

2026

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STORMWATER INNOVATION E X P O

Nature at Work
Water, Soil, Plants & Trees
Protecting Our Communities
October 7, 2026



RHODE ISLAND
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
COALITION

Hosted by:
Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition
& Stormwater Innovation Center



10/7/26

Welcome to the Eighth Annual Stormwater Innovation Expo!

For eight years, this Expo has brought together the people who are working every day to create healthier, safer, and more resilient communities across Rhode Island. Each year, we are reminded that the challenges we face are significant, but so is the collective knowledge, creativity, and commitment we bring to solving them.

Our theme "Nature at Work: Water, Soil, Plants & Trees Protecting our Communities" explores nature-based solutions that offer powerful tools for managing stormwater, protecting against flooding, improving water quality, and strengthening the landscapes where we live and work.

Today is about more than sharing ideas. It's about making connections, learning from one another, and building the partnerships that turn ideas into projects on the ground. By bringing professionals, municipalities, businesses, and communities together, we can create nature solutions that work for Rhode Island.

Thank you to our sponsors, exhibitors, committee members, volunteers, speakers, and everyone here today for making this Expo possible. Most of all, thank you for bringing your ideas, expertise, and energy to this important work. We are glad you're here, and we are excited to see what we can accomplish together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Churgin".

Sara Churgin
RIGIC Leadership Team

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Indoor Morning Program

8:30 Check-in, Breakfast, and Exhibits Hall - First Floor

9:00 Welcome - Second Floor Ballroom
Jed Thorp, Save the Bay

9:15 Keynote - *Scaling up: Explorations in Productive Planting*
Kate Kennan, FASLA, Offshoots Inc.

The work at Offshoots uses landscapes and the power of plants to mitigate pollution and connect regional ecologies. Kate will share research on phytoremediation, mycoremediation, and pollinator-forward plantings to inform and enhance green infrastructure. A range of project work will be presented as grounding for scaling up performative planting concepts.

10:00 Panel Discussion: *Leveraging Rhode Island Stormwater Funding Partnerships – Tidewater Landing Stormwater Park*
Lance Hill, PE, Pare Corporation
Emily Morse, City of Pawtucket
Anthony Hebert, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
Kevin Aguiar, PE, Beta Group
Matt Alford, PE, Pare Corporation
Alisa Richardson, Rhode Island Dept. of Transportation

11:00 Urban Projects
GSI: Woonasquatucket Greenway Providence Improvements
Jonathan Ford, PE, NCI, Horsley Witten Group
Jarrold Holgate, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Green Infrastructure & Development of the Farm Fresh Rhode Island Food Hub
Matt Bizer, Verdantas
Roy Messier, Verdantas

Reimagining Pine Street: Green Infrastructure as a Catalyst for Corridor Revitalization
Sean Arruda, PE, CFM, Fuss & O'Neill
Katie Cretella, Fuss & O'Neill

12:00 Lunch, Networking, and Exhibits



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Indoor Afternoon Program

1:00 Climate Projects

Climate Justice in Resiliency: Updating the Providence Climate Justice Plan

Kevin Proft, City of Providence Sustainability Department

Sophie Worsh-Farnum, City of Providence Sustainability Dept.

From Climate Risk to Collective Action: Climate Ready Together in Providence and Beyond

Cliff Wood, Civic Innovations, LLC

Kira Wills, Providence Resilience Partnership

2:00 Funding & Policy Conversations

Building the Case for Resilience: Sustainable, Equitable Stormwater Funding in Providence

Pricilla De La Cruz and **Sheila Dormody**,

City of Providence Sustainability Department

Mashapaug Watershed Stormwater General Permit Update

Brian Lafaille, RIDEM

3:00 Tree Projects

USDA Forest Legacy Program: Scituate Reservoir Watershed Case Study

Brendan Buckless, RIDEM

Dominic Portelli, Providence Water

Strengthening Providence's Urban & Community Forest Networks and Implementing the PVD Tree Plan

Cassie Tharinger, Providence Neighborhood Planting Program

**Thank You to Our 2026
Expo Committee!**



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

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Outdoor Program

8:30 Please join us for the plenary program indoors

10:15 Location: Roosevelt Lake
Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) Maintenance: Lessons from Municipal Inspections
Evelyn Ramos, Tighe & Bond

Rhode Island Stormwater Training for Planning Boards
Lisa DeProspero Philo, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, NEMO

12:00 Lunch, Networking, and Exhibits Indoors

1:15 Location: Polo Lake
From Classroom to Construction: The Real-World Evolution of a Student-led Stormwater BMP Project
Joseph Genga, Tighe & Bond

Carp Management and Water Quality Improvement Pilot Project at Roger Williams Park
Molly Welsh, Stormwater Innovation Center, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Heather Kinney, The Nature Conservancy

3:15 Location: Cunliff Boardwalk

*Nature at Work at the Water's Edge:
Restoring Stormwater Function and
Public Access at Cunliff Lake*

Megan Gardner, RLA
Wendy Nilsson
Providence Parks Department

Please note, the Cunliff Boardwalk is further away than the first two locations. You can drive and park at Cunliff if you prefer.





***Thank you to the Rhode Island
Department of Transportation
for generously covering the
cost of government
employees for this event!***

Sign up today!



**Pawtuxet
River 5k**



Saturday November 7

Presented by the Pawtuxet River Authority & Watershed Council

Exhibitors

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

BETA Group, Inc.

Climate Trees

Contech Engineered Solutions

EJP

Fuss & O'Neill

GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc.

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Pawtuxet River Authority & Watershed Council

Providence Resilience Partnership

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RI Green Infrastructure Coalition Members

Aquidneck Land Trust	Pawtuxet River Authority
Audubon Society of RI	Providence College
BETA Group, Inc.	Providence Resilience Partnership
Blackstone Parks Conservancy	Rhode Island Foundation
Blackstone River Coalition	RI Builders Association
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council	RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Blackstone Watershed Collaborative	RI Department of Environmental Management
Brewster Thornton Group Architects	RI Department of Health
City of Newport	RI Environmental Education Association
City of Providence	RI Infrastructure Bank
Clean Ocean Access	RI Nursery and Landscape Association
Clean Water Fund	Robial Water
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Conservation Law Foundation	Save Sand Pond
Eastern RI Conservation District	Save the Bay
FILARSKI/Architecture Planning Research	Save The Lakes
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U.S. Green Building Council RI	Southern RI Conservation District
Groundwork Rhode Island	The Nature Conservancy
Grow Smart Rhode Island	The Trust for Public Land
Horsley Witten Group	Tremco
Landscape Design	URI CRC/RI Sea Grant
Mass Audubon	URI NEMO
Narragansett Engineering Inc.	URI Outreach Center
NBNERR	Wood Engineering
Norman Bird Sanctuary	Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
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For more information contact:

Ryan DaPonte, PE
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Stormwater Innovation Center

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Jack Beatty, Regional Engineer
jbeatty@lane-enterprises.com
518-742-9300



About The Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition



The Green Infrastructure Coalition (GIC) includes non-profit organizations, architects, designers, builders, city planners and state and local policymakers as partners, who work together to promote nature based solutions for cleaning runoff pollution. Nature based solutions create pathways for rainwater, melting snow, and other run-off to avoid pavement and infiltrate into the earth.

If your organization is interested in joining the coalition please email info@greeninfrastructureri.org

For more information visit www.greeninfrastructureri.org



Partnering with municipalities and residents to create more resilient communities.

GREENWAY CONNECTION

TRAIL & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE KINSEY AVENUE & PROMENADE STREET

WRWC's newest mile of Greenway connects Olneyville and Downtown Providence with separated walking and biking paths, pocket parks, kayak launches, native plantings, and green infrastructure that captures and treats stormwater. The project also includes Providence's first intentionally designed floodable park, helping reduce flooding, improve water quality, restore habitat, and reconnect people with the Woonasquatucket River.



WRWC.org



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clients and communities to
create a sustainable future.



Stormwater Solutions that Keep Our Water Resources Clean



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