershed through many programs that we sponsor and oversee. We advocate for protection of the watershed and focus on situations to improve water quality and policies that prevent habitat damage.

## THE BUCKEYE BROOK WATERSHED

The Buckeye Brook Watershed boundaries are entirely within Warwick, Rhode Island. Situated in the low coastal plains of eastern Warwick, the Buckeye Brook Watershed meets the Pawtuxet River Watershed to the north and the Greenwich Bay Watershed to the south. The brook remains as one of the few natural river herring runs left in the region and is not obstructed by dams or assisted by fish ladders. Buckeye Brook and its attendant marshlands are cited as the highest priority for wildlife habitat protection in the City of Warwick Comprehensive Plan. The Buckeye Brook Watershed includes Buckeye Brook, Warwick Lake, Spring Green Pond, Buckeye Brook North, Old Mill Creek, Mill Cove, and several tributaries.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

In partnership with the **URI Watershed Watch Program**, we engage **volunteers in water quality monitoring programs** to identify sources of pollution. We also educate the public about water quality leading to more effective management of the Buckeye Brook Watershed.

**Annual Direct Fish Count** - In cooperation with RIDEM's, Fish & Wildlife Division, we recruit and train volunteers to participate in annual fish counts. The data is used to assess the health of fish stock levels and to best manage fish stocks. Data is shared with federal agencies.

BBC educates the public and promotes the state's natural resources for responsible recreation use. With support from the RI Foundation, we **created on-site paddling map displays for residents and visitors who want to canoe or kayak near Conimicut Point**. The maps contain estimated travel times, levels of difficulty, historical facts, and information about local wildlife.

## FACTS

Buckeye Brook Watershed is a spawning ground for alewives and blueback river herring. The Buckeye Brook river herring migration run is a self-sustaining, free flowing system with no dams, fish ladders, or passage system to aid the herring in their annual swim upstream from the ocean to Warwick Lake and Spring Green Pond. Its salt marsh plays a vital role as a natural filtration system and vegetative buffer for Narragansett Bay.

In cooperation with RIDEM's Fish & Wildlife Division, BBC recruited volunteers who counted over 450,000 fish swimming upstream in Buckeye Brook toward Warwick Lake and Spring Green Pond. BBC has sponsored more than sixteen Annual Earth Day clean-ups, recruiting and coordinating hundreds of volunteers who scour the stream banks to remove litter, tires, mattresses and shopping carts.

Our paddling events attract some forty paddlers and dozens of onlookers who we educate about the characteristics of the estuary and problems of invasive species, pollution and excess nutrients.



## CONTACT US

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RI Representative Districts: 19, 21, 22, 23  
RI Senate Districts: 29, 30



## WHO WE ARE

Established in 1997, The Friends of the Moshassuck (FOTM) help heal and restore the Moshassuck River from negative effects of industrialism, educate citizens about the history and wonders of the river, and explore the relationship between ecology, economy and urban development in the modern world.



## THE MOSHASSUCK RIVER WATERSHED

Spanning twenty-three square miles, the Moshassuck Watershed is more than 50% hardscaped, the highest percentage hardscaped watershed in Rhode Island. It begins in the Limerock preserve in Lincoln and flows into the Providence River in the tidewater. Between the two municipalities, the river has five ponds, a reservoir, and eleven dams. Industrialized since 1675, the river remains highly polluted.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

**Collyer Field Reforestation** - The eighteen-year reforestation project north of Collyer Field along the river targeted a squatted property owned by Peter Pan Bus Company. FOTM planted approximately ninety-five trees with ninety of them surviving. As a result, what was once a field of knotweed is now a forest.

**Moshassuckcritters** began in 2013 as a project to video-document the lifecycles of the Fowler's Toads that live in Providence's North Burial Ground. It has evolved into a long term video study of the rainwater pool where toads breed and the variety of wildlife in the burial ground. With more than 600 videos on Youtube, the project is a model for the restoration of amphibian breeding habitat. In 2018 FOTM modified the rainwater pool to remove some of the excessive silt build up threatening its viability as amphibian habitat.

## FACTS

Multiple factors such as the long-term effects of industrialization, habitat destruction, modern combined sewers, and run-off from Route 95, have resulted in poor water quality of the lower sections of the Moshassuck. The headwaters and upper sections of the river are significantly cleaner and life is more abundant.

The Narragansett Indians gave the river its name, "Mooshausick", meaning the river where moose watered. In 1636 Roger Williams settled on the east bank of the river and learned its name from the Narragansetts.

The high granite walls along the river between Charles Street and Citizen's Plaza are visible remains of the Blackstone Canal built in 1828 to transport goods between Worcester and Providence.

In the 19th century, factories, transportation and housing along the Moshassuck used the river to dispose of industrial and human waste. So much in fact, that the 1849 and 1854 Cholera epidemics in the area were attributed to the Moshassuck. As a result, Providence constructed the city's first sewer system in 1897.

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RI Representative Districts: 1, 3-5, 46, 53-57

RI Senate Districts: 1, 3, 4, 6, 15-17



# KICKEMUIT RIVER COUNCIL

[www.kickemuitriver.org](http://www.kickemuitriver.org)



## WHO WE ARE

The Kickemuit River Council (KRC) is an all-volunteer, non-profit representative organization founded in 1973 and dedicated to the preservation, protection, and improvement of the river. The KRC was recognized by the Rivers Council in 2001. Council membership represents approximately 350 families and ten organizations or neighborhoods. The KRC is composed of voting members from the organizations in the salt water portion of the Kickemuit. Each organization sends up to three voting members. The KRC is supported by grants, donations, and fundraisers.

## THE KICKEMUIT RIVER

The Kickemuit River is one of four rivers that flow into Mount Hope Bay in the northeastern corner of Narragansett Bay. It covers nine square miles, originates in the Massachusetts town of Rehoboth and continues through Swansea and into Warren and Bristol, Rhode Island. The dam at the southern end of the Kickemuit Reservoir is the boundary between the salt and the freshwater Kickemuit. The Kickemuit River Watershed consists of nearly 300 acres of wetlands comprising 5% of its area. Numerous red maple swamps can be found throughout the upper freshwater watershed. Emergent brackish and salt marshes fringe the tidal portion of the river south of the Kickemuit Reservoir.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Over fifteen different organizations, non-profit, local, state, and federal, helped fund the design and construction of a **new denil fish ladder**. The new fish ladder provides migrating fish with a renewed opportunity for spawning grounds thus restoring the fish run to the river for the benefit of the river, its ecosystem, and the anadromous fish species. The Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District honored the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA) and the Kickemuit River Council with their "2007 Conservation Project of the Year Award" for the successful completion of the Kickemuit Fish Ladder.

## FACTS

The majority of the Kickemuit Watershed is still relatively undeveloped. Forest and open space cover 41 % of its area. But high-density residential lots cover significant portions especially in the towns of Warren and Bristol. The expansion of residential and commercial development has taken place principally at the expense of agriculture. Yet agriculture still comprises nearly 20% of land use in the watershed.

Nutrients and pathogens arise from a number of sources in the Kickemuit Watershed. Failing septic systems, poor agricultural practices, excessive fertilizer use, even domestic animal and waterfowl waste all contribute to the high levels of nutrients and pathogens detected in the Kickemuit River. From these sources, nutrients and pathogens are released into surface and ground water, but where there is an abundance of impervious or hard surface this process is accelerated. Fortunately, the majority of the freshwater Kickemuit River Watershed remains forested and contains little impervious surface.



## CONTACT US

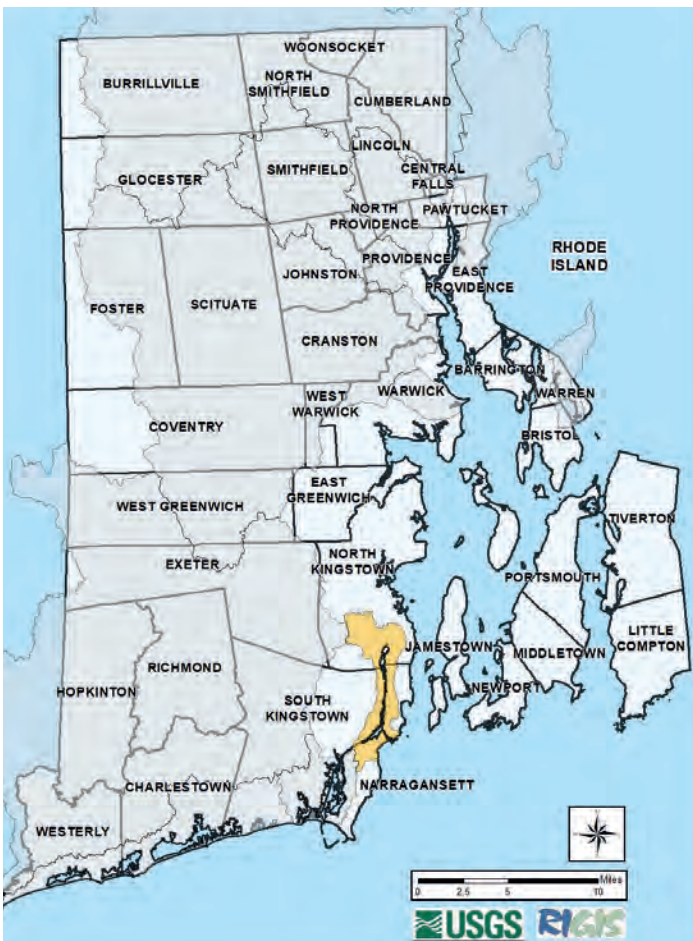
[www.kickemuitriver.org](http://www.kickemuitriver.org)  
PO Box 590  
Warren, RI 02885

RI Representative Districts: 67-69  
RI Senate Districts: 10, 11



## WHO WE ARE

Since 1970, Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) has been working to preserve, protect, and restore the natural environment and the quality of life for all communities within the Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) Watershed. We are led by a volunteer board of residents, scientists, educators, business owners, university students and retirees. Donations from over 300 members enable us to provide water quality testing, education, and public engagement programs.



## THE NARROW RIVER (PETTAQUAMSCUTT ESTUARY) WATERSHED

Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) starts in North Kingstown and flows along the boundary between Narragansett and South Kingstown. More than a river, it is a seven mile long tidal estuary that brings Rhode Island Sound water through a shallow, narrow channel to two deep kettle ponds. Much of the freshwater enters from the north through Gilbert Stuart Stream. The two ponds are steep-sided basins, one plunging to a maximum depth of sixty feet and the other over forty feet. The Narrow River Watershed extends from Silver Spring Lake and the Shady Lea Mill area in North Kingstown south to Narragansett Pier and Silver Lake in South Kingstown.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

**River Watch** - Since 1992, NRPA volunteers have monitored water quality in Narrow River. With testing of samples from fourteen sites, data collected from this program has informed research, restoration and management in the watershed.

Twice a year, NRPA invites children and their families to explore **What Lives in the River**. Experts teach participants about estuaries and engage them in hands-on-learning by using nets, touch tanks and microscopes to catch and examine critters big and small.

**Narrow River Turnaround Swim** - Our annual one-mile open water swim in the Lower Pond of Narrow River creates awareness of the river as a scenic area and good place to swim, promotes open water swimming as a lifetime activity, and raises funds for our education and monitoring initiatives.

## FACTS

Although closed to shellfishing due to high bacteria counts, our twenty-seven years of River Watch data shows that the water quality in Narrow River is improving. We work to improve the water quality by advocating for sewer systems, partnering with municipalities on stormwater treatment and by using innovative technologies like canine detection of sewage contamination.

The Upper and Lower Ponds of Narrow River are unique in that they have an oxygen-free ecosystem below about fifteen feet. Lower Pond is so deep (60 ft.) that if Narragansett's Point Judith Lighthouse (51 ft. tall) were placed in it, it would completely disappear!

Annually, about 50,000 river herring (alewife and blueback herring) migrate up the Narrow River in the spring into the fresh water at Carr Pond to lay their eggs. After spawning, they swim back down the river into the ocean. An individual river herring may return to Narrow River as many as five times in their lifetime.

## CONTACT US

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RI Representative Districts: 32, 33  
RI Senate Districts: 35, 36



# PAWTUXET RIVER AUTHORITY & WATERSHED COUNCIL

[www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)



## WHO WE ARE

Created at the onset of the Federal Clean Water Act in 1972 by the RI General Assembly, the Pawtuxet River Authority (PRA) assumed a more robust stewardship of the Pawtuxet River from earlier groups dating back to the early 20th century. The PRA is governed by a politically appointed board of directors, three from each of five municipalities: Cranston, Warwick, Coventry, West Warwick and Scituate. Currently, the board, staffed by a number of environmental professionals, decline statutory compensation.

## THE PAWTUXET RIVER WATERSHED

The 231 square mile watershed of the Pawtuxet River, the second largest watershed within Rhode Island's boundaries, spans the center of the state and contains approximately 235,000 Rhode Islanders. The river is made up of two large branches which come together to form the main stem in West Warwick. The watershed is located in parts of the cities and towns of Cranston, Scituate, Warwick, Coventry, West Warwick, Johnston, Foster, Glocester, Exeter, Providence, West Greenwich, East Greenwich, and Smithfield. There are twenty-three dams remaining on the Pawtuxet River which includes the largest dam in the state at the Scituate Reservoir.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The PRA is a hands-on organization which provides urban river access to the public. The PRA **owns and maintains a number of public recreation places in the Pawtuxet system**, including two dams. The Authority also **operates and maintains two river access parks** for the town of West Warwick, which provide fishing and canoeing opportunities.

The Authority helped create the, "**Pawtuxet River Authority Bond Fund**", a nine million dollar loan program to enable the river's three municipal wastewater treatment plants to compliantly stay in business.

The PRA was an early leader in **anadromous fish restoration** and has returned these species to the lower seven miles of the Pawtuxet, as well as introduction of trout in all areas of the river system.

Since the 1980s the PRA has had a **water monitoring program** throughout its river system for which we currently partner with the URI Watershed Watch Program.

Since the 1970s the board members of the Authority have regularly **removed trash and debris** from all twenty-six miles of the river.

## FACTS

The Pawtuxet Watershed is home to the most protected fresh water in the state, the Scituate Reservoir sub-watershed, which provides nationally recognized drinking water to over 60% of Rhode Islanders. Another large reservation protecting Pawtuxet water is the 8,000 acre Big River Management Area in West Greenwich. However, downstream of these areas, the river was historically impacted by a largely urbanized watershed including an intensive textile industry, two of the state's largest chemical manufacturers, three municipal sewage treatment plants and the state's sole operating sanitary landfill. Although once considered RI's dirtiest river by Save the Bay, the water quality of the Pawtuxet has been dramatically improved.



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RI Representative Districts: 10, 11, 13-20, 25- 29, 39, 40- 44  
RI Senate Districts: 2, 9, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 33



## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1985, Salt Ponds Coalition (SPC) represents the coastal ponds in South County. We preserve and protect the coastal environment through ongoing water quality monitoring, education programs and restoration projects. SPC is as a conduit between residents of the Rhode Island coastal communities and state and local governments for the flow of information vital to the survival of the salt ponds.



## THE COASTAL PONDS WATERSHED

The coastal ponds watershed consists of six major salt ponds and smaller ponds located in Narragansett, South Kingstown, Charlestown, and Westerly. SPC actively monitors seven of the ponds including Pt. Judith, Potter, Green Hill, Ninigret, Quonochontaug, Winnapaug, and Maschaug Ponds and has stewardship over all thirteen ponds in the watershed. The coastal ponds are home to a variety of aquatic species and shore birds; people come to the ponds for recreation, to live, and to work.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The **SPC Pond Watcher Program** is the longest operating volunteer estuarine water quality testing program in the country. We currently monitor seven coastal ponds. Our water quality monitoring data is available to everyone on our website. The data enables us to report water quality ratings and serves as a basis for how we advocate for the protection of the ponds.

SPC's two primary education programs are our **Salt Pond Safaris** and **Guided Paddle Programs**. These programs are free and open to the public throughout the summer. Safaris engage children of all ages and their families in hands-on exploration and discovery while Guided Paddle programs educate adults. These programs connect participants to their coastal environment and inspire them to become stewards of the ponds.

## FACTS

The ponds are healthy, but each has unique characteristics and challenges. Common to ponds is nutrient loading which can be caused by various factors including harmful runoff from fertilizers and septic systems. These excess nutrients can result in low oxygen conditions which negatively impact pond plant and animal life. Both Pt. Judith Pond and Green Hill Pond face bacteria issues; resulting in a 30+year shell-fishing closure in the latter.

Maintaining breachways into ponds is important to water quality. Over time, sand flows into the ponds through the breachways, restricting the tidal exchange of water. Facilitating the flow of clean seawater into the ponds allows nutrients to be flushed out and helps maintain cooler summer water temperatures. SPC was a very active advocate for the successful dredging of the Charlestown Breachway into Ninigret Pond.

SPC partners with federal and state agencies, as well as local municipalities and other local non-profits to address issues facing our salt ponds. Most recently, SPC has been a part of marsh restoration projects in Ninigret and Quonochontaug Ponds, and an EPA funded project in Charlestown.

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RI Representative Districts: 34, 36, 37

RI Senate Districts: 35, 37, 38





## WHO WE ARE

The Ten Mile River Watershed Council (TMRWC) was established in 2006 and is dedicated to making the community a better place. With the help of members and friends, the TMRWC organizes events from paddling trips to clean ups and engages the community in opportunities that enable them to experience the beauty of the watershed.

## THE TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED

The Ten Mile River Watershed is fifty-eight square miles spanning two states with a length of twenty-seven miles. The river is a green wildlife corridor from Plainville, Massachusetts to the Seekonk River in East Providence, Rhode Island and travels through the two Rhode Island cities of Pawtucket and East Providence. The watershed offers many opportunities for exploring and enjoying outdoor activities such as hiking, paddling, bird watching, fishing, and historic sites.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The TMRWC re-established and maintains the **Ten Mile River's Herring Run**. River herring are forage/schooling fish that play a major role in coastal and marine ecosystems. The health of the ocean depends on the availability of small schooling fish. When forage fish dwindle, the survival of key species is threatened. Through the Herring Run, the TMRWC has increased the herring population and continue to see numbers rise.

The **annual fish survey at Larson Woods** documents the types of fish living in the river which is an indicator of water quality and health. To date, the program has found six different types of fish including American Eels.

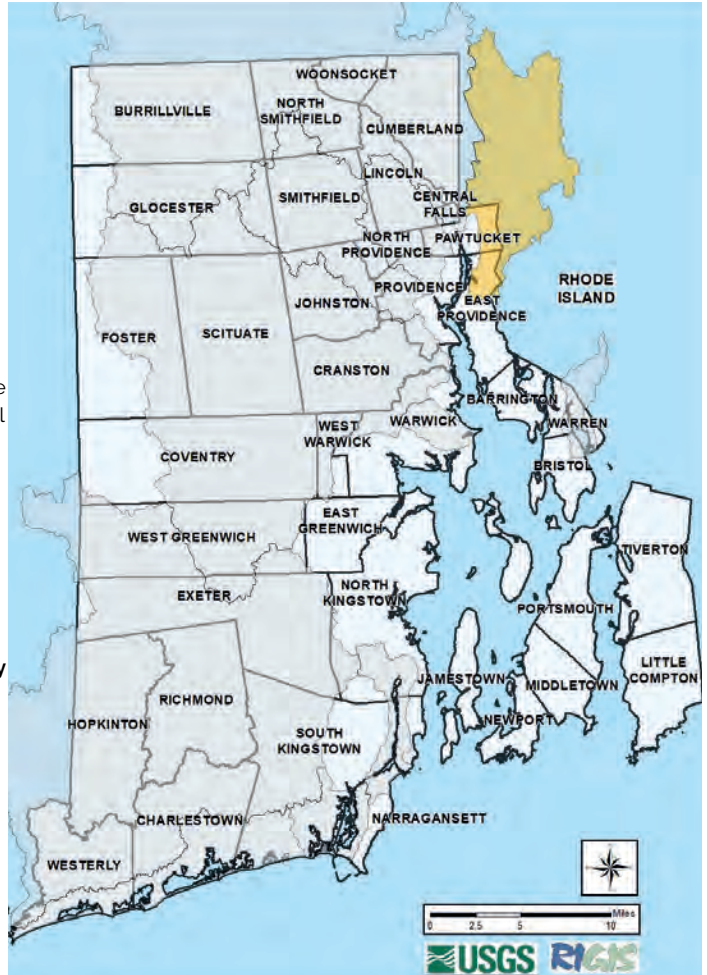
Semi-annually, the TMRWC **marks Roger Williams' own paddle journey to the founding of Providence**. Residents from across the state and beyond join council members and friends in making the historic paddle from East Providence to Providence.

## FACTS

The TMRWC and its partners completed a decade-long effort to build fish ladders at three dams on the Ten Mile River opening 7.5 miles of stream habitat to river herring and American shad. The number of returning herring increased from 3,000 herring in 2015 to over 11,000 in 2018.

The Nature Conservancy, with support from the TMRWC, secured permanent protection of eighty-two acres of open space at The Agawam Hunt Club and Golf Course. The agreement secured public access via a walking trail, prevented the construction of sixty-eight homes close to the watershed, and reduces the course's impact on the Ten Mile River.

Author, Marjorie Turner Hollman and the TMRWC published, "Easy Walks and Paddles in the Ten Mile River Watershed" - a book that showcases thirty-nine different outdoor spots to hike and/or paddle in the Ten Mile River Watershed.



## Ten Mile River Watershed Council

## CONTACT US

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(401) 474-3813  
PO Box 16611  
Rumford, RI 02916

RI Representative Districts: 61-63  
RI Senate Districts: 14, 18



## WHO WE ARE

Since 1983 WPWA has ensured that the watershed is conserved for current and future generations. WPWA encourages a watershed-based approach to natural resource conservation and planning. Our campus on the upper Wood River is ideal for educating and empowering people through a variety of recreational and scientific programs.



## THE WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED

Located in southwestern Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut, the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed is over 300 square miles and covers 25% of the land mass of Rhode Island. Sections of its major rivers – the Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen-Usquepaugh, Pawcatuck, Wood, Shunock, and Green Fall-Ashaway Rivers - are considered Wild & Scenic by the National Park Service. The watershed is renowned for its abundance of protected lands that provide plentiful trout waters, scenic paddle routes, and diverse natural habitats.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

WPWA provides students, members, and the public with a wide variety of opportunities to participate in **staff-instructed paddles, hikes, and watershed science lessons**. These programs are supported by a large fleet of kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards that are always available to WPWA members at no additional cost.

WPWA is the leader in **water quality monitoring** throughout the watershed and was **instrumental in creating URI's Watershed Watch program** in 1988. With the help of volunteers and sponsors, WPWA has since collected tens of thousands of samples at over forty locations throughout the watershed. This water quality data is always available for all to view using an interactive map on our website.

WPWA engages in **all aspects of river restoration** from removing historic dams that prevent the movement of fish to clearing dangerous obstructions that can make paddling the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers unsafe. Collaboratively planning watershed-wide projects to reduce flooding impacts and to improve water quality and wildlife habitat guides all our restoration efforts.

## FACTS

The entire watershed is designated as a solesource aquifer providing drinking water supplied by public and private wells to over 100,000 residents. The surface water quality is generally very good however there are places where quality is negatively impacted by nutrients and/or bacteria, most notably in the lower basin and estuary of Little Narragansett Bay.

WPWA provides printed and digital maps and maintains a web-based interactive River Conditions map for paddlers to report obstructions they encounter when paddling. It is a great tool for the public to monitor water levels, restoration projects, and trees blocking passage on the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. All our efforts are made possible thanks to memberships and donations from WPWA supporters.

## CONTACT US

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(401) 539-9017  
203 Arcadia Road  
Hope Valley, RI 02832  
Located in Hopkinton, RI



RI Representative Districts: 29-32, 35-37  
RI Senate Districts: 21, 33-38





## WHO WE ARE

Established in 2001, The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) encourages, supports and promotes the restoration and preservation of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed as an environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic asset of the State of Rhode Island. We protect and improve an urban river, park spaces and a bike path. We run a variety of programs including Clean Days on the Greenway volunteer events, water and fish monitoring, bike and education lessons, recreation events and more.

## THE WOONASQUATUCKET WATERSHED

In 1998 the Woonasquatucket River received federal designation as one of fourteen American Heritage Rivers which honors the historic, cultural, economic and environmental significance of this Rhode Island treasure. The 19-mile-long river flows through six cities and towns in Rhode Island including Glocester, North Smithfield, Smithfield, Johnston, North Providence and Providence, where it flows into the Providence River and out into Narragansett Bay.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

**The Woonasquatucket River Greenway** is a catalyst for renewal along the Woonasquatucket River in Providence. A bike/pedestrian path links recreational areas, green spaces, and the neighborhoods from downtown Providence north into Johnston. We partner with the neighborhoods, organizations, and government agencies to increase recreational and green space, improve water quality, reduce flooding, promote business development, reduce crime and more.

**Clean Days on the Greenway** - Spring through Fall, we connect over 1,500 friends and partners with WRWC River Rangers through **Clean Days on the Greenway** to clean land and water, restore habitat, improve neighborhood parks, and bring art to the communities along the Greenway.

WRWC brings **Environmental Education** to over 500 K-12 students both in classrooms and afterschool programming. Youth and adults also join **Red Shed Bike Programs** - youth can join a spring or summer bike camp, schools and community centers can host our bike educators, and adults can join a session to learn biking basics.

## FACTS

The WRWC has leveraged millions in funding to build the Woony River Greenway and restore sixty-two acres of parkland in Providence and Johnston along the river. We maintain five parks and our seven mile Woony River Greenway.

In partnership with the URI Watershed Watch Program, WRWC monitors water quality at four sites on the lower Woonasquatucket River and publishes the data on our website.

Thanks to five fish passage projects at dams on the lower Woony and better water quality, fish counts show that more fish are using the river now than they have for the last 150 years!

Every year, over 1,500 volunteers remove hundreds of tires, shopping carts, and more from the river and make improvements to the Greenway. Though the work continues, the river and Greenway are cleaner than they have ever been since the Industrial Revolution.



## CONTACT US



**WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER  
WATERSHED COUNCIL**

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Providence, RI 02909

RI Representative Districts: 1-3, 5-11, 13, 14, 43, 44, 48, 53, 54  
RI Senate Districts: 1, 2, 4-7, 17, 22, 23, 25, 26

# CONTACT

## THE RHODE ISLAND RIVERS COUNCIL



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# SUPPORT

## THE RHODE ISLAND RIVERS COUNCIL

[www.ririvers.org](http://www.ririvers.org)

Dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring Rhode Island's beautiful and treasured waterways.



Be a champion of our work, join us as a volunteer,  
serve as member of our caring community.

Email us at [info@ririvers.org](mailto:info@ririvers.org)

