

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Downtown Westerly's Resilient Riverside Renewal FINAL REPORT

NBEP-2023-002

RWU Project Number: SG-2232004-009-SRCD

Contractor: Fuss & O'Neill, Inc

Prepared By: Gina T. Fuller, SRICD

Project Partner: Town of Westerly, RI

Project Period: 3/01/2022 to 03/31/2023

Date Submitted: 4/6/2023

Date Approved: 4/18/2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FUNDING

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please provide a summary of the final report (roughly ½ to 1 page) that includes the project background, location, objectives, actions, timeframe, and results or accomplishments. You may use your project abstract as a starting point.

The Southern RI Conservation District (SRICD) is assisting the Town of Westerly with the implementation of priority action items from their Municipal Resilience Plan of 2019 and 2020-2040 Comprehensive Community Plan. Priority actions include nature-based solutions to manage stormwater, to reduce flooding, to improve water quality in the lower Pawcatuck River, and to address economic development challenges while beautifying the landscape on Main St.

Our team developed a master plan for Main Street which incorporates green infrastructure to attenuate stormwater and improve water quality while creating a unified green gateway to the Town and establishing linked public amenity spaces that connect people to the Pawcatuck River. We developed a conceptual design which aims to reduce impervious surface, create planted areas to infiltrate and treat stormwater, reduce flooding, and improve habitat value and ecological functions. We have engaged downtown businesses and landowners to partner to implement retrofits that incorporate green stormwater management features onto private properties.

As a gateway town to coastal Rhode Island, Westerly is uniquely positioned to showcase the value of bringing nature-based solutions into an urban built environment. Through a concerted outreach effort using mixed media and events, we have and will continue to engage the public to understand the benefits of and inspire others to implement stormwater management features through-out the watershed. Increased connection and access to nature and river recreation will improve quality of life for all residents and foster a stewardship culture among residents and visitors.

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PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Provide a description of your project, including its purpose, goals, approaches, and timetable. Include information about the role of partnering organizations. Your synopsis should elaborate the need for the project work.

The Southern RI Conservation District (SRICD) is assisting the Town of Westerly with the implementation of priority action items from their Municipal Resilience Plan of 2019 and Comprehensive Community Plan 2020-2040. Our team developed a master plan for the Downtown Corridor along Main Street to incorporate green infrastructure to attenuate stormwater and improve water quality while creating a unified green gateway to the Town. The project will link public and private amenity spaces to connect people to the river, green spaces, and businesses. We created a conceptual design which aims to reduce impervious surface, create planted areas to infiltrate and treat stormwater, reduce flooding, and improve habitat value and ecological functions.

Project Purpose Summary:

1. To improve stormwater management, thereby reducing pollutant loading and flooding, along a stretch of Main Street and the Pawcatuck River (draining to Little Narragansett Bay) in Downtown Westerly with multiple nature-based / green infrastructure retrofits.
2. To build on technical training, current public outreach, seed planning money, and Westerly's Municipal Resilience Building (MRB) process to advance planning with outreach for the project.
3. To work with a qualified engineering firm to generate a conceptual design masterplan for the project area and more detailed project designs for 3 sites that will serve as demonstration.

Project Need:

Poor water quality and flooding are the biggest challenges for Westerly's watershed, especially along the lower Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay, primarily due to a lack of coordinated stormwater management planning or use of green infrastructure best practices in the past.

Downtown Westerly is at the bottom of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed and Main Street is topographically lower than surrounding neighborhoods, allowing water quality and quantity problems upstream and uphill to accumulate as they reach Main Street and the downtown area. The downtown area contains the greatest concentration of impervious

surface in the Town, is located partially within FEMA 100 and 500-year floodplains, and what little known stormwater infrastructure exists in the area is deteriorating. A large portion of the riparian buffer along the Pawcatuck River in been removed and paved over, which has also resulted in erosion of many of the riverbanks that have not already been hardened. The Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay are listed on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters due to high bacteria counts (Enterococcus in inland reaches of the Pawcatuck River and fecal coliform in tidal reaches of the Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay), and there are TMDL listed points of concern along Main Street in our Project area.

Inland flooding and sea level rise are two of the most significant threats of climate change to affect development along the navigable Pawcatuck River. The commercial downtown, on the banks of the Pawcatuck River, is the center of culture, civic, entertainment, business and transportation activities. The Town anticipates a full build out by the year 2040 and due to the concentration of population and business in this vulnerable riparian area, impacts from stormwater is an increasing concern. Flooding results in extensive damage to the Town's infrastructure including its stormwater drainage systems, utilities, and water treatment plant generator systems, and to local businesses. Westerly's economy is linked to these areas most susceptible to the hazards of climate change.

Westerly sits as a gateway to southern Rhode Island and is a coastal destination for both State residents and visitors. New business investments have recently been made in the readily walkable downtown, adding to an already robust tourism economy. There is great opportunity here to showcase the value, function, and beauty of green infrastructure used to sustainably manage stormwater. Implementing functional stormwater management along the highly visible Main Street showcases to the community the beauty and benefit of adding small scale green infrastructure features throughout the watershed. Westerly can lead the way in redesigning landscapes to protect what everyone loves about coastal communities, while creating a hospitable and welcoming environment for people and commerce.

The section of Main Street designated as the Project area has many underutilized properties that are mostly covered in pavement and currently not providing what they could in terms of landscape beauty or function. We have engaged with most of the landowners along Main Street and have both formal and informal commitments from them to work with us to design nature-based solutions on their properties which also will create a more beautiful ecologically-functional gateway to Westerly. This Project will create the plans to remove pavement, create vegetated areas for infiltration and treatment of stormwater, direct stormwater away from built infrastructure, restore native riparian buffers, and choose plant species that maximize the needed ecological functions with minimal maintenance requirements.

NBEP have been utilized to develop the foundational documents needed to move this project forward. The Project team has been working to secure funding for more detailed design work and construction of the project. We anticipate to start construction on one site in the summer of 2023 and the remaining portions of the Project are expected to be installed in the summer of 2024.

Roles/responsibilities of key project participants:

SRICD-Gina Fuller: Project Manager. Responsible for project oversight, stakeholder partnerships, legal and financial management of grant funding, participation in conceptual design planning, pursuit of additional funding sources, project implementation and team support.

SRICD-Renee Stoops: Responsible for written reports, outreach coordination, participation in conceptual design planning, pursuit of additional funding sources, project implementation, and oversight of engineering contractor.

Westerly Planning- Nancy Letendre, Town Planner and Alyse Oziolor, Principal Planner: Responsible for map and design documentation, assisting with the coordination of other town departments and boards/commissions/council, participation in conceptual design planning, coordinating local permitting for construction, and proposing maintenance BMPs for stormwater management for Town adoption.

Westerly Building, Engineering, and Public Works: Responsible for assessment of existing infrastructure and site conditions, participation in conceptual design and engineering, coordinating local permitting, and future maintenance.

RIDOT: Responsible for terms of Charter with SRICD including engineering services, approval of final plans for generating pollution credits to be used for construction.

Qualified Engineering Firm: SRICD engaged Fuss and O'Neil Inc. who has extensive experience with stormwater designs and permitting for these types of projects and is very familiar with Westerly. Fuss and O'Neil is responsible for participation and leadership in conceptual design planning, production of conceptual design diagrams and Masterplan, additional engineering details for sites.

Property Owners and Partners:

We have engaged with owners of 17 properties, many with long-standing presence and commitment to the community, who are committed to working with the Town and SRICD to improve stormwater function and landscape value with green infrastructure and plan for a more vital and resilient Main Street. Cooperation with private property owners is critical to the success of the project as much of the project will be installed on private property.

SCOPE OF WORK

Provide a description of the scope of work, the tasks completed to achieve the goals of the project. These should be consistent with the tasks outlined in your project workplan and budget.

The Scope of work for the project included team meetings, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and public outreach activities. Additionally the scope included the development of documents as detailed the deliverables section below.

METHODS

Include methods for completed the project tasks

SRICD worked with a qualified engineering firm to develop the deliverables and develop designs for individual sites. SRICD engaged individual property owners to educate them about the issues and garner their support for and participation in the project. SRICD also held one public event at a property which will be transformed by the project and has been conducting outreach using a multi-media approach.

RESULTS

DELIVERABLES

List and describe the deliverables completed in this project. Describe any changes to the deliverables and scope of work that may have happened as a result of changes to the project

Design and Engineering Deliverables:

- Completed and Approved QAPP
- Completed Existing Conditions Assessment
- Site Analysis Diagrams
- Conceptual Greenspace Plan
- Conceptual Stormwater Master Plan (includes Phasing Diagrams and Stormwater Management Plan details)
- Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate
- Calculation of potential RIDOT stormwater mitigation credits per site
- Traffic Study with Recommendations
- Draft Evaluation/Prioritization Matrix

Outreach Deliverables:

- Presentation to Town Planning Board
- Presentation to Town Council
- Updated StoryMap Project Website
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/89c64c24ae3146fdaeca8067b6c0e3f7>
- One-on-one landowner outreach to owners of 17 parcels
- Attendance with Project Display materials at Land and Water Summit and RIACD Legislative Meet/Greet
- Presentation about Project at Lions Club Event
- Printed Flyer for outreach to Main St. landowners and others
- SRICD continued outreach to the general public via radio, website and social media

PROJECT BENEFITS

Please list project benefits to the local area.

The project will:

Improve water quality in the Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay

Improve and create habitat for wildlife

Create more green space and reduce pavement in a fully developed downtown

Create a cohesive landscape design for the gateway to Westerly along Main St.

Serve as a demonstration project for the benefits of stormwater infrastructure.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Please detail any challenges encountered to finishing this project.

One of the challenges encountered is related to a specific property and the traffic patterns entering and within property needed to be altered to accommodate BMPs. As part of our work, it was determined we needed to complete a traffic study of Main St. with a particular focus on the traffic activities on this piece of property in order to develop a cohesive design and garner the support of the property owner by demonstrating the project will not reduce the amount of parking spots needed on the property to the point of impacting the customers ability to park and access the property. The other challenges encountered related to a delayed schedule for overall project implementation due to the inability to schedule survey crews on the original timeline.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Describe any unintended consequences of this work. We asked you to think about this in your proposal. Now, please let us know if anything came up that you weren't expecting.

The Resilient Riverfront Renewal project has garnered significant interest and support from the community at large and in particular from property owners. We have had far more properties owners express an interest in participating than originally anticipated and most of them have asked if it is possible to bury the overhead powerlines while installing the original components of the project. While this has not impacted the work supported by this grant, it has resulted in the need for additional planning efforts, the need to seek additional funds, and potentially, a further delay of the project timeline.

CONCLUSIONS

Please describe your conclusions based on the project. What are your next steps?

Downtown Westerly's Resilient Riverside Renewal project developed the foundational documents and relationships needed to transform the project area by installing stormwater BMPs and a cohesive street plan. Our next steps are to continue to seek additional funding sources to complete the entire Master Plan and Conceptual Design. To date SRICD and Westerly have successfully received additional funding towards the project from RIDOT, RI Infrastructure Bank, Southern New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Implementation Grant (SWIG), and the Town of Westerly.

REFERENCES

Please list references in alphabetical order

APPENDICES

Documents

Attach any articles, press releases, a list of acronyms or publications stemming from this project.

Stormwater plan would transform downtown area along Main Street

By Dale P. Faulkner Sun staff writer Jul 13, 2022 Updated Sep 30, 2022

WESTERLY — A conceptual stormwater master plan for the downtown area along Main Street is under development.

When implemented, the plan is expected to transform the area from one dominated by asphalt into one with trees and plantings that reduce flooding, improve the water quality of the Pawcatuck River, provide pollinator and bird habitat, improve air quality, and add beauty and pedestrian ease to the economic center of the town.

Gina Fuller, executive director of the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and a resident of the town, and Rene Stoops, the district's municipal liaison, discussed the project with the Town Council during its meeting on Monday. The conservation district and the town are partners in the project.

The Westerly Land Trust's community garden on Main Street serves as an example, Fuller said, of ways to add green to a street packed with large parking lots barren of trees, grass and flowers. Town officials have long discussed ways to improve the aesthetics of Main Street and have been working with the state Department of Environmental Management to improve the quality of stormwater that flows off of the street and into the river.

The project also "fulfills several of your Comprehensive Plan action items and it is also something that many of your downtown businesses, including the Westerly Land Trust and the Economic Development Commission, have been striving toward," Fuller said.

The project is also intended to improve resiliency to protect the Main Street corridor from sea level rise and increased storm surge while improving public access to the river. The street's tendency to flood should also be mitigated, Fuller said.

Westerly Resilient Riverfront Renewal, the recently bequeathed name of the project, will also help develop a sense of place for the Main Street area, Fuller said.

Engineering and landscape architecture firm Fuss and O'Neil was hired to assist with development of the plan that is expected to integrate a variety of green infrastructure features along the streets and on both town and private properties. Property owners along the street have been cooperative and enthused and will have final authority on potential changes to their property, Fuller said.

"We're excited by the cooperation we've had from the various property owners," Fuller said.

An earlier phase of the project enabled conceptual stormwater design training through a grant by the Southern New England Program. Building on that, Fuller said, the district and town have pulled together planning and implementation funding from the state Department of Transportation, the town, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

The project is also expected to help the state DOT reach a goal of reducing the volume of roadway storm drain output to the river. The decrease is set out as a goal under a consent decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The decree is related to allegations by the EPA that DOT failed to comply with conditions of a permit for stormwater discharge from small municipal storm sewer systems related to impaired waters, illicit discharge detection and elimination; street sweeping pollution prevention; and catch basin and other drainage system component inspection and maintenance. The Pawcatuck River is considered impaired due to elevated bacteria levels.

Stoops said the district has received feedback from residents of the area who said they do not feel safe walking along Main Street. The project, by making it easier to walk the area, will change that and provide an economic boost, she said.

"People will want to hang out downtown more and visit more of the businesses," Stoops said.

Councilor Christopher Duhamel noted that the town, like the state, is under pressure to improve how stormwater, which carries pollutants, is treated before it gets into the river.

"I'm thankful for the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and Gina Fuller who runs it. She is one of the preeminent people in town," Duhamel said. "This is a requirement; DOT and EPA and the town are required to make these improvements. For her to come and get people to work together and find funding for it is really helpful for the people of Westerly."

Fuller said the project will serve as a model for work that can occur in other parts of the town and other municipalities in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Riverside renovations planned for downtown Westerly in revitalization plan

By Dale P. Faulkner Sun staff writer Mar 2, 2022

WESTERLY – Work is underway to highlight the natural beauty of a stretch of the Pawcatuck River from White Rock Road to Margin Street.

Town Planner Nancy Letendre reviewed the Riverside Greenway, which is a central part of an ongoing Downtown Corridor Revitalization Plan, with the Planning Board on Tuesday. Gina Fuller, manager of the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District, presented the stormwater management portion of the plan. The district is managing the stormwater effort and providing other assistance.

The revised Comprehensive Plan calls for revitalization of the downtown area, and both the Town Council and Planning Board prioritized the project, along with a study of the Route 1 corridor, as work to be undertaken this year.

A state Department of Environmental Management grant has been secured to pay for improvements to a kayak launch on the river at a spot across from the Gingerella Sports Complex on White Rock Road. The work will entail making the area accessible for people with disabilities, installation of kayak racks and improvements to the parking area.

The greenway may also include a new park and riverside center on town-owned property on Canal Street. The center was close to fruition in 2013 but those plans lost steam when some members of the Town Council soured on the idea. Officials hope to learn whether the town will receive new grant monies for the riverside center in April or May.

Two small town-owned lots at 22 and 26 Canal St. are also envisioned as part of the greenway. The lots were acquired by the town as part of a flood mitigation effort aimed at removing structures from the floodplain. While construction is not allowed on the lots, they can be used for open space and recreation, Letendre said.

"And it encourages a better aesthetic on Canal Street," Letendre said.

The new municipal parking lot on Canal Street, which incorporates "green infrastructure" for stormwater control and a buffer comprising native plants, was held out as an example of changes that could be made along the entirety of the greenway from White Rock to the town-owned marina property off Margin Street.

A parking lot on Commerce Street owned by the owners of McQuade's Marketplace is another example of work that has already been done that fits into the greenway concept. The lot includes pervious surfaces and native plants.

Similarly, the owners of the newly opened Cinder Restaurant have created a public walkway that offers views of the river and have plans for native plants. The Westerly

Land Trust community garden on Main Street is another example of work that has already been done in the greenway mode, Letendre said.

Officials are hopeful, Letendre said, that planned improvements to the state boat launch on Main Street will include the addition of benches and picnic tables. Adding shade trees and other native plantings has also been discussed, Letendre said.

The Main Street stormwater project is intended to improve the river's water quality, add green infrastructure and reduce the volume of impervious surfaces.

Planning for the project is underway. Several property owners have signaled interest in the project and willingness to participate if they approve of the plan once it is developed, Fuller said. Participation is voluntary.

Planning Board member Joseph M. Montesano thanked Letendre and Fuller for their efforts.

"It means a lot to the community," Montesano said.

Tabitha Harkin, a member of the Planning Board who works as a town planner, also praised the work.

"Great job – I've seen a lot of communities struggle with green infrastructure," Harkin said.

The benefits of the greenway project are both environmental and economic, Harkin said.

Grant awarded to support Westerly Resilient Riverfront Renewal Project

Nov 13, 2022

WESTERLY – A Southeast New England Program Watershed Implementation Grant, awarded to the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and Fuss & O'Neill, will partially fund the Westerly Resilient Riverfront Renewal Project.

The project will receive additional funding from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, and the Town of Westerly.

The project has identified potential infrastructure improvements at a municipal level to improve water quality in the lower Pawcatuck River and adjacent coastal waters, alleviate flooding, and promote community connection along the heart of Westerly's fully developed business district. It will utilize nature-based solutions to address stormwater management; will include streetscape components that will improve safety,

functionality, walkability, and resiliency; and will add green space to promote interactions with nature and with members of the community.

Creating a master plan to address all these needs simultaneously was a strategic choice, according to Gina Fuller of the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District.

“Addressing stormwater management, economic development, and public greenspace simultaneously eliminates the inefficiencies and lost opportunities that often arise from piecemeal stormwater work,” Fuller said. “Given that most land along Main Street and the lower Pawcatuck River is privately owned and managed, coordinated planning and design are essential to ensure functional efficacy of stormwater management. In our outreach to landowners to date, we have received tremendous support for this work.”

The project will be managed by the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District in collaboration with the town of Westerly, local nonprofits, and land and business owners. Fuss and O’Neil, a civil and environmental engineering firm, has been contracted for the design and engineering work.

Visit sricd.org/9-latest/84-resilient-riverfront-renewal for more information.

Guest Opinion: When the blessing of rain becomes a challenge

By Renee Stoops Nov 23, 2021

When rain falls on a field, woodland or backyard, it follows what scientists call the natural hydrologic cycle. First, rain is absorbed by the soils, then it becomes available to plants for uptake and growth. Some of it evaporates back into the air from the plant leaves, and the rest moves downward in the soils, being filtered as it goes, until it replenishes our groundwater supplies, where we get most of our drinking water. Some of the water makes its way through the ground to surface waters like ponds, rivers, and the ocean, where eventually the water will be evaporated back into the air, form clouds, and become rain again. What is noteworthy is that very little rain over vegetated land ever runs off directly into surface waters.

In this way, rain is a valuable resource that provides clean water to drink and keeps our soil full of nutrients, our food crops growing, and our fishing opportunities plentiful.

When rain falls on impervious surfaces like sidewalks, roads, even rooftops, it becomes “stormwater.” For a long time now, urban communities have managed stormwater by collecting it in gutters, downspouts, trenches and roadway storm drains and channeling it back to surface waters thru underground systems. This extensive amount of infrastructure bypasses the natural water quality treatment provided when rain filters through the soils, and instead collects and concentrates pollutants picked up from the roofs and roadways, like oils, cleaners, pesticides, bacteria, etc.

Pipe and drain systems also convey the water away very quickly, resulting in concentrated flows of water being discharged all at once into streams and lakes. This storm pulse can overwhelm the natural abilities of the streams and cause both flooding and scouring, like a pressure washer, eroding soil and sand away from river banks and beaches. In areas where we have removed the natural plant buffers along rivers and estuaries, this scouring effect becomes even more intense, even jeopardizing nearby homes. The sand and soil that ends up in the water from this erosion can be delivered to sensitive fish habitats miles downstream or on the coast, leading to degradation of water quality, wildlife, and fisheries far beyond the local area.

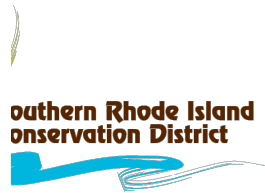
In these ways, rain has become stormwater and now needs to be actively managed in order to protect water from getting polluted, protect soil from washing away, and prevent damage to homes, buildings, and roads.

The older pipe/drain infrastructure of stormwater management can be expensive to maintain, and many cities across the country have been faced with mandatory upgrades, replacements, or full redesigns of this infrastructure as weather events intensify and as development continues to grow. Many cities across the country have adopted stormwater taxes for landowners. Individual homeowners and businesses can help by filtering and delaying stormwater before it leaves their properties, thus minimizing the burden on city taxes.

In urban environments, impervious surfaces like roads are an important part of our lives. But we can incorporate strategically located pockets of planted land to replace the functions of the natural hydrologic cycle. Retrofitting our urban communities with systems like raingardens or greenstreets or bioretention ponds adds beauty and function to our landscapes! Our next article in this series will show you how these green infrastructure solutions work!

The town of Westerly has been very proactive in seeking funding to manage their stormwater issues with resilient solutions that balance benefits to both the town's built infrastructure and to the critical environmental services described above. Westerly is partnering with the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District to design and manage these projects and educate the public about the benefits. For example, the Canal Street wastewater pump stations will receive upgraded retaining walls to ensure their protection against flood damage. Springbrook Road will receive a raingarden design which allows the stormwater to slow down and soak into the ground without impacting the neighborhood. A Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project along downtown Main Street is underway to showcase the many benefits of this approach, including streetscaping and beautification, water quality improvements, flooding improvements, and revitalization of the area.

The writer is a conservation specialist with the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District.



Westerly Town Council
c/o Shawn Lacey
Town Manager
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891

PO Box 1636
Kingston, RI 02881
Phone: 401-661-5761
www.sricd.org

May 2, 2022

RE: Request to Declare June 25th and 26th 2022 “Westerly River Days”

Dear Mr. Lacey and Honorable Members of the Westerly Town Council,

The Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD) is submitting this request to declare June 25th and 26th 2022 “Westerly River Days”. The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council has invited groups and individuals to participate in the first “7 Rivers Festival” to celebrate the Wild and Scenic Rivers Status of the seven rivers, including the Pawcatuck. Events can range from ecological, educational, cultural, musical, historical, or artistic activities to hiking, cycling, canoe and kayak outings or simply picnics or social gatherings.

The Pawcatuck River flows through Westerly’s downtown and is an important part of the town’s history and current daily life. Declaring June 25th & 26th, “Westerly River Days 2022” is a great way for the Council to support the festival and highlight the Council’s commitment to improving the values of the Pawcatuck River. SRICD and our partners in the Main St. “stormwater project” will host an event at 107 Main St. during River Days and encourage businesses within the project area to celebrate the river in a variety of ways that weekend. We are early in the planning stage of a family friendly event with games, music, food, and information about the Main St. “stormwater project” and other conservation efforts and groups. We welcome your input and thank you in advance for considering our request to declare the Westerly River Days 2022.

Philip Moreschi

Philip Moreschi
Chair

CC: Kassi Donnelly, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Wayne Ritter, 107 Main St.
Gina Fuller, SRICD

Town of Westerly
Rhode Island

THE WESTERLY TOWN COUNCIL

Proclaims

JUNE 25TH AND 26TH, 2022

AS

“WESTERLY RIVER DAYS”

IN THE TOWN OF WESTERLY AND ENCOURAGES THE CITIZENS OF WESTERLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST “7 RIVERS FESTIVAL” TO CELEBRATE THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STATUS OF THE SEVEN RIVERS, INCLUDING THE PAWCATUCK RIVER, WHICH FLOWS THROUGH WESTERLY’S DOWNTOWN AND IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE TOWN’S HISTORY AND CURRENT DAILY LIFE. THE TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE WOOD-PAWCATUCK WILD AND SCENIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL AND THE SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE ALL SEVEN OF THE RIVERS AND IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE VALUES OF THE PAWCATUCK RIVER.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREBY SET MY HAND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF WESTERLY TO BE HEREUNTO AFFIXED THIS 23RD DAY OF MAY 2022.



ATTEST:

Mary L. LeBlanc, MMC
MARY L. LEBLANC, MMC, TOWN CLERK

Sharon E. Ahern

SHARON E. AHERN, PRESIDENT
ON BEHALF OF SUZANNE K. GIORNO
CASWELL COOKE, JR.
CHRISTOPHER A. DUHAMEL
PHILIP M. OVERTON
KAREN A. CIOFFI
BRIAN H. MCCUIN

PHOTOS: Inaugural 7 Rivers Festival a success

- Jun 30, 2022

Westerly Sun



Left to right, Renee Stoops and Gina Fuller, both of Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and Wayne Ritter, Pawcatuck river front property owner, celebrate Westerly's River Days on Mr. Ritter's land along the Pawcatuck River slated to include a future riverfront green space and river access for the public. (Gillian Gordon)



Kids had a fun practicing fly-fishing with Trout Unlimited at Westerly's River Days Celebration with Southern Rhode Island Conservation District. (Gillian Gordon)

Photos

If applicable to your project, please email NBEP's staff scientist representative photographs taken of your project (before, during, after the work was completed) with proper credit. EPA, RWU, and NBEP may use these photos in the future on the website, in publications, or press releases.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/89c64c24ae3146fdaeca8067b6c0e3f7>

Data

Please email NBEP's staff scientist with any electronic datasets you have generated for your project