

State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources

Home Programs Topics Maps Pubs/Regs News Events Search Help Contact Us

Home > Programs > Bureau of Environmental Protection > Office of Water Resources > Wetlands > Woonasquatucket Wetland Restoration

Watershed wetland restoration plan

Maps of potential restoration sites

Databases of potential restoration sites

Database keys & examples

File repository

Related Links

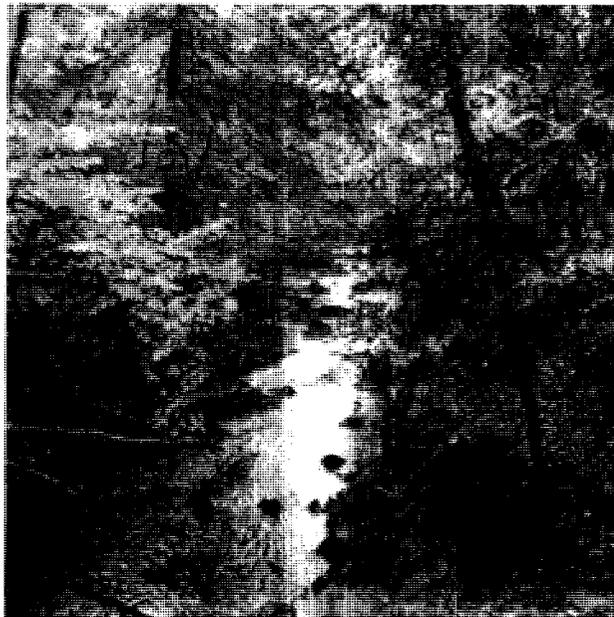
Funding Sources



Welcome to the Woonasquatucket Wetland Restoration Page

RIDEM, EPA, and URI in partnership with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and officials from the six watershed cities and towns undertook a multi-year project to identify and prioritize potential wetland and buffer restoration sites in the Woonasquatucket Watershed.

A comparison of aerial photographs from the 1930's and the 1990's clearly indicates that wetland losses and degradation in the Woonasquatucket River watershed have been great. Some of the principal causes of wetland destruction include gravel mining and associated filling; highway construction; and residential, commercial, and industrial development. Urbanization and agriculture also have impacted existing wetlands by modifying the land and vegetation along their borders. These wetland alterations have adversely affected the entire watershed through water quality degradation, increased flooding, and the loss of valuable wildlife habitat.



View of the Woonasquatucket River

Proactive wetland restoration offers a means for offsetting some of this wetland loss and degradation at both local and watershed scales. The Wetland Restoration Plan for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed addresses two major wetland impact types: filling, which destroys wetlands, and removal of adjacent upland vegetation, which degrades them.

On this webpage you will find a link to the Plan, links to two databases with important information on potential restoration sites, and a link to the DEM Internet Map Server, where individual sites can be viewed. We have also included a list of related links for those who have a more general interest in wetland restoration.

It is important to note that all of these pieces--the Plan, the maps, and the databases--are to be used in conjunction with one another. Much of the information in both the maps and



databases is also found and explained in the Plan. Together, these three tools provide a broad picture, and the details, of the wetland restoration possibilities in the Woonasquatucket River watershed. Although the Plan is a static document, the website itself will be updated on a regular basis.

The site identification number is the common link between the Plan, the maps and the databases. Each potential restoration site has been assigned a site identification number that is used in the Plan, maps and databases.

Welcome and enjoy!

For more information please contact:

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Software requirements: In order to manipulate the databases, Microsoft Access is needed, however, they are also available in static HTML format. To use the RIDEM map server, you must have Microsoft Internet Explorer v5.0 or greater; however, you will be able to interpret and manipulate the map data more thoroughly with ArcView.

For more information contact **Carol Murphy**

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