

R.I. Habitat Restoration Team
River Restoration Working Group
First Draft Discussion Paper
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Mission: To improve the ecosystem of the Narragansett Bay Region* by restoring physical, chemical and biological features of rivers, streams, and associated aquatic and wetland habitats.

Approach: Improve state and local planning, policy, law and funding in order to foster the increased completion of restoration projects.

Co-Chairs: Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and Save The Bay

Membership: Open, TBD

Communications: Listserves (RI-Restoration & NBay-L); CRMC webpage

Issues for discussion:

1. Conceptual—

- What should NBR's rivers look like in 2050?
- What are the key threats to rivers now?
- Which of these are most susceptible to positive change?
- How are we doing in these areas?
- What are the key impediments to this change happening now?
- How best to balance impoundment benefits with river restoration?
- Funding needs

2. Logistical—

- How will we coordinate this group?
- Who does what?—Responsibilities of members
- Mapping needs?!

Initial Deliverable: White Paper: Restoring the Rivers of the Narragansett Bay Region

(outline on next page)

* The Narragansett Bay Region (NBR) is the 2066 square-mile area comprised of all Rhode Island lands and estuarine waters, plus the portion of the Narragansett Bay watershed which lies in Massachusetts.

White Paper Outline

Restoring the Rivers of the Narragansett Bay Region

1. Why restore NBR's rivers?
2. NBR river systems:
 - Wood/Pawcatuck
 - Current Status
 - Restoration completed and ongoing
 - Restoration Needs
 - South Shore Watersheds (Salt Ponds, Saugatucket & Narrow)
 - *Same suboutline for each river system*
 - West Shore Watersheds (Annaquatucket, Hunt & Buckeye)
 - Pawtuxet
 - Woonasquatucket & Mossashuck
 - Blackstone
 - Ten Mile
 - Upper Bay Small Watersheds (Barrington/Warren/Bristol and Upper Mt. Hope Bay)
 - Taunton
 - Sakonnet River Tribs & Southeast Shore
3. Restoration Priorities
 - Fish and wildlife habitat and passage
 - Flood plains and flooding processes
 - Shorelines and wetlands
 - Base and peak flow
 - Water quality
 - Recreational access and use
4. Restoration Methods
 - Dam removal
 - Fish ladders
 - Channel complexity
 - Floodwalls
 - Daylighting
 - Culvert replacement
 - Aquifer restoration (water withdrawals)
 - Stormwater BMPs (includes impervious surfaces, etc.)
5. Restoration Issues
 - Public vs. private interest
 - Regulatory environment
 - Sediment standards
 - Small hydro development/operation
 - Dam safety/flooding
6. Funding Issues
 - Existing sources
 - Needs/shortfalls/programmatic issues
 - Prospects/development opportunities
7. Recommendations
 - High priority
 - Future actions