WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

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A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERS

STABLE AND STEADFAST

Looking back on 2025, one word keeps coming to mind: **uncertainty**.

This was a year when federal funding we had counted on and that had already been approved for work in our communities was suddenly frozen. Nearly $1 million for our urban forestry work was caught in that uncertainty. Projects were delayed. Plans changed. And like many nonprofits across the country, we found ourselves asking some very practical questions: *How do we keep our commitments? How do we keep our team together? How do we make sure years of progress don't stall?*

The answer, again and again, was **you.**

Your support gave us something incredibly valuable in an uncertain year: stability. It kept our talented staff in place doing the work they do best. It kept the lights on, programs running, trees and native plants cared for, young people learning, River Rangers on the Greenway, and our team showing up for communities throughout the watershed. Your support gives WRWC the flexibility to respond when circumstances change without losing sight of where we are going.

And in 2025, **we certainly kept going.**

We celebrated the completion of the Manton Outdoor Classroom, native plant garden, and major river restoration work in Johnston. We continued building and caring for the Greenway, teaching young people about rivers and bicycles, bringing neighbors together, restoring habitat, preparing communities for a changing climate, and creating more ways for people to find their place in this watershed.

We also fought back when our federal funding was frozen. WRWC joined nonprofit partners from Rhode Island and across the country in challenging that freeze in federal court. We won a preliminary injunction that allowed critical environmental and infrastructure

funding to begin flowing again. Our Nuestros Bosques initiative could move forward, bringing trees, green jobs, community stewardship, and greater climate resilience to Providence neighborhoods.

That feels especially meaningful as we also mark a leadership transition. After 13 years of extraordinary service culminating in leadership as Board President, Laureen is stepping out of that role. She isn't going far—she'll continue lending her experience and energy to special projects—but this anniversary gives us a chance to recognize her leadership and the many people who have carried WRWC forward over the past quarter century.

We have changed a lot in 25 years, and so has the river. But the basic idea behind this organization remains remarkably constant: people working together can revitalize the Woonasquatucket, build an amazing Greenway, and strengthen all our watersehd communities.

In 2025, **you proved that once again.**

Thank you for standing with us when things were uncertain. Thank you for investing not only in individual projects, but in the people that make them happen. And thank you for helping us arrive at our 25th anniversary strong, ambitious, and ready for what comes next.

We hope you'll celebrate with us in 2026. We have a lot to look back on and even more to look forward to.

VIEW THE STRATEGIC PLAN
tinyurl.com/wrwcstrat25

Laureen Ratti
President, Board of Directors

Alicia J. Lehrer
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laureen Ratti - *President*
Jennifer Recinos - *Vice President*
Christopher Riely - *Vice President*
Brian Platt - *Secretary*
Jennifer Lisi - *Treasurer*
Dean Audet
Dana Goodman
Martina Haggerty
Michael Hanley
Albe Larson
Wiliam Lawrence
Hannah Martin
Daphne Sarcia
Douglas A. Stephens
Elder González Trejo
Eric Wagner

2025 STAFF

Angus Adams – *River Ranger*
Adriana Almiron – *Resilience Hub Manager*
Gabriella Amato – *TerraCorps Community Engagement Coordinator*
Sayda Arriaza – *Nuevas Voces and Campeones Co-Facilitator*
Lisa Aurecchia – *Director of Projects*
Liza Baptista – *Finance and Human Resources Director*
Brandon Bristow – *Assistant Bicycle Educator*
Shiloh Cabot-Miller – *Community Action Director*
Ceci Cano – *English/Spanish Translator and Interpreter*
Nicholas Capille – *River Ranger*
Christopher Dalpe – *Communications Manager*
Jill Davidson – *Director of Development and Communications*
Luke Davies – *TerraCorps Youth Education Coordinator*
Peter Dear – *Greenway Manager*
Andrew deLisle – *Senior River Ranger*
Henry Eberman – *Education and Recreation Intern*
Pedro Espinal – *Resilience Hub Manager*
Haley Essington – *Community Resilience Liaison*
Layla Farahbakhsh – *Nuestros Bosques Program Coordinator*
Madi Garvin – *River Ranger*
Donny Green – *Bicycle Program Director*
Rebekah Greenwald – *Director of Grants*
Trevor Hanson – *River Ranger*
María José Gutierrez-Paz – *Nuevas Voces Co-Facilitator*
Kuno Haimbodi – *TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator*
Ricardo Hernandez – *River Ranger*
Jarrod Holgate – *Stormwater Field Supervisor*
India Jencks – *Land Preservation Manager*
Colleen Keenan – *Environmental Educator / Events Coordinator*
Alicia Lehrer – *Executive Director*
Gianna Lourenco – *Director of Environmental Education*
Phil Mattes – *Bicycle Program Manager*
Julia McGuigan – *TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator*
Jenny Mercado – *New Voices/Nuevas Voces Co-Facilitator*
David Morales – *Director of Community Action*
William O'Connor – *Education Assistant*
Alby Pearson – *River Ranger*
Amanda Peavey – *Education Director*
Mark Pereira – *Civil Engineer*
James Richardson – *River Ranger*
Sam Salazar – *River Ranger*
Micah Santow – *Engineering Intern*
Abe Shikiar - *Bike Camp Counselor*
Tyler Sylvester – *River Ranger*
Renee Stoops – *Greenway Manager*
Elliot Stravato – *Development Intern*
Violet Windham – *Development and Administrative Associate*
Nicole Wright – *Community Action Program Coordinator*
Bridget Zwack – *Environmental Engineer*

OUR MISSION, VISON, AND VALUES

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

MISSION

Create positive environmental, social, and economic change by revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River, its Greenway, and its communities.

VISION

A clean Woonasquatucket River and thriving Greenway for all to lead healthy lives.

VALUES

TENACIOUS INNOVATION

We overcome constraints with boldness, resourcefulness, and an entrepreneurial spirit, and we hope for a better future. We're scrappy and we get things done.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

We work toward establishing intergenerational habits of stewardship for our natural and human resources, elevating the community to continue the work.

HUMANS AND NATURE TOGETHER

We believe placemaking happens in the interconnection between humanity and nature. We have a holistic vision for community flourishing and sustainability.

ACCESSIBLE JOY

We share in the accessible and collective joy of creating and living in community among thriving natural resources—and our parties are second to none!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed is located in what is now known as the State of Rhode Island, on unceded territory that is within the ancestral homelands of the Narragansett Indian Tribe. The Narragansett Indian Tribe, whose ancestors stewarded these lands with great care, continues as a sovereign nation today.

WATERSHED

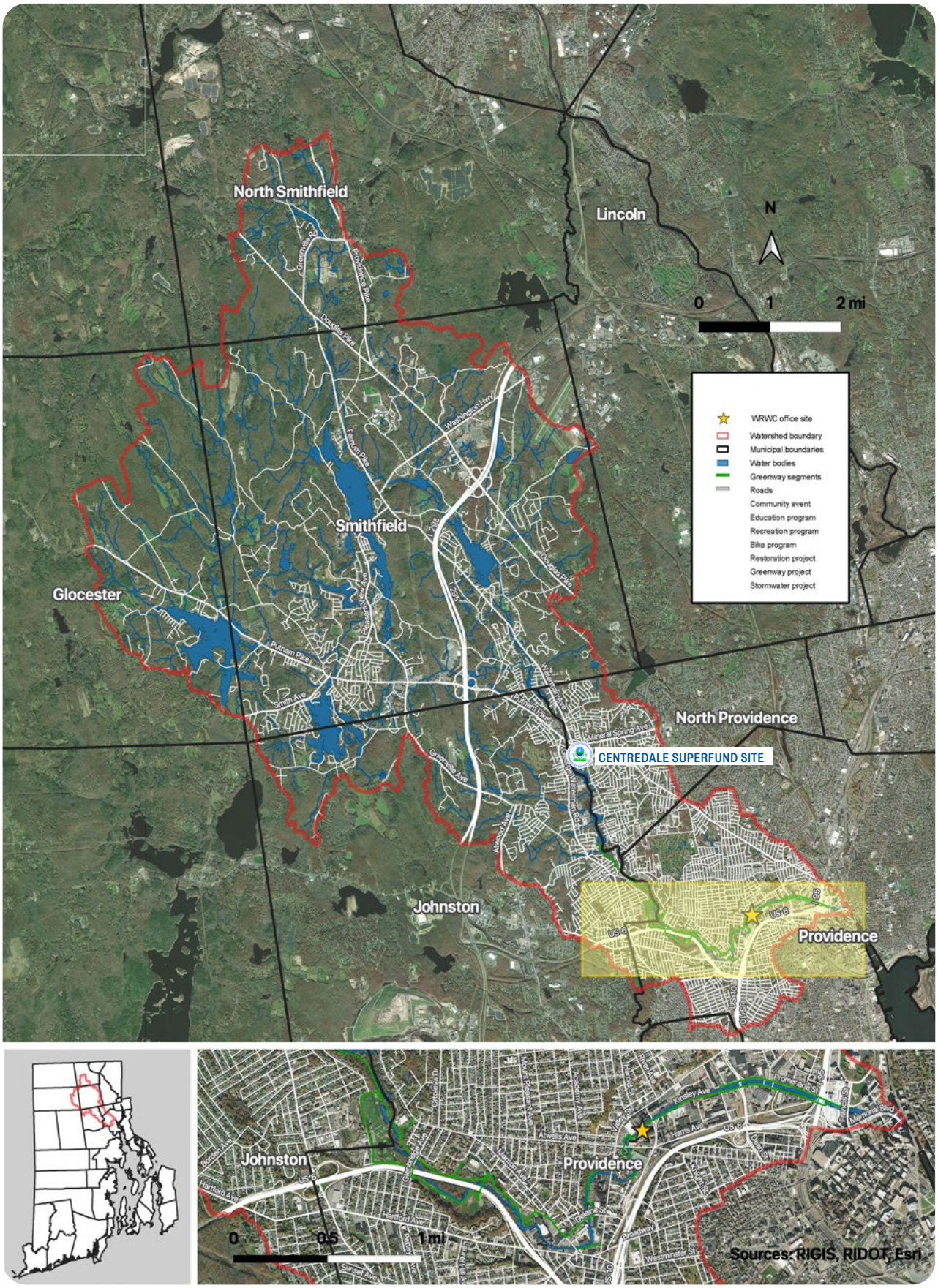
Spanning 19 miles from its headwaters in North Smithfield to its confluence with the Moshassuck River in downtown Providence, the Woonasquatucket flows through a watershed that covers 50 square miles and includes seven Rhode Island towns. Its name, meaning "*the place where the salt water ends*," reflects the river's tidal reach and deep cultural roots. Along its path are the legacies of farming, fishing, and industry that shaped the region's homes, mills, and neighborhoods, and that helped Providence become a hub of art, industry, and culture.

The Woonasquatucket River watershed is one of Rhode Island's most diverse, stretching from rural forests and farms in the north to densely populated urban neighborhoods in the south. This mix of land uses creates both valuable natural resources and complex environmental challenges. The watershed is rich in wetlands, forests, rivers, and ponds—natural systems that filter water, support wildlife, and connect communities. Water is constantly on the move here, flowing across the land and underground before joining the Moshassuck River and eventually reaching Narragansett Bay. In the northern and central areas, many residents rely on groundwater wells, making it especially important to protect both surface and underground water sources. Rhode Island's porous soils allow water to move quickly, highlighting the need for careful land and water stewardship across the entire watershed.

SPOTLIGHT ON CENTREDALE MANOR

The Centredale Manor Superfund Site in North Providence and Johnston is the legacy of chemical manufacturing that released dioxins and other hazardous substances into the Woonasquatucket River from the 1940s through the 1970s. Cleanup of the site and 1.5 miles of the river has been underway since 2018, with the goal of removing contaminated material and restoring a healthier river ecosystem. As that work has progressed, WRWC's River Rangers have played an important role in bringing native habitat back to restored riverbanks.

Since the winter of 2021, the team has helped transform hardened riprap into a more resilient, living ecosystem by installing native plants, conducting seasonal survival checks, removing invasive species, and providing ongoing stewardship. In 2025, that work continued at Source Area North and the Allendale Reach. River Rangers installed and maintained more than 1,000 live stakes along restored riverbanks, supported native shrub and tree plantings, and cared for upland moist meadow and riverbank meadow habitat. At Allendale alone, restoration encompasses more than 32,000 square feet of riprap revetment, while Source Area North includes a 350-foot restored riverbank and nearly 2,000 square feet of meadow habitat.


North Smithfield
Lincoln
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WRWC office site
Watershed boundary
Municipal boundaries
Water bodies
Greenway segments
Roads
Community event
Education program
Recreation program
Bike program
Restoration project
Greenway project
Stormwater project
Smithfield
Glocester
North Providence
CENTREDALE SUPERFUND SITE
Johnston
Providence
Johnston
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Sources: RIGIS, RIDOT, Esri

THE GREENWAY

The Woonasquatucket River Greenway is at the heart of our vision to restore both the river and the communities it touches. What began in 1993 as a bold idea to reclaim a neglected resource has grown into a vibrant, evolving network of parks, restored lands, and a seven-mile multi-use trail that serves as a linear park and vital connection between neighborhoods. Stretching from Providence to Johnston, the Greenway provides safe spaces for walking, biking, gathering, and growing—physically, socially, and ecologically.

PARKS & GATEWAYS

The Woonasquatucket River Greenway is more than a just a path. Along its route, once-neglected lots, dumping grounds, and forgotten corners are being reimagined as vibrant parks, beloved gathering spots, and gateways to nature. WRWC helps lead this transformation, working alongside neighbors to build green spaces that inspire play, promote health, and restore pride in place. From bike paths and soccer fields to pocket parks and skate spots, each location tells a story of change, connection, and community.

ART ON THE GREENWAY

Art brings the Greenway to life. From murals to sculptures, local artists help tell the story of the river, the neighborhoods, and the people who live here. WRWC works with artists from places like Olneyville and the Valley to bring creativity into public spaces, making the Greenway more fun, more beautiful, and more connected to the community.

RECREATION & EVENTS

We organize community events, recreation activities, neighborhood gardens, and more on the Greenway. From guided paddle trips and bike rides to park cleanups, plantings, and public art, we create opportunities for people to connect with the river, their neighbors, and the outdoors—all while building a healthier and greener watershed.

CNU 33 GREENWAY TOUR

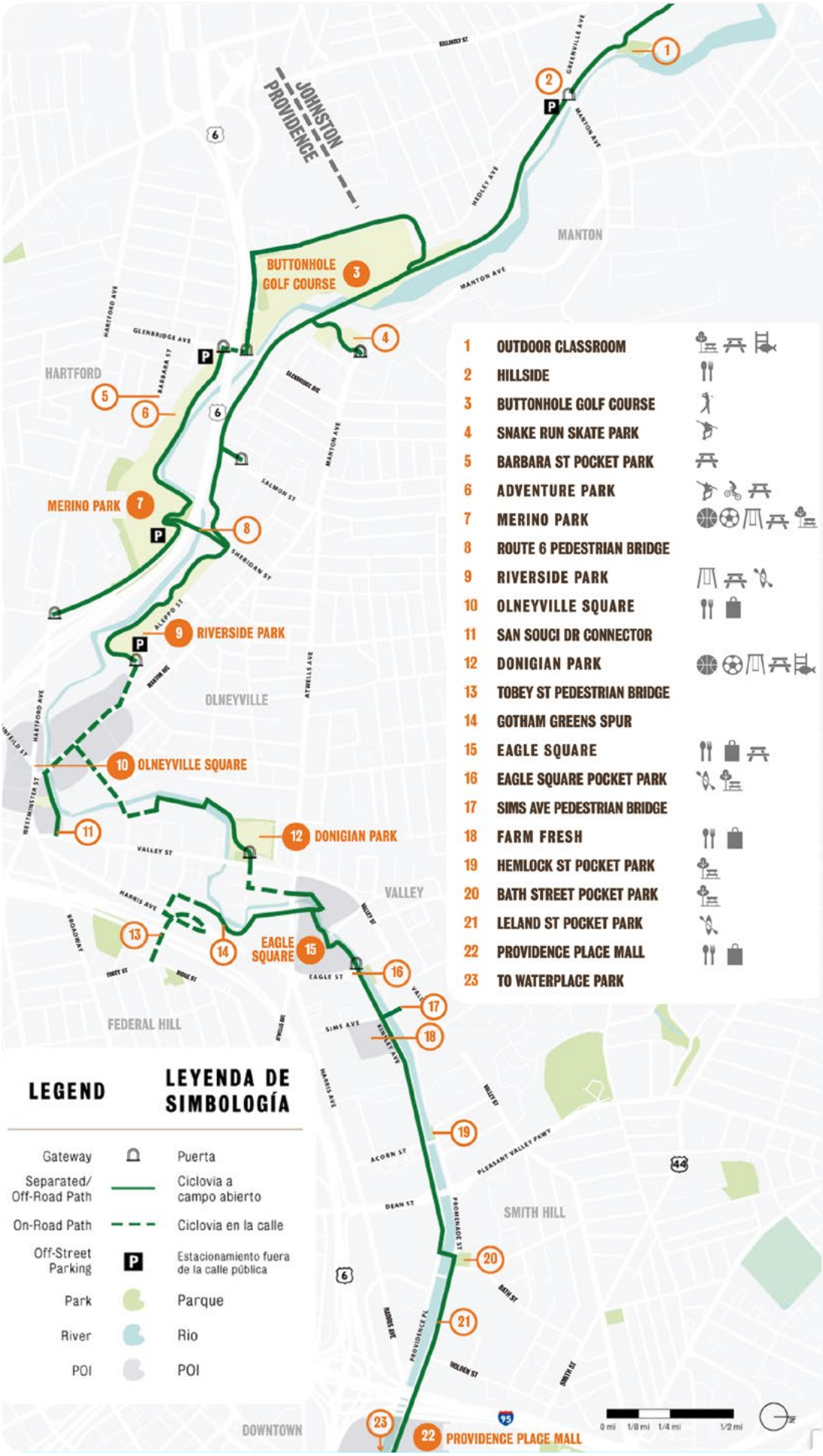
The Greenway was showcased to a national audience at Congress for New Urabanism 33 with tours highlighting river restoration, and community-driven transformation.

AMPO CONFERENCE

WRWC welcomed 22 planning professionals for an e-bike tour of the Greenway, showcasing how transportation, recreation, green infrastructure, and climate resilience come together along the Woonasquatucket.

TRASH ART

WRWC launched Litter-Free Woonasquatucket, combining public art, new trash bins, community input, and education to stop litter on land before it reaches the river.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND HABITAT RESTORATION

"The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council does terrific work improving the resiliency of our communities and creating exciting new spaces for people of all ages to come together, explore nature, and learn new things." -Senator Jack Reed

IN 2025

750,000 GALLONS OF STORMWATER MANAGED through the maintenance of green infrastructure that keeps polluted runoff out of the river

5,602 RIVER HERRING COUNTED by volunteers during April and May migration at the Rising Sun Mills Fish Ladder

8 VOLUNTEERS MONITORED 6 sites along the Woonasquatucket every other week from May through October In partnership with URI Watershed Watch

6 ELECTROFISHING SURVEYS CONDUCTED across the watershed to measure biodiversity and changing river conditions

680 FEET OF RIVERBANK RESTORED plus 5,000+ native plants, bioswales, and stormwater improvements at Manton Pond

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council protects the river's ecosystem through native habitat restoration, invasive plant removal, and nature based stormwater infrastructure. We monitor the success of these initiatives by tracking fish populations, monitoring water quality, and advocating for the Centredale Manor Superfund Cleanup Project site. These projects improve water quality, reconnect and restore wildlife habitats, and reduce flooding and summer heat—especially in vulnerable areas prone to flooding and erosion.

RESTORING MANTON POND FOR PEOPLE & WILDLIFE

The new Manton Outdoor Classroom, Native Plant Garden, and restoration projects transformed a flood-prone site into a hub for education and climate resilience, with 5,000+ native plants, bioswales, stormwater improvements, and stabilized streambanks helping to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and restore wildlife habitat.

CONNECTING RIVER HEALTH & COMMUNITY HEALTH

WRWC partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Health to share new findings about contamination downstream of the Centredale Manor Superfund Site, helping residents understand fish consumption risks and make safer choices when fishing and recreating along the Woonasquatucket.

STORMWATER SOLUTIONS ACROSS RI

WRWC joined partners at the 2025 Stormwater Innovation Expo to share our community-driven approach to climate resilience and green infrastructure—connecting with experts and organizations working together to address flooding, stormwater, and water quality challenges across Rhode Island.

BUILDING FLOOD-READY COMMUNITIES

WRWC partnered with the Providence Emergency Management Agency at the Olneyville Resilience Hub to help neighbors prepare for flooding—sharing practical tools and guidance to protect their homes, families, and community before, during, and after a flood.

RIVER RANGERS

"Care, beauty, and ecological repair belong in public space." — Tate Won Chen

The River Rangers are the heart and hands of the Woonasquatucket River Greenway, caring for its trails, parks, and the communities they connect. As stewards of both land and water, Rangers maintain wild and urban green spaces, lead clean-ups, and work alongside local artists to bring beauty and vibrancy to the Greenway. They help keep the river healthy from below the banks—learning to paddle, studying the local ecosystem, and building green infrastructure to protect against flooding and pollution. From mowing to mural-making, their work makes the Greenway safer, stronger, and more welcoming for all.

RESTORING MANTON POND FOR PEOPLE & WILDLIFE

A major program milestone: the Rangers moved into a new 2,500-square-foot Ranger Station near Riverside and Merino Park, giving the team heated indoor space, a loading dock, equipment/tool storage, bathrooms, sinks, and a shower.

WRWC AWARDED SNEP MINI-GRANT

This grant expanded River Ranger stewardship capacity by supporting equipment such as the e-bike watering system and chipper, strengthening their ability to maintain plants and trees and provide the long-term care needed to keep them thriving.

GROWING RESTORATION FROM SEED

A new seed freezer and hands-on community workshops expanded the River Rangers' native plant restoration work. With this freezer, the Rangers are now collecting seeds, growing climate-adapted native species, and bringing them back to the Greenway to restore habitat and support pollinators.

35,000 NATIVE BULBS AND PLANTS

The River Rangers planted and cared for 35,000 native bulbs and plants along the Greenway. The plantings provide more habitat for pollinators, strengthen biodiversity, and create healthier, more resilient landscapes throughout the watershed.

COMMUNITY ACTION

"Nuevas Voces helped me understand that we have to be the voice for social and environmental issues and that we have the power to make change. If we don't advocate for these issues, there won't be change."
— Maria Lemus

IN 2025

200+ RESIDENTS attended eight bilingual workshops covering flood preparedness, tree equity, solar access, lead safety, transportation, and climate resilience

21 COMMUNITY LEADERS graduated from the fourth Nuevas Voces cohort, while 20 NEW PARTICIPANTS began Cohort five and 8 GRADUATES advanced into the Campeones leadership program

25 NEIGHBORS grew food in the Joslin Community Garden, supported by 50+ VOLUNTEERS who contributed more than 200 HOURS of service

VECINA, the bilingual neighborhood advocacy tool developed with Nuevas Voces alumni and research partners LAUNCHED

WRWC's Community Action programs empower residents of the lower Woonasquatucket River Watershed through bilingual leadership training, community organizing, and free, family-friendly events. Rooted in equity and collaboration, this work ensures that local voices shape the future of their neighborhoods and the river itself. Through programs like Nuevas Voces and Campeones del Combate Climático, WRWC cultivates local environmental leaders who influence policies, infrastructure, and public health in their own neighborhoods.

BUILDING CIVIC POWER

Nuevas Voces participants explored how city and state government work and how residents can make their voices heard, building the knowledge, tools, and confidence to engage with elected officials, advocate on community issues, and participate in local decision-making.

EXPLORING AIR QUALITY

Participants explored how air pollution affects their neighborhoods and health through hands-on learning, using air quality monitors and gaining practical tools to better understand and respond to poor air quality.

CELEBRATING NUEVAS VOCES LEADERS

After 10 months of bilingual learning and community action, the 2024–25 Nuevas Voces cohort graduated, joining 50+ residents who have completed the program since 2020 and are building stronger voices in their communities.

MAKING SOIL AND FRIENDS

Neighbors and Nuevas Voces participants installed a new compost system at Joslin Community Garden that turns plant waste into healthy soil while community members build hands-on sustainability skills.

Olneyville Resilience Hub

WRWC continues to serve as a backbone organization for the Olneyville Resilience Hub, a community-centered space connecting residents with resources, programs, and opportunities to shape their neighborhood. In 2025, the Hub continued to grow as a place for community connection, offering programming and services focused on climate resilience, health, language access, emergency preparedness, and more—all guided by resident priorities and partnerships.

CONTACT THE RESILIENCE HUB AT (401) 414-7784 OR OVRESHUB@WRWC.ORG

NUESTROS BOSQUES (OUR FORESTS)

"During the planting day, each tree was placed with the intention of bringing life back to the forest. As we worked, it was clear that we were committed to protecting this space for future generations. Planting a tree was not just a physical action, but an act of hope and environmental responsibility." —Ricardo Hernandez

IN 2025

NEARLY $1 MILLION RESTORED FOR URBAN FORESTRY
WRWC successfully fought the federal funding freeze in court, allowing the Nuestros Bosques work to move forward

300+ TREES along the river received ongoing community care

145 TREES PLANTED across 9 sites throughout the watershed

317 PEOPLE attended tree plantings and community events

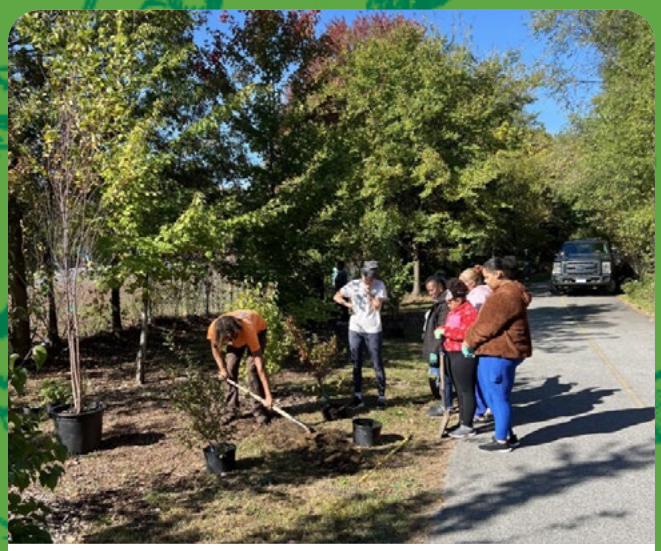
Nuestros Bosques is a community-driven urban forestry initiative that brings Providence residents together to plant, care for, and advocate for trees in neighborhoods like Olneyville, Manton, Mount Pleasant, and Valley. Through tree planting, stewardship, and leadership training, the program works to reduce urban heat, manage stormwater, improve air quality, and protect the Woonasquatucket River. Over the next three years, Nuestros Bosques will plant a fast-growing Miyawaki forest, train more than 50 community tree stewards, and care for hundreds of trees while building greener, healthier, and more climate-resilient neighborhoods.

A BIG WIN FOR TREES

WRWC secured nearly $1 million for Nuestros Bosques after successfully challenging a federal funding freeze. The investment is expanding community-driven urban forestry along the Greenway, supporting new trees and green spaces, local tree stewardship, and healthier neighborhoods while reducing heat, managing stormwater, protecting streambanks, and strengthening biodiversity.

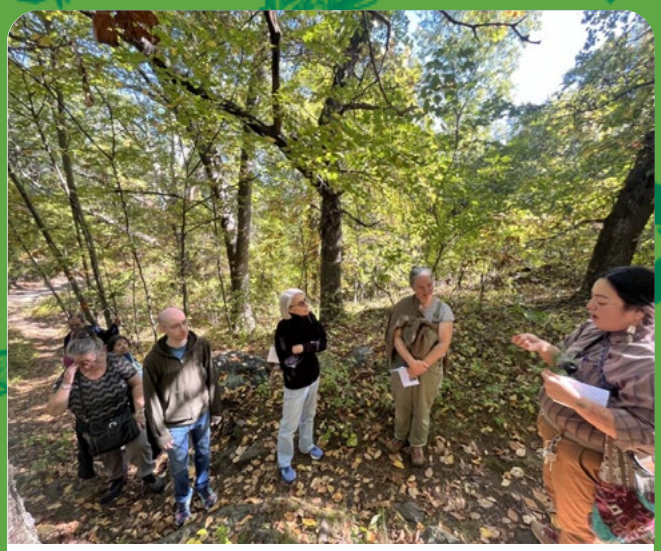
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN URBAN FOREST

50+ neighbors joined Providence's first Community Tree Forum to help shape the future of their neighborhood canopy. Through hands-on activities and conversations, residents identified where trees are most needed, explored which species would thrive, and shared ideas for making tree planting and care more equitable, community-driven, and resilient.



A GREENER MANTON HEIGHTS

Around 20 volunteers transformed 1,680 square feet of green space at Manton Heights, planting 6 trees, 24 understory plants, and 38 shrubs. The Nuestros Bosques planting brought neighbors together to expand shade and habitat while giving residents a hands-on role in growing and caring for their neighborhood's urban forest.



EXPLORING A FOREST IN RECOVERY

Community members explored the recovering oak-hickory forest at Neutaconkanut Park on a half-mile nature walk, learning how forests respond to disturbance while discovering native trees, understory plants, and the remarkable biodiversity of Providence's urban woodlands.

BICYCLE EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

"THANK YOU, this means a lot to me because I never knew how to ride a bike until now, and now I'm gonna practice more than ever! I have a lot of hobbies: music, art, singing with my band, jump rope, now, I can add riding bikes to my list!" —Leah

IN 2025

1,700+ STUDENTS reached through Rhode to Bicycle Safety at 27 schools

98 CAMPERS participated in Girls Bike Camp and seven weeks of Summer Bike Camp

1,800 HELMETS distributed to help kids ride safely

12 INTERNS trained in professional bicycle mechanics through our Met School partnership

NEW IN 2026: Launching an in-school kindergarten Learn-to-Ride program with All Kids Bike

Our Bicycle Education programs make biking safe, fun, and accessible for youth and families along the Woonasquatucket River Greenway and beyond. We offer year-round programs including the Rhode to Bicycle Safety (R2BS) course for 5th graders. We also offer summer youth Bikes Camps that teach helmet safety, bike maintenance, and rules of the road. Serving over 1,500 students annually, our bike programs combine classroom learning with hands-on riding to empower young riders to navigate their communities safely and independently. Scholarships for camps ensure all kids can participate, with a special focus on teaching beginners to embrace cycling as a lifelong skill and way to connect with nature.

BIKE EDUCATION ON A NATIONAL STAGE

Donny Green represented WRWC at the 2025 National Bike Summit, sharing our R2BS approach and advocating for safer infrastructure and investment in bicycling and alternate modes of carbon-free transportation.

BIKE CAMP COMMUNITY RIDES

Weekly 3.5-mile community rides brought Bike Camp graduates, families, and neighbors together. Growing from 7 to 20+ riders, the series celebrated new cyclists while connecting more families to the Greenway.

BUILDING BIKE SKILLS & CONFIDENCE

Our bicycle mechanics internship entered its fourth year in 2025. In partnership with Trek Bicycles and The Met, students learn professional bike assembly and mechanics while building problem-solving, critical thinking, math, and science skills.

GIRLS BIKE CAMP

Five young riders completed a week of Girls Bike Camp, building skills in safe cycling, bike mechanics, and environmental stewardship. During their graduation ride, this cohort showed up in style to the WRWC Earth Day Celebation in Johnston.

RHODE TO BICYCLE SAFETY

The Rhode to Bicycle Safety (R2BS) program continued building safer, more confident young cyclists across Rhode Island in 2025. In partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, WRWC instructors worked with nearly 600 fifth-grade students, providing hands-on bicycle education focused on the rules of the road, helmet safety, intersection navigation, and bike checks. Through classroom learning and on-bike practice, R2BS helps students of all abilities develop the skills and confidence to ride safely.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

"I would like to thank you for coming to our classroom and teaching us about fish. My favorite thing about this [program] was testing the water quality and going to Riverside Park." —Aminata

IN 2025

10 SCHOOLS SERVED THROUGH IN-CLASS PROGRAMMING Primarily engaging 3rd- and 4th-grade students

1,250+ LEARNERS ENGAGED in environmental education programs

20+ SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS collaborated with across the watershed

17 HANDS-ON FIELD TRIPS organized for students to explore the watershed

10 YOUTHS attended our first Camp Woonasquatucket science summer camp in Smithfield

Our education programs spark a lifelong connection to the Woonasquatucket River by bringing high-quality, hands-on science and nature learning to youth across the watershed. From kindergarteners discovering bird beaks and brook trout to high schoolers leading community projects, over 2,000 students each year explore, investigate, and care for their local environment with us. Whether in-school, after-school, or out on the trail, our lessons combine watershed science, outdoor adventure, and real-world problem-solving to build the next generation of environmental leaders.

LAUNCHING CAMP WOONASQUATUCKET

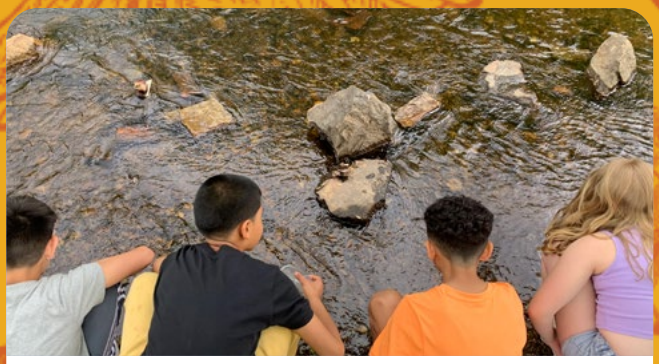
Our Education Department launched the first Camp Woonasquatucket at the Leo Bouchard Conservation Center, connecting young campers with outdoor adventure, environmental learning, and nature.

CONNECTING 3RD GRADERS WITH BIRDS

Birds of a Feather brought hands-on bird science and mindfulness to four schools, helping students build observation skills and connect with wildlife along the Woonasquatucket River.

STUDENTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Met School sophomores tackled litter through a semester-long project, creating anti-litter campaigns and taking hands-on action to protect the Woonasquatucket River.



RAISING FISH IN THE CLASSROOM

Fourth graders raised nearly 50 brook trout from eggs, learning about fish biology, water quality, and healthy stream habitats before releasing the young trout into the wild at Riverside Park.

TRI-COUNTY HEZ GREEN LABS

A new hands-on workshop series brought environmental health education to Johnston, North Providence, and Smithfield, exploring water quality, green infrastructure, gardening, and practical solutions to environmental challenges with local youth.

SHOCKING DISCOVERIES

More than 40 Wheeler School students joined us for three electrofishing surveys, getting hands-on with real river science while documenting American eels, catfish, and other aquatic life to better understand biodiversity, habitat, and water quality in the Woonasquatucket.

RECREATION AND EVENTS

"My kids and I love the canoe rides at Riverside Park, riding the bike path, and enjoying the playgrounds and skate parks." – Jen Stevens

IN 2025

73 RECREATION & EVENTS hosted on the greenway including walks, paddles, yoga, movie nights and more!

892+ PEOPLE connected with the river, Greenway, and each other through WRWC events

50+ PARTNER EVENTS delivered in collaboration with community organizations, agencies, artists, educators, and other partners

200+ FISH FUN(D) GUESTS came together for the second annual Fish Fun(d) raising $34,000 to support the WRWC

Our recreation and events programs invite people of all ages to connect with the Woonasquatucket River through outdoor adventures, cultural celebrations, and community-building experiences. From guided paddle trips and trail rides to neighborhood festivals and volunteer days, we create fun, welcoming opportunities to explore the Greenway, celebrate local history, and strengthen our shared commitment to a cleaner, healthier watershed.

BIKE RIDE DOWN MEMORY LANE

Riders explored 8 miles of the Woonasquatucket River Greenway, combining biking with local history and a private tour of the Clemence-Irons House, one of Rhode Island's oldest surviving homes.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY EN ESPAÑOL

More than 70 neighbors joined WRWC for Spanish-language events—yoga, guided Greenway walks, and Noche de Música y Baile—creating welcoming opportunities to explore the outdoors, get moving, and connect through language, culture, music, and community.

SUMMER ON THE WOONASQUATUCKET

Hundreds of community members joined WRWC for free weekly paddles and guided paddle trips throughout the summer, enabling them to get out on the Woonasquatucket River and explore the watershed from the water.

BEAVER WALK AND TALK

More than 40 community members joined WRWC for a guided Beaver Walk, discovering signs of beaver activity while learning how wildlife, river restoration, and climate-resilient stewardship come together along the Greenway.

WINTER SOLSTICE IN THE WATERSHED

23 hikers, including 6 local middle schoolers, explored Neutaconkanut Park while learning about winter ecology, identifying wildlife with iNaturalist, foraging for wintergreen, and connecting with nature close to home.

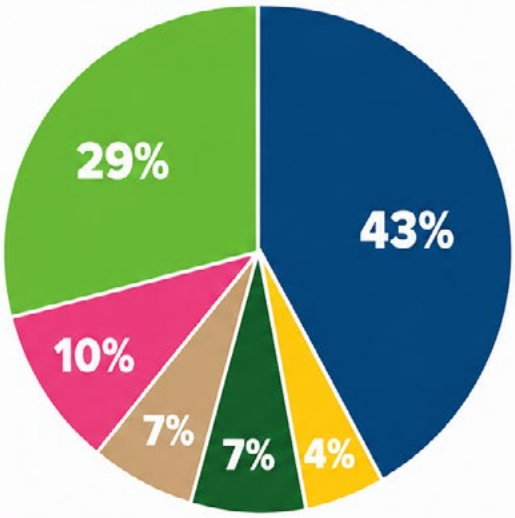
WELLNESS ON THE GREENWAY

A Rhode Island Department of Health grant launched new summer fitness programming along the Greenway, creating more opportunities for community members to get moving outdoors while connecting with the river.

2025 PROFIT & LOSS

2025 INCOME

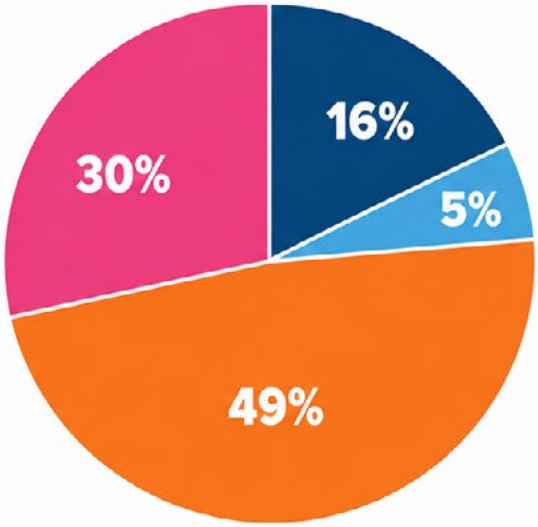
Total Income: $3,576,055



Federal Grants	$1,542,352	43%
Foundation Grants	$255,922	7%
Other Grants	$346,530	10%
State Grants	$1,023,968	29%
Donations	$261,677	7%
Earned Income	$145,607	4%
Total Income	**$3,576,055**	**100%**

2025 EXPENSES

Total Expenses: $3,778,291



Admin and Operations	$590,092	16%
Fundraising	$186,683	5%
Greenway and Multi-use path	$1,867,127	49%
Program Expenses	$1,134,389	30%
Total Expenses	**$3,778,291**	**100%**

INCOME

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EXPENSES

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Greenway and Multi-use path			$1,867,127	49%
Program Expenses	$1,134,389	30%		
TOTAL EXPENSES			**$3,778,291**	**100%**

INCOME LESS EXPENSES

Funds carried forward to 2025 to continue Greenway Projects $988,660

SUPPORT THE WRWC

Thank you to the donors, partners, funders, and volunteers who make our work possible. Your support helps keep the Woonasquatucket River and Greenway clean, safe, resilient, and welcoming for our communities.

JOIN TEAM WOONASQUATUCKET
DONATE TODAY AT WRWC.ORG/DONATE

MAKE A MONTHLY COMMITMENT TO GIVE

We encourage donors to support the Woonasquatucket year-round with a monthly gift. Monthly donors join the Returning River Herring Society, receive a special gift each December, and join community of impact driven climate champions.

TO JOIN, VISIT WRWC.ORG/DONATE AND SELECT MONTHLY AS YOUR GIVING FREQUENCY.

STEEL FISH ENGRAVING

Make a lasting impression on the Woonasquatucket by dedicating a personalized stainless steel River Herring. Honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or show your support for a clean, healthy river and Greenway.

Each fish becomes part of the Woonasquatucket Greenway, creating a lasting connection to the river and our community.

Other Ways to Give

CHECKS
Checks payable to WRWC can be mailed to: WRWC, 45 Eagle Street, Suite 202, Providence, RI 02909.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS
We welcome grants from Donor Advised Funds. Please use our full name: Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council.

STOCKS & SECURITIES
Gifts of appreciated stocks and securities can support WRWC while potentially providing tax benefits.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS
If you are 70½ or older, you may be eligible to make a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA.

PLANNED GIVING
Join our Heritage River Society by including WRWC in your estate plans. A bequest or beneficiary designation can help protect the Woonasquatucket for generations to come.

CORPORATE SUPPORT
Businesses and organizations play an important role in supporting our river, Greenway, programs, and communities. There are several ways to partner with WRWC.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP
Sponsor a WRWC event and connect your organization with community members while supporting environmental stewardship, recreation, and education.

GENERAL SUPPORT
Corporate gifts provide flexible support for WRWC's work and are recognized in our annual report and other materials.

BLAZE SIGNAGE
Show your support along the Woonasquatucket River Greenway with a Blaze Sign that helps visitors navigate the trail while recognizing your organization's commitment to our shared green spaces.

GRANTS
If your company or family foundation has a charitable giving program, we welcome the opportunity to explore funding opportunities that align with your priorities and WRWC's mission.

PARTNERS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO WORK WITH A VIBRANT NETWORK OF NONPROFITS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND AGENCIES IN THE COMMON PURSUIT OF A CLEANER, GREENER, AND SAFER RHODE ISLAND. MANY THANKS TO OUR 2025 PARTNERS!

15 Minute Field Trips
Audubon Society of RI Youth Conservation League
Bates College
BETA Engineering
Bowman
Brown University Swearer Center for Public Service
Brown University Community-Engaged Data and Evaluation Collaborative
Building Futures
Childhood Lead Action Project
Coalition for a Multilingual RI
Collins Mechanical
DiCenzo Inc.
Edge & End
Environment Council of Rhode Island
Evaluators Network of Rhode Island
Farm Fresh RI
Friends of Smithfield Cemeteries
Garden Time
Greenville Boy Scouts Troop 1
Greenville Public Library
Groden Network
Groundwork RI
Guatemalan Center of New England
Horsley Witten Group
Johnston Mayoral Youth Group
Kids Klub
Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc.
Manafort
Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center
Morningstar Nurseries
MyCoast
North Providence Public Library
North Providence Public Schools
Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School
Olneyville Neighborhood Association
Olneyville Resilience Hub
ONE Neighborhood Builders/Central Providence Unidos
Onward We Learn
Partnership for Providence Parks
Paul Cuffee Lower School
Providence After School Alliance
Providence Children's Film Festival
Providence College
Providence Community Libraries
Providence Department of Public Works
Providence Emergency Management Agency
Providence Garden Works
Providence Housing Authority
Providence Neighborhood Planting Program
Providence Parks Department
Providence Planning and Development
Providence Public Schools
Providence Recreation Department
Providence Resilience Partnership
Providence Stormwater Innovation Center
Providence Streets Coalition
Providence Sustainability Department
Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership
Racial and Environmental Justice Committee
Revive the Roots
Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition
Rhode Island Department of Administration
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Rhode Island Department of Health
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Rhode Island Digital Equity Workgroup
Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning
Rhode Island Energy
Rhode Island Environmental Education Association
Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association
Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition
Rhode Island Mycological Society
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Rhody Streets Transformation Network
Rhode Island Traffic Safety Coalition
Rhode Island Transportation Advisory Committee
Rhode Island Tree Council
Rhode Island Wild Plant Society
River Network
Smith College Statistical and Data Sciences Program
Smithfield Conservation Commission
Smithfield Boy Scouts Pack 3
Smithfield Land Trust
Southside Community Land Trust
St. Augustine School
Stantec
The Steel Yard
SumCo
TerraCorps
The Groden Network
The Map Center
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Town of Johnston
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Town of North Smithfield
Town of Smithfield Department of Recreation
Town of Smithfield
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Tri-County Health Equity Zone
United States Environmental Protection Agency
United Way of Rhode Island
University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch
Wheeler School
Zero Waste Providence

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

OUR WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE INCREDIBLE SUPPORT OF DOZENS OF FUNDERS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS. THEY HAVE HELPED POWER EVERY WRWC PROGRAM THIS YEAR—AND MANY HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR YEARS. WE'RE SO THANKFUL TO HAVE THEM IN OUR COMMUNITY. ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDED IN-KIND SUPPORT ARE MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*)

AAA Northeast
AARP Rhode Island
Anchor Toffee Providence*
Atomic Appliance*
Beacon Bank
Bates College
BayCoast Bank
Bay Watershed Restoration Fund
Bella Luna Bar & Grill*
Bloom Rhode Island
Books on the Square*
Bowman Consulting Group Ltd.
Bozzuto
Brady Sullivan
Brass Monkey*
Brewster Thornton Group Architects*
Brier and Brier
Brown University Swearer Center for Public Service
Buttonwoods Brewery*
Cathedral Art Metal*
Central Providence HEZ
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City of Providence Department of Public Works
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Coastal Resources Management Council
Coca Cola Beverages Northeast*
Cox Charities
Cox Communications
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Different Drummer*
Enviro Clean
Epi Vax, Inc.
Epiphany Communications
Fearless Fish Market*
Fin and Feather Outfitters*
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Frederick Lippitt Endowment Fund for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed
Frog and Toad*
Fuss & O'Neill*
Gather Café*
Gotham Greens*
Green River Silver Co.*
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Groundwork Rhode Island
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Henry Bear's Park*
High Spirits Liquors*
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Inc Nutrition*
India Restaurant*
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Manchester Street Station
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Mary Dexter Chafee Fund
Mary Jane Sorrentino Forest Therapy*
Moonrose Farm Stand*
Napolitano's Brooklyn Pizza Smithfield*
Narragansett Bay Commission
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration Fund
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Navigant Credit Union
New England Grassroots Environment Fund
Not Just Snacks*
Ocean State Charities Trust
ONE Neighborhood Builders/CPO-HEZ Nine Neighborhoods Fund
Onward We Learn
Oomph, Inc.
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Pretty Snake*
Providence Public Library*
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REI Cooperative Action Fund
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Rhode Island Foundation
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Save the Bay, Inc.*
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The Dye House*
The Foundry Associates
The Kayak Centre*
The Nature Conservancy Rhode Island Chapter
The Peaceable Kingdom*
The Washington Trust Charitable Foundation
The World Store Wickford*
Town of Smithfield
UNFI*
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
US EPA Environmental Justice for New England
US EPA Southeast New England Program
United Way of Rhode Island*
United Way of Rhode Island Providence Equity Fund
University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center & RI Sea Grant
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Veterans Memorial Auditorium (VETS)*
VHB: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
Wally's Wieners*
Washington Trust
White Buffalo*
White Owl Cafe*
Wright's Dairy Farm and Bakery*

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WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR EACH AND EVERY DONOR! THOSE DONORS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) ARE MONTHLY DONORS WHO COMPRISE THE RETURNING RIVER HERRING SOCIETY.

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GET INVOLVED

Thousands of people have made our work possible as volunteers, donors, and partners. And now, more than ever, we need you (and many people like you) to join us to build local leadership, restore the environment, and improve climate resilience. Connect with us, and we will connect you to the critical work of revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River and Greenway.

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