OUR STAFF



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OUR MISSION

We catalyze scientific inquiry and collective action to restore and protect the Narragansett Bay region's water quality, wildlife, and quality of life.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Molly Allard, Northern RI Conservation District
Walter Berry, RI Rivers Council
Richard Carey, MA Department of Environmental Protection
Caitlin Chaffee, Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Stefanie Covino, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
Richard Friesner, NEIWPCC
Ben Greenstein, Coastal Waters Consulting
Sam Haines, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Topher Hamblett, Save the Bay
Allison Hamel, RI Department of Transportation
Robert Johnston, Clark University
Cristina Kennedy, MA Division of Ecological Restoration
Susan Kiernan, RI Department of Environmental Management
Hillary King, MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program
Tom Kutcher, RI Natural History Survey
Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
Regina Lyons, US EPA Region 1
Dave Monti, No Fluke Charters
Eliza Moore, Narragansett Bay Commission
Bill Napolitano, Old Colony Planning Council
John O'Brien, The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island
Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon
Karla Sangrey, Upper Blackstone Clean Water
Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance
Nate Vinhateiro, University of Rhode Island, Coastal Institute
Donna Williams, Blackstone River Coalition
Peter Wong, Roger Williams University

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS (NEPs) are a network of 28 "estuaries of national significance" across the United States. We support voluntary action to protect and restore water quality and ecological integrity by fostering collaboration, science, and long-term holistic approaches. Created by the Clean Water Act in 1987, the NEP is one of the Environmental Protection Agency's most successful non-regulatory programs. Founded by Rhode Island in 1985 and one of the first four NEPs designated in 1988, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is hosted by Roger Williams University.

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WATER WILDLIFE WAY OF LIFE

We envision clean water and habitat for all who live, work, and play from streams to coasts in the Narragansett Bay region.

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM
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OUR VITAL ROLE IN THE REGION

NBEP is the only stakeholder-led nonprofit conservation organization working to activate scientific inquiry and collective action in the Narragansett Bay region. We convene interests, analyze and visualize data, create cross-boundary plans, and fund people and projects to advance restoration and research. Guided by the best available science, we pursue consensus-driven efforts to address complex issues and secure the future of clean water, sustainable habitat, and prosperity for all in the region.



Our watersheds include over 2,000 square miles of land that drains into Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and the Coastal Salt Ponds through a network of rivers and streams. Over two million people live in the 113 communities that span our tri-state region.

HOW WE HELP

Convening

We bring together diverse interests to set and reach common restoration goals.

Science Communication

With innovative storytelling tools, we highlight important issues and celebrate successes.

Funding

Since 2019, NBEP has directed over $5.1 million in funding to restoration, research, and community engagement projects that address regional priorities.

FOUNDATION

NBEP convenes partners to synthesize the best available science in support of ecosystem-based management. In 2017, NBEP identified and published 24 stressor and condition indicators that assess regional trends in priority issues, including water quality, land use, habitats & wildlife, and public health. NBEP will publish an update to this foundational report in 2027.

We are are currently developing the next Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) using a community-driven, cooperative process that reflects the best available science and diverse local voices for the Narragansett Bay region.

Our newest CCMP update is a regional call to action for shared efforts that can measurably improve the region's water quality, wildlife, quality of life, and access to nature over the next ten years.

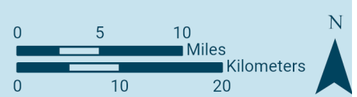
Since 1985, NBEP has convened thousands of stakeholders to build consensus around priority estuary and watershed issues, such as The Blackstone Needs Assessment.

In 2020, NBEP launched a public, online data hub to synthesize information on environmental conditions and trends. This hub includes StoryMaps, tools for water quality assessment, and more.

With partner support, NBEP has funded the restoration of over 7,500 acres of priorty habitat in the Narragansett Bay region since 2006, with a focus on areas of ecolgical importance, such as salt marshes and headwater streams.

NBEP has established several workgroups to integrate local expertise from researchers, manager, practicioners, and other groups to deepen understanding of environmental conditions in the region.

NBEP has funded over 30 plans for restoration, green infrastructure, and organizational capacity building, which position projects for future funding opportunities.



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