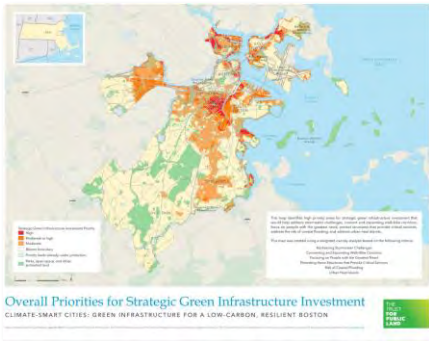


RHODE ISLAND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION 2016-2017 STRATEGIES

bringing nature to our neighborhoods to
create healthy places · soften climate change impacts · boost our economy

Mapping Opportunities and Engaging the Community

Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition partners will use current data to map the Providence metro area and Aquidneck Island to identify the best places for green infrastructure and show how they will improve the community. Sharing the results with community leaders will help build systemic solutions.



Trust for Public Land will engage the six cities in the Providence metro region to build a Climate Smart Cities map. GIC partners will use both the map and the online Low Impact Development Rapid Assessment (LIDRA) tool to locate the most strategic opportunities for varied green infrastructure approaches.

On Aquidneck Island, GIC partners are siting critical areas for green infrastructure installation along Bailey's Brook by:

- Monitoring water quality,
- Assessing the health of the brook's banks, and
- Prioritizing nearby land to protect.

With the LIDRA tool and this analysis, we will choose the best green infrastructure sites at streamside businesses and homes.



Building Green Infrastructure into Neighborhoods and Creating Jobs



The Coalition is working with property owners to capture stormwater, reduce summer heat, and promote biodiversity. 2016 projects that will help show broader scale green infrastructure (GI) potential include:

- Providence recreation centers,
- Pleasant Valley Stream residential and stream projects,
- Downtown Providence at Citizens Plaza, and
- Olneyville GI showcase around Riverside Park.

Groundwork Providence is training RI's first workforce to install and maintain green infrastructure. Groundwork will train two classes of 10 participants each this year to prepare local workers from underrepresented communities for this newly developing field.



The Green Infrastructure Coalition brings together businesses, government and community organizations toward our shared vision of resilient communities investing in nature based solutions to environmental challenges and creating local economic opportunities by building and maintaining that green infrastructure.

www.greeninfrastructure.org

RHODE ISLAND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION

Non-Profit and Business Partners

Aquidneck Island Planning Commission
Aquidneck Land Trust
Audubon Society of RI
Birchwood Designs
Blackstone Parks Conservancy
Blackstone River Coalition
Clean Ocean Access
Clean Water Fund
Conservation Law Foundation
Emerald Cities Providence
ESS Group, Inc.
FILARSKI/Architecture+ Planning+Research
Friends of the Moshassuck
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Groundwork Providence
Mass Audubon
Narragansett Bay Research Reserve
Newport Restoration Foundation
American Society of Landscape Architects, Rhode Island Chapter
RI Nursery and Landscape Association
Save The Bay
Save The Lakes
Sierra Club
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
U.S. Green Building Council Rhode Island Chapter
UPP Arts
University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center/SeaGrant
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council



Building the Constituency for a Systemic Approach to Green Infrastructure

Through branding, outreach to community leaders, media outreach, and walking tours we are making green infrastructure solutions visible to decision makers and building momentum for a sustainable strategy for greener neighborhoods.

Institutionalizing Nature Based Green Infrastructure Solutions at City and State Levels

The GIC creates and promotes policies that help state and local governments invest in green infrastructure.

- Cities and towns in both regions are exploring finance strategies to support large scale approaches to reduce flooding and improve rivers, lakes and our bay. In 2016, cities in the Upper Narragansett Bay region finished a study on funding stormwater management for six cities in the region. Middletown has created an enterprise fund for stormwater management but not yet funded it. Newport is also considering a stormwater utility. The GIC will help local governments design and promote programs that will invest in green infrastructure and create local jobs.
- The GIC will develop models of green infrastructure maintenance and training that will demystify both the uses and co-benefits of a green approach.
- For the first time, Rhode Island's environmental bond includes funding for green infrastructure. The GIC will support the passage and implementation of the Green Economy Bond to maximize the impact of this state investment of \$3 million.
- The GIC will explore programs like The Nature Conservancy's NatureVest program that uses Washington, D.C.'s stormwater retention credit system to create market incentives for green infrastructure.
- We will strengthen the Green Buildings Act to include incentives for green landscapes.
- We will work with the state to update the Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual and promote a wide range of co-benefits from green infrastructure.

