

An Overview of: The Greater Allen's Cove - Eastern Ninigret Pond Pilot Watershed Project



What is the Pilot Watershed Project?

A partnership among the Town of Charlestown, URI's Onsite Wastewater Resource Center, Salt Ponds Coalition and Save the Bay received federal grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Southern New England Program (SNEP) to do a pilot watershed management program to protect Greater Allen's Cove and Eastern Ninigret Pond from nutrient pollution. The project's focus includes wastewater and stormwater improvements and community engagement to help keep our local groundwater and coastal ponds clean.

What are the Project Goals?

- Identify and replace outdated septic systems with new nitrogen reducing technology
- Monitor performance of newly installed nitrogen reducing septic systems
- Install stormwater management structures to treat stormwater runoff
- Monitor local water quality in Eastern Ninigret Pond and Allen's Cove
- Engage community members in protecting shared resources
- Develop a guidance document to facilitate future coastal pond protection efforts in other communities



THE
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ONSITE WASTEWATER
RESOURCE CENTER



Septic System Replacement

Outdated and failing septic systems pollute ground (drinking) water and the coastal ponds with bacteria and nitrogen.

- Assist qualifying homeowners in replacing their systems with new nitrogen reducing technology
- Pilot experimental lower cost layered nitrogen reducing drainfield systems
- Monitor newly installed systems for performance and compliance with Town and State regulations



Collecting wastewater samples from a nitrogen reducing system

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring by citizen scientists will measure short and long term progress within the watershed.

- URI Watershed Watch volunteers will continue to monitor surface water sampling stations within the watershed
- Additional sampling stations will be identified to assess groundwater impacts to water quality

Community Engagement

Community engagement is central to the Project's success and protection of the coastal ponds for future generations.

- Listening sessions to identify residents' priorities and develop useful resources to protect watershed health
- Watershed Celebration Days
- Experiential learning opportunities for K-12 students
- Training and workshops for professionals

Questions? Comments?

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Installing an experimental nitrogen reducing drainfield system

Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff, often high in nitrogen and bacteria from fertilizer use, animal waste, and other materials carried in stormwater, is a source of nutrient pollution to the coastal ponds.

- Install stormwater management structures, including vegetated coastal buffers and rain gardens to collect and treat stormwater
- Promote voluntary nutrient reduction efforts through landscaping best practices, like reducing fertilizer use