



# SNEP Watershed Grants 2020 Summary of Awards

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**Restore America's Estuaries**

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**Background:** In 2012, Congress charged the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with conserving and restoring southeast New England's coastal environment, and in 2014 began providing funding to develop a Southeast New England Program (SNEP). As EPA's pass-through organization, Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is now working with EPA to manage the SNEP Watershed Grants program, funding local organizations that are restoring clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems while strengthening local communities.

**Recent Awards:** In 2018 and 2019, SNEP Watershed Grants awarded \$6.6 million to high-impact projects throughout the SNEP region. The grants funded municipalities, non-profit organizations, academic institutions and others working on a variety of innovative projects, including cranberry bog and salt marsh restorations, urban and suburban storm-water programs, and environmental monitoring and research. The diverse partnerships funded by SNEP Watershed Grants increase local capacity to restore coastal ecosystems, while SNEP provides a framework for communicating that experience—enhancing our region's ability to tackle shared environmental challenges.

**2020 Grants:** In 2020, SNEP Watershed Grants is will support 11 important initiatives, including dam and culvert removal, shellfish restoration, and urban community resilience planning. The awards—\$1.8 million in Rhode Island and Massachusetts—were selected through a rigorous competitive process, with the advice of an independent, interdisciplinary committee of coastal scientists and managers. RAE received more than 40 grant applications totaling more than \$10 million in requests from which the 2020 grants were selected. With non-federal match, these SNEP grants will result in more than \$2.3 million in new project funding for Southeast New England's coastal ecosystems and communities in 2020.

This document provides a brief summary of the 11 awards planned for 2020 SNEP Watershed Grants. While we do not expect any significant changes, awards are not final until grant contracts have been fully executed. Dollar figures below are award amounts; grantees provide at least 33% in additional non-federal funding toward each project. Awards will be announced at a virtual event on **Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

[Click here to register!](#)

For more about EPA's Southeast New England Program, see [www.epa.gov/snecwrp](http://www.epa.gov/snecwrp).

## ***Summary of Awards***

### **Town of Warren: *Market to Metacom: Adaptation and Economic Development* \$91,875**

The Town of Warren, RI, will work with local property owners to create a sustainable redevelopment plan for a highly vulnerable, flood-prone and economically distressed area. The project will foster climate resilience, economic development, and environmental equity.

### **City of Providence: *Woonasquatucket River Greenway* \$250,000**

This funding will support ongoing work by the City of Providence, RI Dept. of Transportation, and non-profit organizations to develop greenspace and improve water quality along an urban river. The work will promote environmental justice, economic development and climate resilience in an underserved neighborhood.

### **RI Division of Marine Fisheries: *Oyster Habitat Conservation and Restoration Planning* \$150,000**

This grant will support a partnership between RI Div. of Marine Fisheries, Northeastern University and The Nature Conservancy to undertake research necessary toward developing a statewide oyster restoration plan. The team will study natural and restored oyster reefs in Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island's coastal ponds; the information will ultimately be used to identify sites for oyster restoration and to assess the success of oyster restoration efforts.

### **Town of South Kingstown: *Green Hill Pond Stormwater Plan* \$100,000**

With this funding, the Town of South Kingstown, RI, will undertake a watershed-scale assessment and stormwater management plan for a valuable coastal pond, working closely with local stakeholders. Once implemented, the plan will benefit clean water, shellfish resources and estuarine fish such as migratory river herring.

### **University of Rhode Island: *Mt. Hope Bay Water Quality Monitoring* \$301,289**

This grant will fund equipment, data analysis and management for real-time water quality monitoring in Mt. Hope Bay, Narragansett Bay's largest sub-estuary. The project fills a critical gap in Narragansett Bay monitoring and dovetails with a 2018 SNEP Watershed Grant that funded similar equipment elsewhere in the Bay.

### **Pleasant Bay Alliance: *Nitrogen Management in Pleasant Bay* \$132,178**

Pleasant Bay is the largest estuary on Cape Cod. Its waters are an exceptional public resource for fishing, shellfishing and recreation, but are threatened by pollution from septic systems and other sources of nitrogen. This grant will support a partnership among the Towns of Chatham, Orleans, Harwich and Brewster to implement innovative solutions to reduce pollution and ensure clean water for residents and visitors to Cape Cod.

### **Buzzards Bay Coalition: *Multi-Community Collaboration to Reduce Nitrogen in Upper Buzzards Bay* \$118,275**

This grant continues funding to the Buzzards Bay Coalition to lead a large-scale partnership among the Towns of Wareham, Bourne, Plymouth, and Marion, MA, and the Mass. Maritime Academy, to complete engineering and other studies aimed at expanding the capacity and

service area of the Wareham wastewater treatment plant. When implemented, this project will have an enormous positive impact on clean water for Buzzards Bay.

**Friends of Bass River: *Upper Bass River Watershed Restoration* \$253,779**

With this award, a local watershed organization will complete engineering and permitting to reconnect historic cranberry bog wetlands with the riparian system of Cape Cod's largest river by replacing failed road crossings in Yarmouth, MA. The project will improve both freshwater and estuarine habitat through improved water quality and fish passage restoration.

**Mt. Holyoke College: *Bioreactors for Nitrogen Removal in Coastal Cranberry Farms* \$232,352**

This project will implement and study the effectiveness of an innovative, low-tech method for reducing nitrogen pollution to coastal waters from cranberry farming operations with installations in Barnstable, MA, and could provide a model for restoring water quality in other degraded areas.

**Center for Coastal Studies: *Ecosystem Research Conference for Pleasant Bay* \$8,984**

This grant will support a conference to inform stakeholders about the state of the science on Pleasant Bay, Cape Cod's largest estuary. This grant dovetails with SNEP Watershed Grants' support of the Pleasant Bay Alliance, described above.

**Mass. Audubon Society: *Protecting Salt Marshes* \$150,000**

This grant will fund a variety of science and restoration activities at coastal sanctuaries on Buzzards Bay in Wareham and Dartmouth, MA. The project will improve our understanding of the impacts of sea level rise on salt marshes; implement innovative restoration techniques to address such impacts; and monitor the results of the work.

***Attachment: Summary Table***

**SNEP Watershed Grants 2020  
Selected for Award**

Grantee	Location	Project	SNEP Award	Match (est.)	Total
Town of Warren, RI	Warren, RI	Market to Metacom Sustainable Design	\$91,875	\$30,625	\$122,500
City of Providence	Providence, RI	Woonasquatucket River Greenway	\$250,000	\$8,250	\$258,250
RI Div. of Marine Fisheries	All RI Coastal Waters	Oyster Conservation & Planning	\$150,000	\$49,500	\$199,500
Town of South Kingstown	South Kingstown, RI	Green Hill Pond Stormwater	\$100,000	\$33,000	\$133,000
University of Rhode Island	Mt. Hope Bay RI/MA	Mt. Hope Bay WQ Monitoring	\$301,289	\$99,425	\$400,714
Pleasant Bay Alliance	Chatham, Orleans, Harwich & Brewster, MA	Regional Watershed Permit Implementation for Nitrogen Management – Part II	\$132,178	\$43,619	\$175,797
Buzzards Bay Coalition	Wareham, Bourne, Plymouth, Marion & Buzzards Bay, MA	Collaboration to Reduce Nitrogen in Buzzards Bay	\$118,275	\$43,862	\$162,137
Friends of Bass River	Yarmouth, MA	Upper Bass River Watershed Restoration	\$253,779	\$83,782	\$337,561
Mt. Holyoke College	Barnstable, MA	Bioreactors for N removal in cranberry farms	\$232,352	\$86,136	\$318,488
Center for Coastal Studies	Orleans, Chatham, Harwich & Brewster, MA	Ecosystem Research in Pleasant Bay	\$8,984	\$4,176	\$13,160
Mass. Audubon	Wareham & Dartmouth, MA	Protecting Salt Marshes	\$150,000	\$49,500	\$199,500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,788,732</b>	<b>\$531,875</b>	<b>\$2,320,607</b>