

State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed
Summary Report
Errata
Revised March 11, 2019

After the publication of the *State of the Bay and Its Watershed*, errors were noted in the Summary Report. There were some unfortunate arithmetic errors that led to required changes to the nitrogen and phosphorus budgets. While the errors do change specific loading values and relative percentages, the general trends reported in the document remain the same.

The errors (in bold red text) are detailed in order of appearance in the chapter.

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Investments in Wastewater Treatment Facilities Have Significantly Reduced Nutrients

Over the last fifteen years, management policies and significant investments in many of the 37 wastewater treatment facilities have made huge strides in reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus discharged from the facilities. Excessive amounts of nutrients can harm aquatic life by stimulating algae growth, which leads to low levels of dissolved oxygen as the algae die and decompose. A comparison of nutrient budgets from 2000-2004 and 2013-2015 revealed a 55 percent decrease in total nitrogen from wastewater treatment facility loadings throughout the watershed and a **42** percent decrease in total phosphorus.

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Population Sprawling into Rural Areas

Calculation error where the state land use data were divided by 10 instead of 100. The percentage change remains the same:

The result is that each person in the watershed uses more land now than ever before. On average, the watershed had **0.18** acres of developed land for every person in 1990 and **0.21** acres in 2010—an increase of sixteen percent.