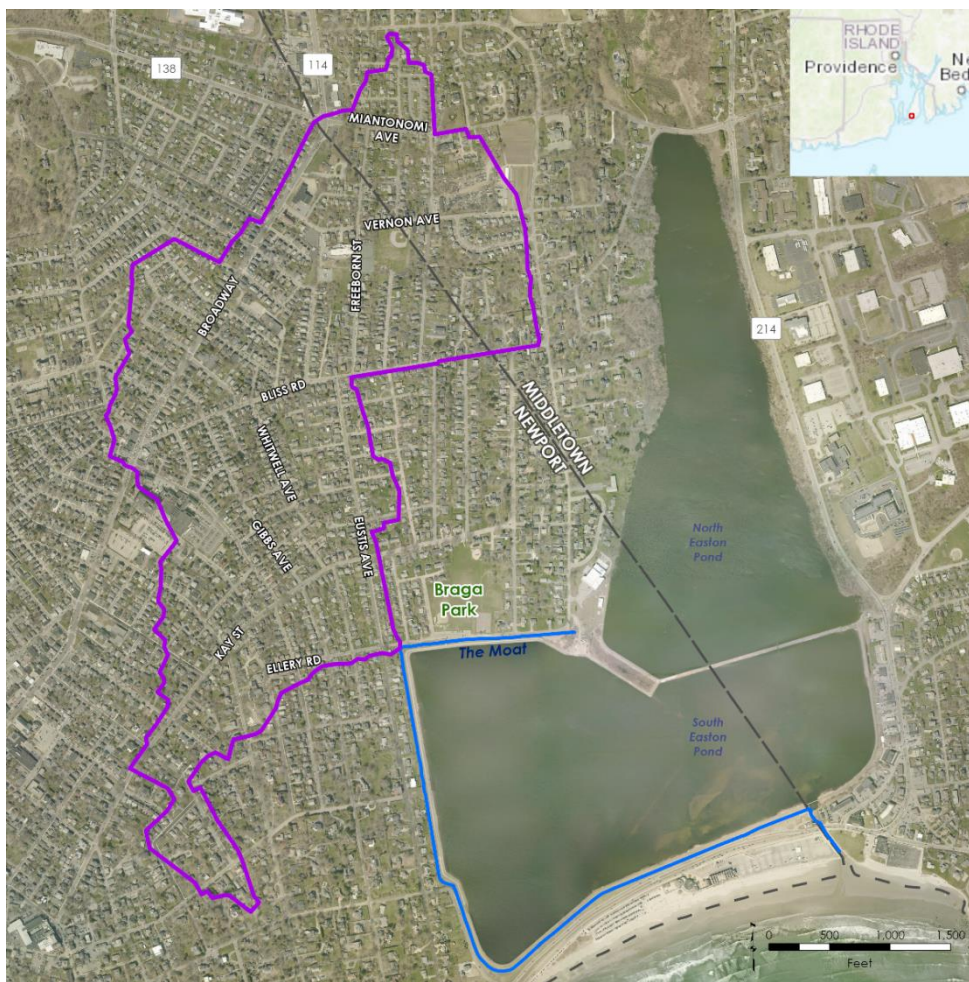


Project Fact Sheet:

Project Title: Developing Non-Structural Approaches to Reduce Stormwater Impacts in an Urban Neighborhood

Agency: City of Newport, RI – Department of Utilities

Flooding is an ongoing challenge within the Whitwell Avenue neighborhood where storm events can cause substantial street flooding as well as flooding on private property. The project area is a 262-acre urban watershed located in Newport and Middletown, RI that drains to a stormwater outfall at the northwest corner of the Moat which eventually discharges through a culvert under Memorial Boulevard to the Atlantic Ocean at Easton Beach. Typical of many Newport neighborhoods, the older houses are located on small lots with high levels of impervious cover while soil conditions are poor for stormwater infiltration.



Whitwell Avenue watershed (in purple) - 2020



Flooding in the project area in 2015

Previous studies of the watershed have thoroughly assessed stormwater flows in the project area and modeled current and future conditions. A subsequent schematic design study showed that installation of large-scale stormwater infrastructure within the public rights of way was inefficient and would be costly to implement.

The ongoing SNEP-funded project is developing non-structural approaches to reduce stormwater impacts in the project area through three initiatives:

- The first project element is to assess existing regulatory functions and identify those that contribute to the underlying stormwater management issues. Amendments to the regulatory structure will limit the creation of unmitigated impervious cover.
- The second project element is creating a Property Owners Guide to Stormwater targeted to residential property owners in order to educate and motivate property owners to install residential-scale BMPs to reduce stormwater before it leaves the lot.
- The third element will construct a demonstration project of residential-scale BMPs in a highly visible and popular public park adjacent to the project area where thousands of users each year can see stormwater reduction systems in action.