

Upper Narragansett Bay Regional Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study

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What is the study all about?

Phased approach exploring creation of regional stormwater utility to provide a long term, sustainable solution to stormwater management

- Preliminary Meetings and Fundraising
- Phase I – Does a regional approach to stormwater management based on user fees make sense?
- Phase II – Continue exploring regional approach: Assess needs, Develop Structure, Scope and Governance of the Utility
- Phase III - Implementation



What is stormwater and why is it a problem?

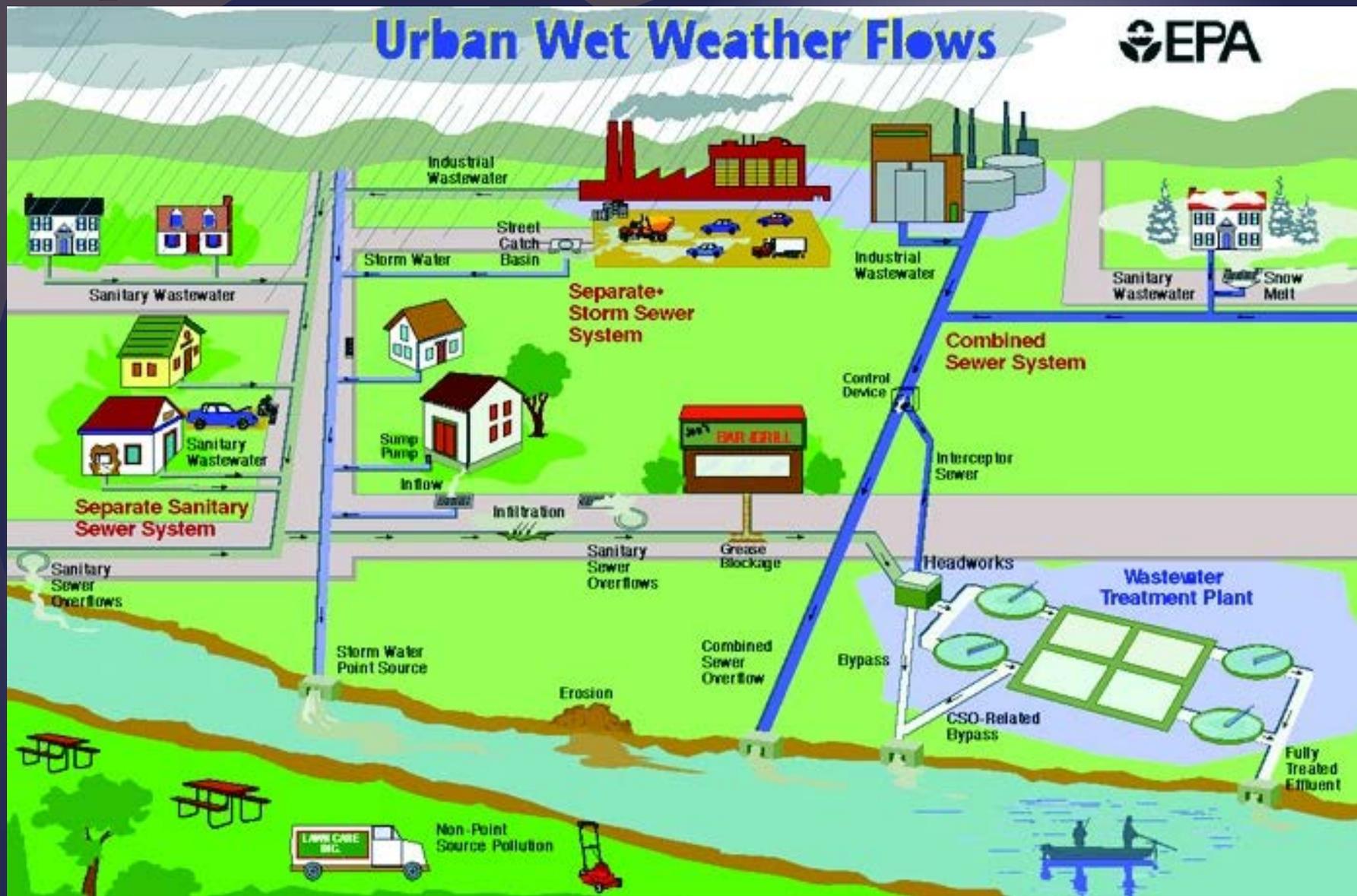
When runoff hits the landscape it picks up and mixes with what's there. That might include:

- oil, grease, and automotive fluids;
- fertilizer and pesticides from gardens and homes;
- bacteria from pet waste and improperly maintained septic systems;
- soil from poor construction site management;
- sand from wintertime snow removal;
- soap from car washing;
- debris and litter.

So the water flowing down the street is not just rain; it's polluted water, and it heads directly to our local water bodies



Separate Stormwater vs. Combined Sewers



What is a Stormwater Utility?

Separate enterprise within government which generates revenues through fees to provide stormwater services, such as:

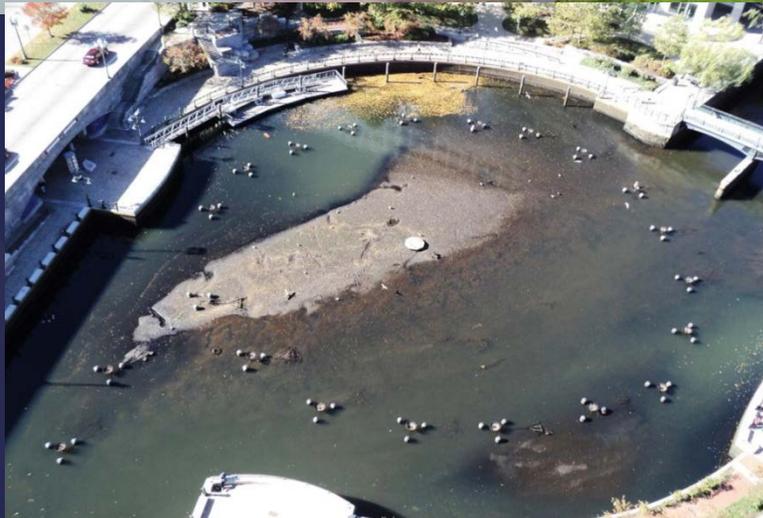
- operation, maintenance, and construction of stormwater infrastructure
- planning and management of stormwater systems

Phase I Objectives

Work with participating communities to evaluate feasibility of regional stormwater utility

- Concept level assessment
- Initial characterization of stormwater issues, program costs, and drivers in each community
- Explores regional framework alternatives
- Outcome is a “go” or “no-go” decision

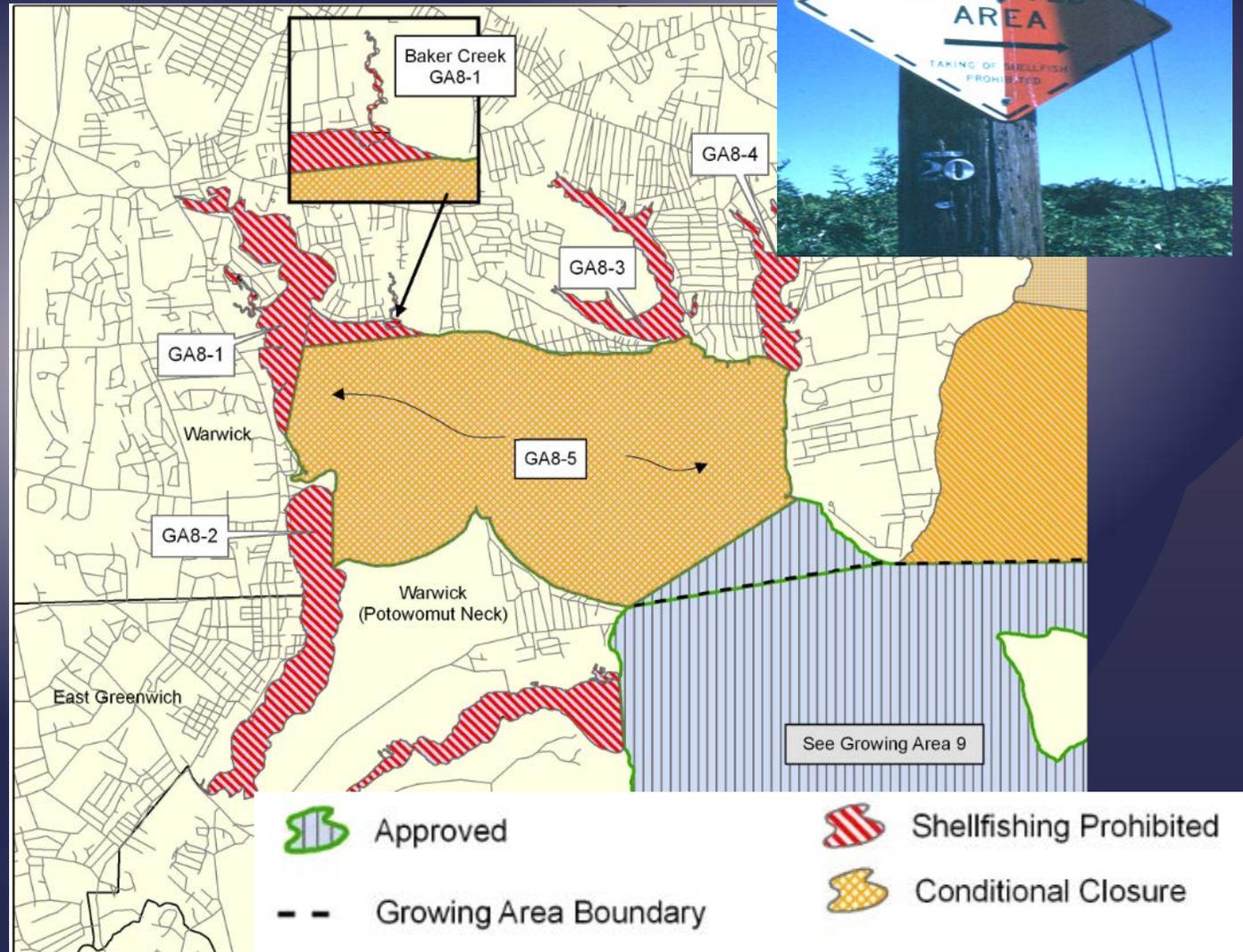
Stormwater Issues – Polluted Waters



Stormwater Issues – Recreational uses & Quality of Life



Stormwater Issues – Economic Impacts



Stormwater Issues – Flooding & Property Damage

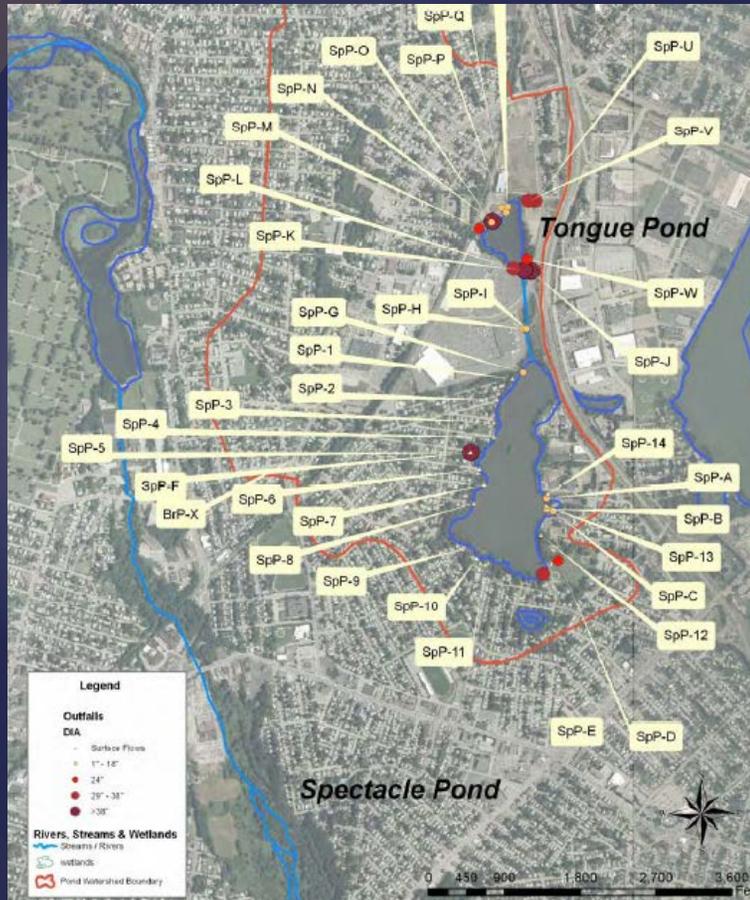


Stormwater Issues – Aging Infrastructure



Our current stormwater infrastructure is challenged by even relatively small storms and is no match for the intense periods of rainfall brought on by climate change.

Regulatory Compliance



Summary of Needs

Municipality	Flooding	Preservation of Property Value	Water Quality & Ecological Concerns	Aging Infrastructure	Compliance Requirements	Quality of Life & Aesthetics	Development Pressures
Central Falls				✓	✓	✓	
Cranston	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
East Providence	✓		✓	✓		✓	
North Providence*							
Pawtucket		✓		✓	✓		
Providence	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Warwick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Note: *North Providence did not participate in a one-on-one meeting with the Project Team or provide compelling case information.

Range of Future Cost Estimates

Municipality	Current Budget	Future Program* Initial Estimate	Future Program Assuming \$175/developed acre/year
Central Falls (100% CSS)	\$17,723	\$29,510	\$134,400
Cranston	\$1,354,073	\$1,635,193	\$2,562,560
East Providence	\$275,400	\$692,700	\$1,500,800
North Providence	\$117,847	\$490,853	\$649,600
Pawtucket (90% CSS)	\$82,311	\$388,237	\$974,400
Providence (65% CSS)	\$1,346,343	\$3,315,647	\$2,072,000
Warwick	\$596,729	\$1,177,473	\$3,180,800
Totals	\$3,790,426	\$7,729,612	\$11,074,560

Focus on: (1) flood control, (2) infrastructure renewal, (3) water quality protection

Phase I Conclusions

1. Maintaining status quo is not an option: stormwater problems require action;
2. Future Costs for each municipality significantly higher than current expenditures
3. Stormwater permit will require combination of non-structural and structural controls
4. Current level of funding from general fund is inadequate to meet program needs
5. Likelihood that each community can fully fund the increasing program needs is low.

Compelling Reasons to Continue Exploration of Regional Approach

1. We have real, growing, shared and unresolved stormwater problems
2. We can solve these problems and there will be tangible benefits
3. It will cost more than we are now spending
4. It will be more efficient and effective doing so together
5. A stormwater user fee is the best and fairest way to pay for the improvements

Regional Approach - Why Do It?

- **Flooding Problems:** multi-jurisdictional, regional problem
- **Water Quality Issues:** watershed based, multi-jurisdictional problems
- **Lack of Individual Specialized Resources:** difficult for everyone to have an “expert”
- **Interconnected Infrastructure:** combined sanitary/stormwater, separate stormwater, RIDOT & NBC systems

Overall Perspectives on Regional Approach

PROS

- Watershed wide service standards
- Consistency of funding
- Shift off municipalities
- Only way problem will be addressed
- Expertise to fix problems
- Project consistency

CONS

- Loss of control
- Cities less accountable
- Stormwater is costly
- Potential for fee creep
- Public perception
- Unforeseen challenges
- Fair play and municipal priorities

NO SHOW STOPPERS