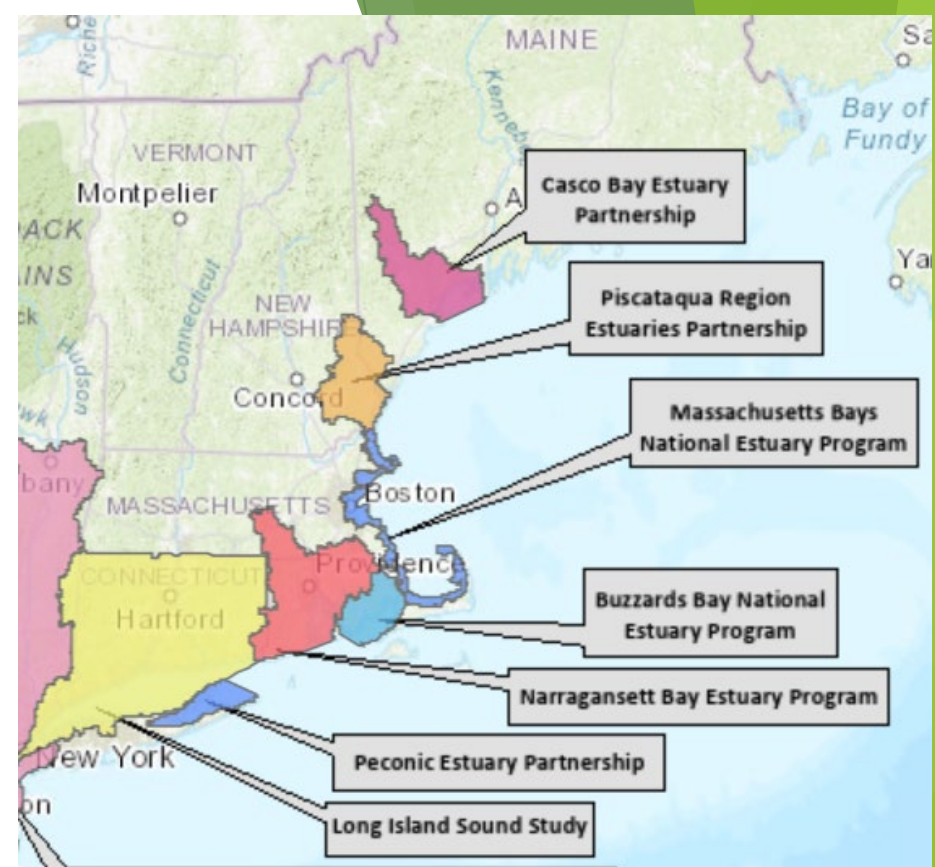


Clean Water Act 320: Estuaries of National Significance/ National Estuary Program



National Estuary Program

- ▶ 28 Nation-wide, 6 in New England:
 - ▶ Casco Bay Estuaries Partnership (ME)
 - ▶ Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (NH + ME)
 - ▶ Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership (MA)
 - ▶ Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (MA)
 - ▶ Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (RI + MA)
 - ▶ Long Island Sound Study (CT, NY + watershed)
- ▶ Non-Regulatory but support other CWA programs
- ▶ NEP structure: NEP Host Organization, NEP Director and staff, Management Committee, sub-committees (ex. monitoring, finance, outreach and communication, finance/governance), Regional EPA Coordinator, EPA HQ Coordinator
- ▶ Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans (CCMPs): developed by NEP and serve as the long term plan to guide the NEP's activities. Also produce "State of the Estuary/Bay" reports.
- ▶ Program Evaluation every 5 years. Annual reporting metrics include \$ leveraged and habitat acres protected or restored



NEP Funding

Funded by annual *non-competitive* Sec 320 cooperative agreements based on yearly appropriation amount (FY 23 \$850,000 per NEP but has ranged from \$850,000- \$518,000). 1:1 match required.

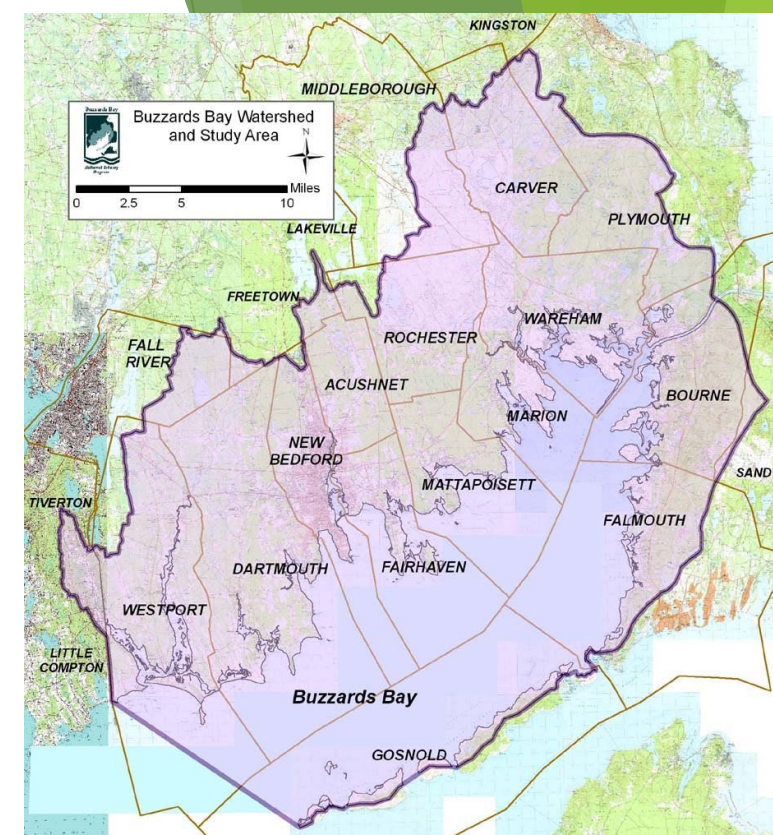
Currently receiving an additional \$909,800 per year under BIL

National Funding guidance for annual cooperative agreements updated every few years. BIL guidance also produced (equity strategy required for match waiver).

Additional Tech assistance or funding through other EPA grant programs/ priorities (ex. Climate Ready Estuaries Program, Trash Free Waters, National RAE competitive grant program)

Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program

- Hosted by MA CZM
- Program Director: Joe Costa (joe.costa@state.ma.us)
- Will be announcing first round of IIJA municipal grants very soon.
 - The grants total \$808,500 and are focused on stormwater and wastewater infrastructure pollution reduction. This represents about 90% of Year 1 IIJA/ BIL allotment.
- The other 10% of IIJA funds is directed toward a municipal stormwater collaborative to map and monitor stormwater networks and discharges and investigate illicit connections to meet MS4 permits.
- Year 2 budget will similarly likely support this level of municipal initiatives.
- About 43% of year 1 funding supports BBNEP defined disadvantaged communities.



Buzzards Bay Watershed Infrastructure and CCMP Support Grant Program - Round 1 (FY23)

Eligible projects include:

1. Feasibility and design of stormwater facilities to treat discharges to impaired surface waters.
2. Construction of stormwater facilities to treat discharges affecting surface waters.
3. Support for tasks to achieve [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\)](#) compliance (other than required routine maintenance).
4. Feasibility studies and conceptual plans to enhance nitrogen removal from municipal wastewater treatment facilities using innovative or unconventional approaches.
5. Restoration of wetlands, habitat, and migratory fish passage.
6. Construction of a boat pump-out facility in a municipality or harbor when none exists.
7. Creation of online reporting systems for tracking of operation, maintenance, and monitoring of innovative and alternative septic systems.
8. Projects that, through direct action, mitigate or restore coastal waters, coastal resources, freshwaters, or freshwater resources impaired by pollutant loading.
9. Land, open space, or habitat preservation, acquisition, or protection.
10. Other activities in support of the CCMP and compatible with BIL funding.

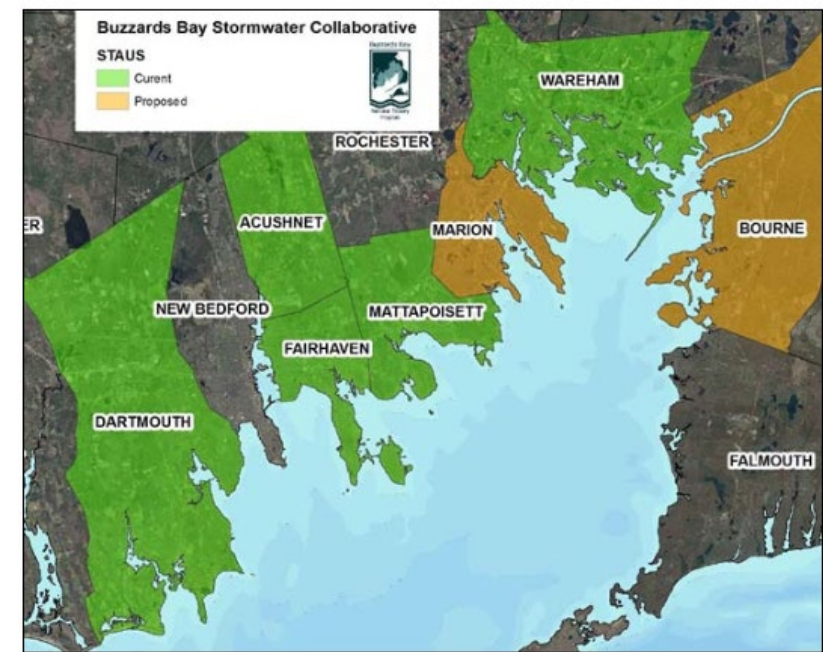
Notice: Round 1 of this grant program closed on February 1. Eight towns submitted 13 proposals totaling \$2,024,719.

Round 2 of this grant program will be offered in the spring of 2023.



Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative

- Launched in 2016, as a partnership between the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (NEP), the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC), and five municipal public works departments (Dartmouth, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and Wareham).
- The purpose is to:
 - map stormwater infrastructure and monitor both wet and dry weather discharges (if present).
 - identify and precisely locate all stormwater discharges along the coast (both in and out of MS4 areas), and define the stormwater network connections to those discharge pipes and structures.
 - identify failing structures such as catch basins filled with sand, damaged structures, or areas that flood during storms.

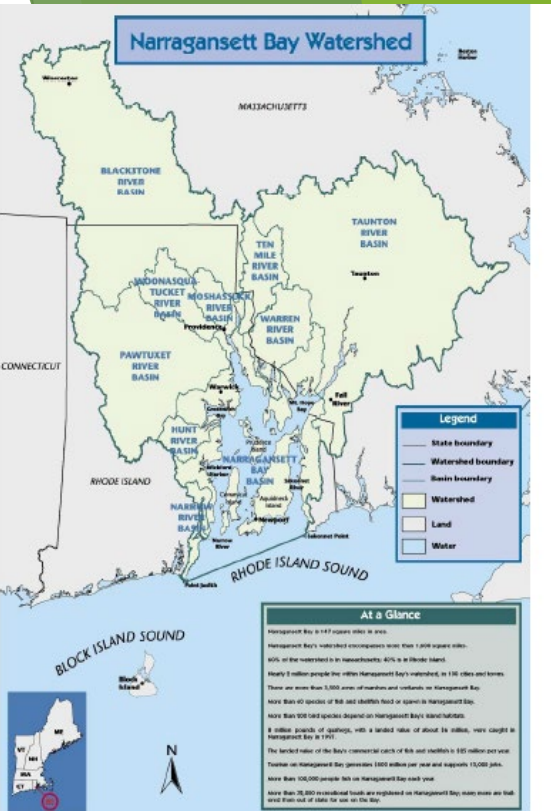


Towns in the Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative.

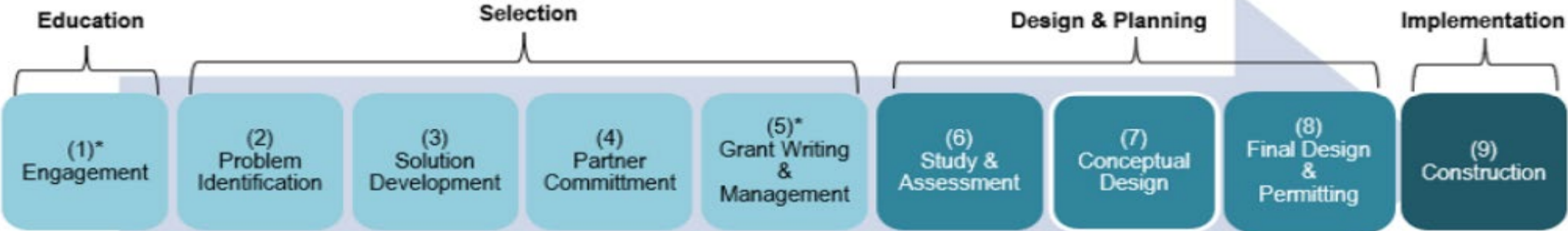


Narragansett Bay National Estuary Program

- ▶ Hosted by Roger Williams University
- ▶ Program Director: Mike Gerel (mike.gerel@nbep.org)
- ▶ First two years of BIL funding will be focused on building a pipeline of water quality/habitat/resilience projects
- ▶ NBEP undertook extensive engagement (including with indigenous communities) with community-based organizations with the expertise and agency to develop projects in our notably underserved/urbanized study area.



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



*Can take place across all steps of project development.

Summary of NBEP FY2022 BIL Workplan

Objective	Task	Location
<p>1. Support selection of projects that reduce pollution, restore habitat, improve climate resilience, and advance environmental equity.</p>	<p>a. Fund the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee to enable committee members and consultants to convene a year-long process in the Port and Olneyville neighborhoods in Providence, RI to advance projects consistent with the Providence Climate Justice Plan.</p>	<p>Providence, RI</p>
	<p>b. Fund the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District to support staff to help municipalities in the Taunton River watershed in MA advance projects that support sound planning, nature-based solutions, and climate resilience work.</p>	<p>Middle and lower Taunton River Watershed, MA</p>
	<p>c. Fund the Old Colony Planning Council to support staff to help municipalities in the Brockton area advance projects that enhance water quality and water supply resilience.</p>	<p>Headwaters of Taunton River Watershed, MA</p>
	<p>d. Fund Groundwork Southcoast to support dedicated staff that will lead their expansion into Fall River, MA by advancing projects that address heat islands, extreme flooding, and are otherwise centered on environmental resilience and equity.</p>	<p>Fall River, MA</p>
	<p>e. Fund Save The Bay to hire new staff to collaborate with municipalities and community groups in the Narragansett Bay watershed to advance a wide range of water quality, habitat, and resilience projects.</p>	<p>Narragansett Bay Watershed, RI and MA</p>

<p>2. Advance design and planning for priority habitat connectivity projects.</p>	<p>a. Fund the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association to support existing staff and consultants to ground-truth existing data, identify priority obstructions, and complete designs that achieve free-flowing cold-water streams in the watershed's headwaters in RI.</p>	<p>Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed, RI</p>
	<p>b. Fund the Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island to hire an engineering consultant to complete conceptual designs for fish passage on the lower Blackstone River in RI that would connect Narragansett Bay with Lonsdale Marsh.</p>	<p>Pawtucket, RI to Lonsdale, RI</p>
<p>3. Assist community education on the value of a healthy Blackstone River.</p>	<p>a. Fund the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone to engage local communities via two-way learning activities that emphasize the ecological and social value of a healthy and connected Blackstone River in RI.</p>	<p>Blackstone River Watershed, RI</p>

Thank you!

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