



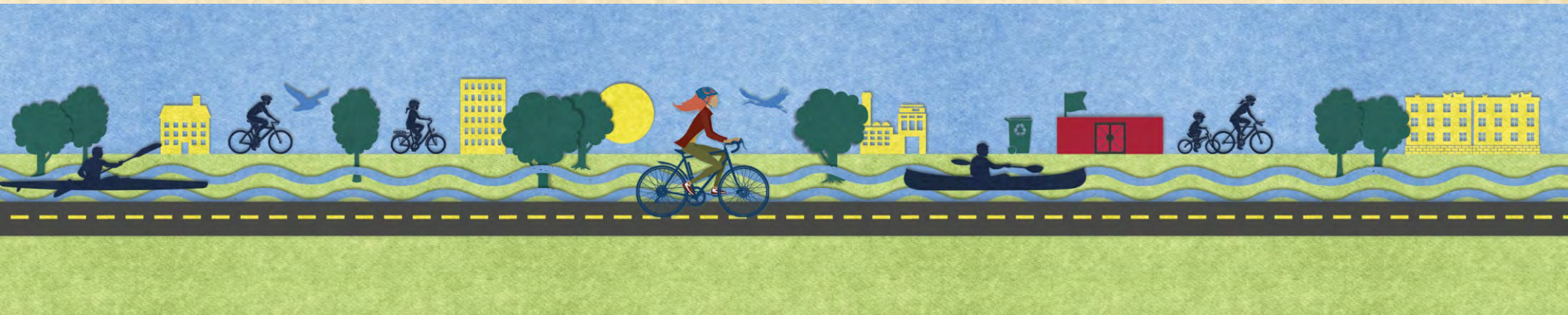
**WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL**

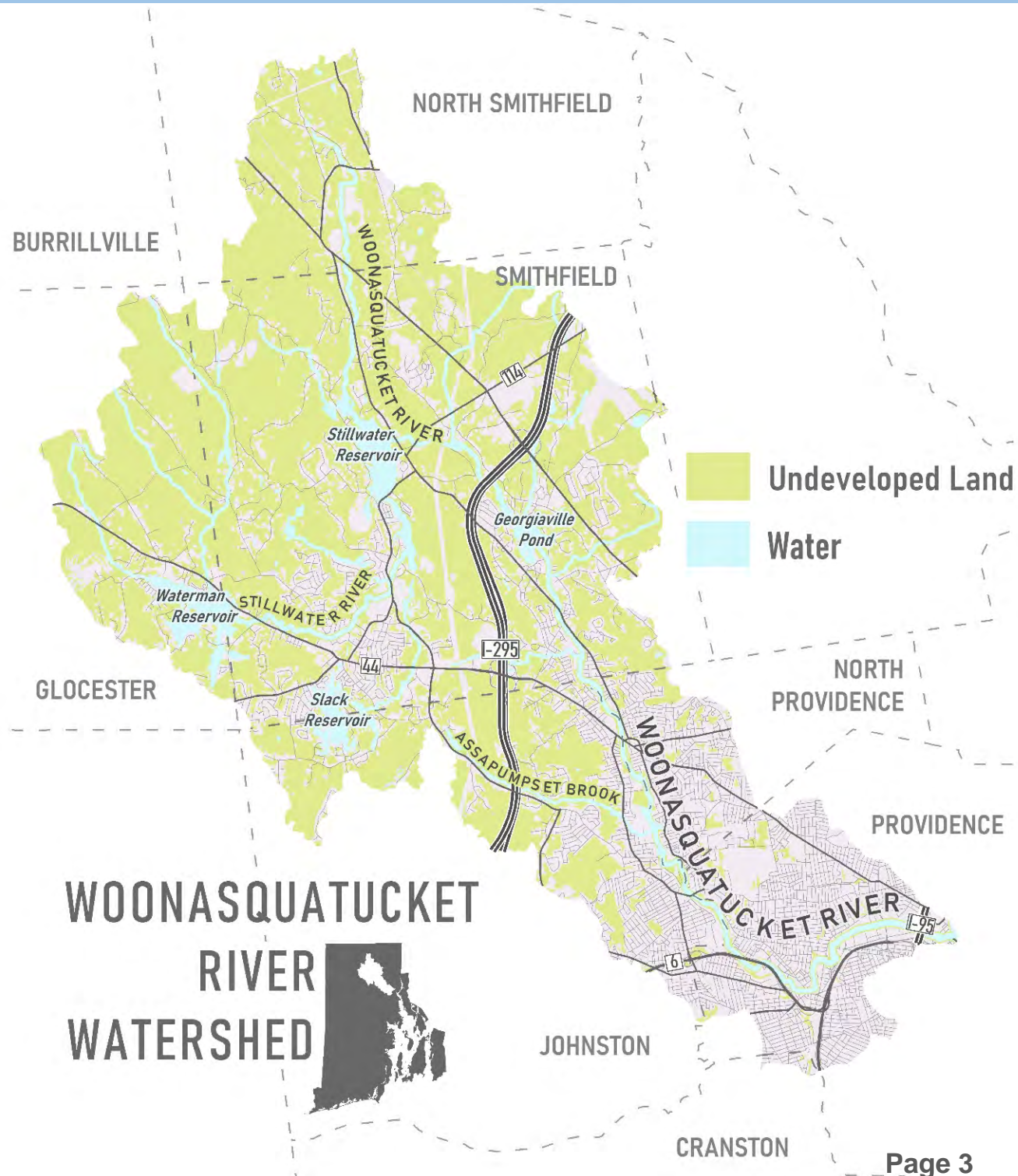
Encourage, support and promote the restoration and preservation of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed as an environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic asset of the State of Rhode Island.

NEW VOICES AT THE WATER TABLE

Front Line Community Engagement:
Capacity Building & Leadership Development for Climate
Resilience

- Selected Providence, RI Neighborhood - **Olneyville**
- First Steps of Engagement - Health Equity Zone
- Neighborhood Students - Our Secret Weapon
- City & Community Partners
- Next Steps and Desired Outcomes



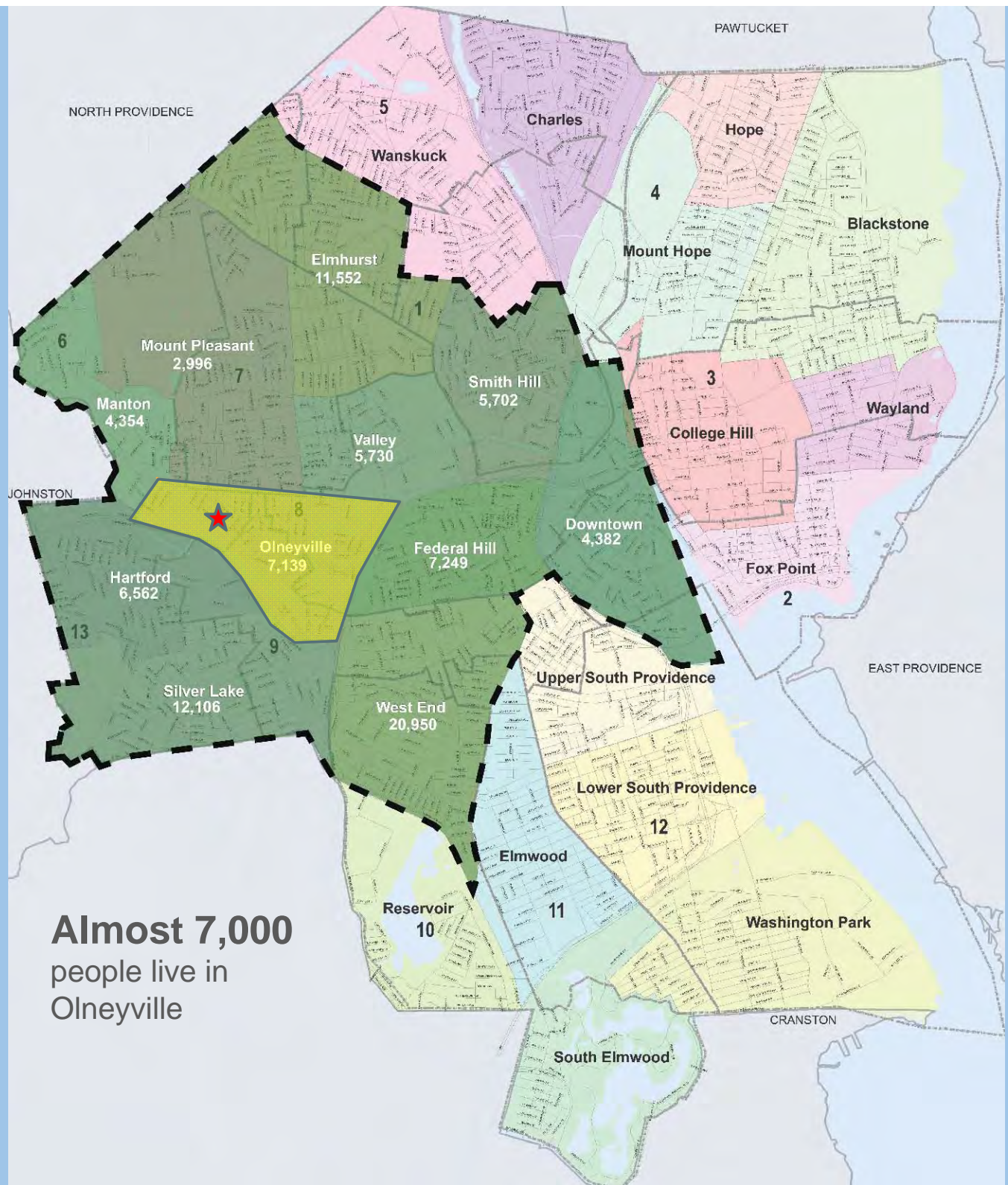


283,757 total population
(27% of RI)

COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY
WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER WATERSHED





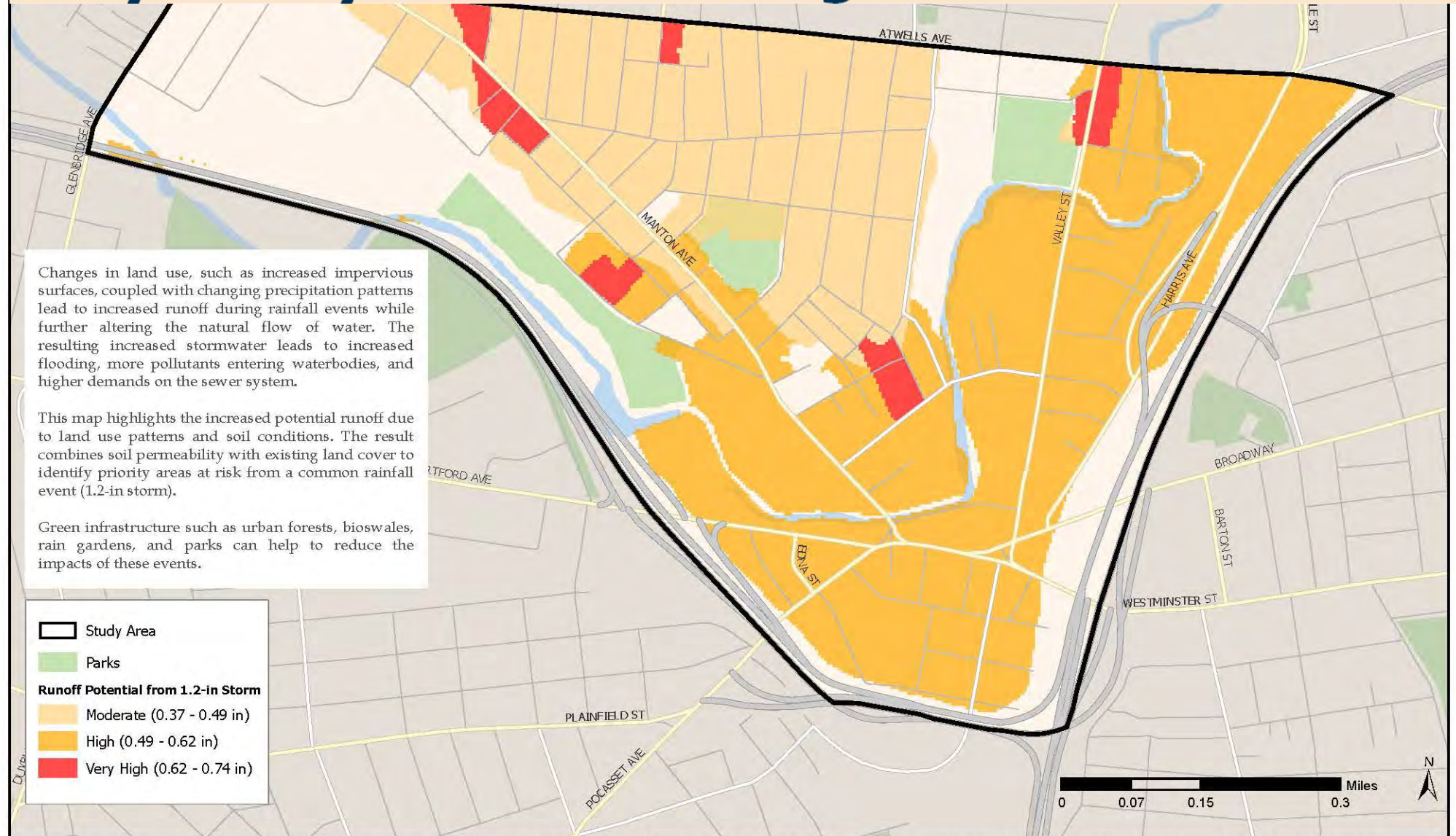
Almost 7,000
people live in
Olneyville

Addressing Stormwater Challenges

Olneyville Health Equity Zone



Why Olneyville? Flooding as a climate issue

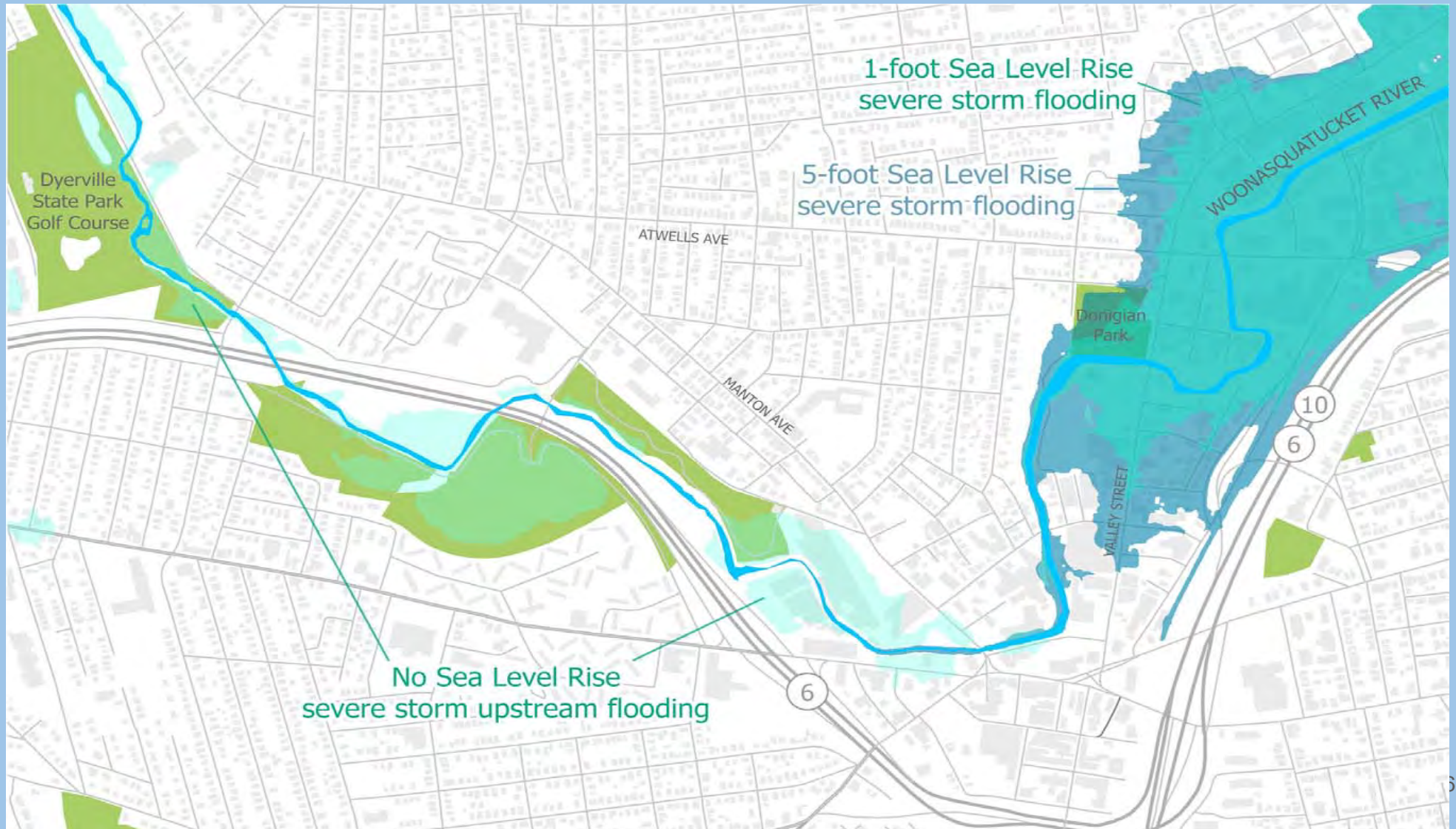


This map was created by CGD Analytics (cgdanalytics.com) for the Rhode Island Department of Health in conjunction with The Trust for Public Land (www.tpl.org). Information on this map is provided for visualization and discussion purposes only. For more information, please contact the Rhode Island Department of Health. January 2019

100 Year Flood Zone

“What used to be, say, a 1,000 year event (like [Superstorm] Sandy or perhaps Harvey) is now, say, a 30 year event, and will eventually become an event we see every few years if we continue on the course that we’re on,”

Huffington Post Article – August 2017



Flooding



Flood of March 2010

Project Goals



Address community resilience to climate change

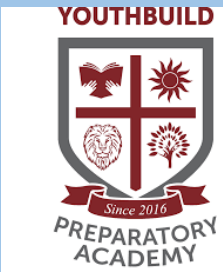
1. Residents of all ages, races and socio-economic statuses are connected to their local waterways and greenspaces, and are “water literate.”

1. Residents of all ages, races and socio-economic statuses are knowledgeable about the science and neighborhood concerns related to stormwater, flooding and resiliency.

1. Through participation in school-based and community environmental education and training programs, student and resident leaders develop comprehensive understanding of the science and inter-related issues of stormwater and flooding, and leadership skills they need to become empowered agents of stewardship and decision-making where they live.



We get by with a little help from our friends...



To maximize our success for this project, we are working with organizations in the community to pull this project together



1. Northern Rhode Island Conservation District
2. YouthBuild Preparatory Academy
3. DownCity Design
4. The Metropolitan Career and Technical High School
5. One Neighborhood Builders

In addition, we are also combining efforts with other great organizations such as: The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, The Providence Youth Hire Program, City of Providence: Office of Sustainability, and Terracorps.

Ways of engagement so far:

Partnership with One Neighborhood Builders for Health Equity Zone Climate Health

- Survey 90 people – 2 bilingual (Spanish/English) surveyors
 - Survey completed through in person interviews and online
 - Respondents receive \$15 Price Rite gift card for in person interviews
 - First 10 18+ living in OV receive \$15 Price Rite gift card for online
 - Specifically target Hispanic/Latino residents to represent OV population
 - Analyze results, create informational video, and share out with residents.



RESULTS – Knowledge/Perceptions on Climate Change

- **How much do you know about CC? – 50% little or nothing**
- **Is climate changing in OV? – 63% Yes, 28% Not Sure, 9% No**
- **If yes, what risks are there in OV?**
 - **Theme Identified:**
 - **Flooding – 13**
 - **More Extreme Weather – 7**
 - **Illness/Flu/Fever – 13**
- **How likely is a disaster here? – 71% somewhat to very likely**
- **How severe would the impact be to you? – 75% somewhat to very severe**

Results: Hazard Preparedness Film

The screenshot shows a Vimeo video player interface. At the top left is the Vimeo logo. To its right are navigation links: "Join" (highlighted in green), "Log in", "Pricing", "Product" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Watch" (with a dropdown arrow). On the top right, there is a search bar containing the text "Search videos, people, and more" and a magnifying glass icon, followed by a blue button labeled "+ New video".

The video content features a middle-aged man with a balding head, wearing a dark grey polo shirt, sitting in an office. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a blurred office environment with desks, chairs, and plants. On the right side of the video frame, there are two icons: a heart icon for liking and a clock icon for watching history.

At the bottom of the video frame, there is a subtitle in Spanish: "y vi que había agua en todas partes. Totalmente inundada." Below the subtitle is a video progress bar with a play button icon on the left and a timestamp of "02:33" in the center. On the far right of the progress bar, there are icons for signal strength, settings, and full screen.

Ways of Engagement: Cont.

Development of Story Mapping software by students in Environmental Leaders Program

Several students are currently working through story mapping process, and will be adding different content remotely

Students will present information to community members to educate and engage these audiences on climate issues, and how to be better prepared



Students in MET Environmental Leaders Program 2019-2020 year.



Kiana Gonzalez - MET Student

- **Goal: to show that plants are a green solution to lessen the impacts of flooding**
- Things I've Done:
 - I did research on how plants will help the earth and how it will help stop climate change
 - Brainstormed with group to determine group roles
 - Talked about the Olneyville 2010 flood
 - Completed my first and second trimester of Environmental Leaders class
- Things I need to Do:
 - Start adding info to the story map and getting comfortable with Arc GIS.
 - Working on and actually doing community presentations
- **Excited about: opportunity to teach others about the environment and getting to teach the Olneyville community about what is going on with the flooding**



WRWC River Ranger Jacob helping to “green” the Woonasquatucket River Greenway by planting in a swale near the river.

Engaging Community with Signage

Nature is at work here!

We're creating a healthy community! This site uses nature to clean dirty stormwater and reduce flooding.

www.greeninfrastructureri.org



San Souci Connector Rain Gardens

This site used to be a big parking lot, but it was changed to be better for people and wildlife. All the dirty water from the parking lot used to wash straight into the river.

This path and garden now create a walkway that also cleans water, leading from Olneyville Square to the Woonasquacket River. The brick around the walkway and the garden collect and filter dirty rain water that washes off the parking lot, making the river **cleaner** and Olneyville **greener**.



Clean

The rain garden removes sand, dirt and other pollutants from the rain water before it enters the Woonasquacket River.



Protect

Absorbs rain and reduces flooding.



Economy

This land is protected and used by local residents and businesses. Green space increases property values for everyone.

Cool

Removes hard surfaces that hold heat. Adds plants and trees that provide shade for people and wildlife.

Wellness

Provides cleaner air and places to rest outside, connecting people to nature in the city.

Habitat

Attracts and feeds animals like butterflies, bees and birds. Butterflies and bees are really important to local farmers who provide fresh food.



La Naturaleza trabaja Aquí!

Estamos creando una comunidad saludable! Este sitio usa la naturaleza para limpiar agua sucia luvial y reducir inundacion.

www.greeninfrastructureri.org



Conector de agua de lluvia San Souci

Este sitio antes era un estacionamiento grande, pero se ha cambiando para ser mejor para las personas y fauna silvestre. Toda la agua del estacionamiento antes se corria hacia el rio. Este camino y jardin ahora es un camino que tambien limpia agua, comensando en Olneyville Square hasta el Rio Woonasquacket. El ladrillo sobre el camino y el jardin, coleccionan y filtran agua sucia de lluvia, que pasa del estacionamiento, haciendo el rio mas **limpio**, y Olneyville mas **verde**.

Refresca

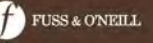
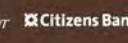
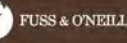
Elimina duro superficies que sostienen calor. Agrega plantas y árboles que proporcionan sombra para la gente y la fauna silvestre.

Buena Salud

Proporciona aire limpio y lugares para comer afuera, conectando la gente a la naturaleza en la ciudad.

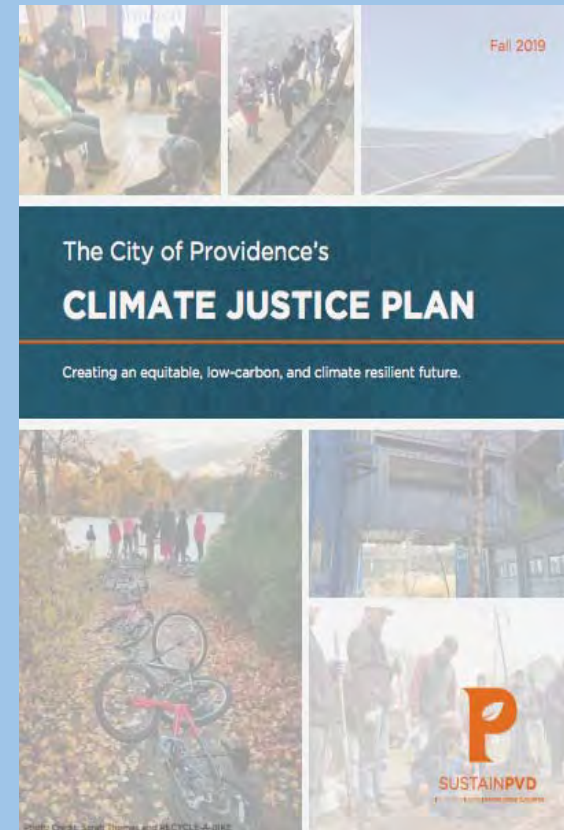
Habitar

Atrae y alimenta animales como mariposas, abejas y pajaros. Mariposas y abejas son muy importantes para los granjeros locales que proporcionan comida fresca.



What's to Come

- Youth led climate presentations in the community this fall
 - Increase awareness and engagement in community
- Work with **Green Justice Zone** - partnership with the Office of Sustainability
- Cohort of “Flood Fighters” from neighborhood who will brainstorm and connect to assess climate resilience needs for Olneyville.





Desired Outcomes



- Support ongoing efforts of the Climate Justice Plan
- Engage youth to continue to work on climate resilience topics
- Connect residents with government and open lines of communication
- Increase community involvement and voice on environmental concerns
- Encourage community to be prepared for environmental emergencies

Big Take-aways

- Fit to the communities needs - language and accessibility
- See who in your community is actively working on similar projects, and engage them in your work
- Be the facilitators of conversation, create space for others to lead
- Create incentives, time is incredibly valuable
- Disrupt barriers for participation, and include throughout project

QUESTIONS?



**WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL**

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