Municipal Resilience Program
Action Grant Funded Project Descriptions

2019 Cohort

Grantee: Barrington
Project Name: Resilience Improvements Projects: Walker Farm, Bowden Avenue, and Opechee Drive
Award: $201,000
Walker Farm is a 48.5-acre Town-owned site comprising ecologically significant upland, saltmarsh, and ponds habitats located along the Barrington River. The site has an active recreational and agricultural component and hosts a municipal services facility. Rather than attempt to block floodwaters and impending sea level rise, the project adapts the site to these conditions by enhancing natural ecosystem functions and relocating recreation areas. Specifically, the project will reconfigure the shoreline to increase stormwater filtration, wave buffering, and flood storage; restore native plan buffers and salt marsh to stabilize the shoreline; and move recreation areas landward to provide areas for floodable open space as needed.

The Town-owned rights-of-way off Bowden Avenue and Opechee Drive, located along the Barrington River, are used for shoreline access and stormwater runoff conveyance from residential areas. Roadway improvements will use permeable, renewable gravel and ground stone surfaces instead of asphalt. Other improvements include removing invasive plants, installing stormwater filtration/infiltration areas, improving bank areas affected by coastal erosion, and installing educational signage about coastal green infrastructure. The improved flow of water over the sites will better store and absorb flood water, as well as reduce flood-related damage to roads.

Grantee: Portsmouth
Project Name: Flood Mitigation Projects
Award: $199,000
This project helps offset the costs of stormwater infrastructure improvements the Town of Portsmouth identified collectively as Stormwater Inland Flooding Climate Adaptation Projects (SWIFCAP). In anticipation of the increased intensity and frequency of major storms due to climate change, SWIFCAP projects will increase climate resiliency by rehabilitating and

improving existing stormwater infrastructure in order to reduce flooding of the Town's road network. This project will help fund three projects: drainage rehabilitation at the entrance of the Common Fence Point neighborhood, installation of an in-ground stormwater injection facility at Riverside Street, and the dredging of Founders Brook.

Grantee: Portsmouth
Project Name: Melville Dam Rehabilitation
Award: $140,000
The Town of Portsmouth used action grant funding to help offset the costs of completing ongoing rehabilitation of the Melville Dam in anticipation of the increased intensity and frequency of major storms due to climate change. The earthen dam performs a critical role in flood control for downstream economic and environmental resources. In addition, the dam protects a wetlands environment situated within a popular recreation area. This project was the final step in the Portsmouth Department of Public Works' effort to remove excessive vegetation growth that was impeding regularly required dam inspections. Funding supported efforts to remove stumps, roots and vegetation; re-grade the existing slope; and apply loam and hydroseed as a final stabilization measure. The Melville Dam Rehabilitation project was completed in April 2021.

Grantee: Warren
Project Name: Stormwater Mitigation at Public Access Points
Award: $156,000
This project will allow the Town of Warren to incorporate natural stormwater mitigation practices at several public rights-of-ways that terminate at the edge of waterways. Currently, many of the rights-of-ways have hard surfaces that create unnecessary stormwater runoff and erosion and contribute to increased levels of pollutants entering waterways. The Town will replace pavement with loam and vegetation and install filter fabric and rip rap. The Town previously worked with Save The Bay, Fuss & O'Neill, and the Rhode Island School of Design to develop conceptual designs for these rights-of-ways as part of a coastal adaptation pilot program.

Grantee: Westerly
Project Name: Old Canal Street Pump Station Flood Protection Wall
Award: $191,000
The Old Canal Street Pump Station Flood Protection Wall project involves improvements to the Westerly wastewater treatment system that will limit discharge quantities, limit overtopping by floodwaters, and improve water quality in the Pawcatuck River. The Town of Westerly will install a concrete footing and flood protection wall around the perimeter of the pump station located at 20 Canal Street. Without this project, the station is vulnerable to flooding during extreme weather. Flooding of the station would cause tremendous strain to the system and potentially lead to a pump failure, triggering a Sanitary Sewer Overflow of raw sewage flowing directly into the Pawcatuck River.

2020 Cohort

Grantee: Bristol
Project Name: Watershed Restoration at the Bristol Golf Course, Phase II
Award: $222,863
This project will address downstream flooding and water quality and habitat degradation within two watersheds resulting from historical alterations to wetlands and two streams at the Bristol Golf Course. Today, the golf course provides few natural wetland benefits and precipitation runs unchecked to impoundments and watercourses on the property and eventually flows downstream. Permitted work includes restoring ponds and impoundments within the golf course, removing fill and culverts and "daylighting" streams, and restoring a buffer of native shrubs, trees and grasses between the active course and wetland resource areas. Work will increase flood storage capacity and enhance functions of freshwater wetland habitat within the property as well as address concerns for downstream flooding in both the Towns of Bristol and Warren and improve resiliency and asset protection.

Grantee: Little Compton
Project Name: Stormwater Management Program
Award: $164,000
The Town of Little Compton will use action grant funding to implement three projects intended to mitigate stormwater runoff and flooding on town roads and public spaces. The South Shore Beach Parking Area project includes the installation of a sediment forebay and dry swale to capture and treat stormwater runoff, provide sediment capture, and encourage infiltration. The Town Way project will install a drainage retention area to collect and retain stormwater along a public right-of-way and help limit erosion of the roadway, reduce the flow of sediments into the ocean, and improve a parking area with low-impact design. The John Dyer Road project will install a detention area for storm flow drainage to reduce the flow of stormwater and sediments across roadways, into neighboring properties, and into the Westport River.

Grantee: Newport
Project Name: Almy Pond/Spouting Rock Drive Meadow Drive Restoration
Award: $180,990
This project will remove unnecessary infrastructure at Almy Pond, one of the most distressed bodies of water in the state, and restore the surrounding meadow and marsh. Specifically, the City of Newport will remove approximately 25,200 square feet of pavement from Spouting Rock Drive and its associated catch basins, which were built in the 1990s to service an illegal sub-division. Removal will expand the drainage buffer around the pond, improve local water quality, and allow the pond to act as a more effective buffer against stronger and more frequent storms anticipated as a result of climate change.

Grantee: Pawtucket and Central Falls
Project Name: Pawtucket-Central Falls TOD District Stormwater and Streetscape Improvements
Award: $400,000
The Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls will use action grant funding to improve and upgrade aging infrastructure in the joint Transit Oriented Development (TOD) District around the Pawtucket-Central Falls train station and transit hub opening in mid-2022. Improvements include new street trees, stormwater improvements with additional green infrastructure, new sidewalks, bicycle-friendly infrastructure, and new crosswalks. Both cities are particularly vulnerable to high precipitation events and heat waves due to high levels of impervious surfaces (86% of the TOD District is impervious) and aging stormwater infrastructure with limited capacity. The planned stormwater and streetscape improvements will make the area more accessible to pedestrians and cyclists while also improving air quality, reducing the heat island effect, and mitigating flooding issues.

Grantee: Warwick
Project Name: Oakland Beach Nature Based Resiliency Enhancements
Award: $225,000
This project involves the construction of a bioretention stormwater system and coastal embankment restoration in the seaside community of Oakland Beach. The bioretention system is a nature-based solution that will help reduce flooding and minimize bacterial pollution in Greenwich Bay by intercepting and treating stormwater runoff before it discharges into coastal waters. The coastal embankment restoration will help reduce and prevent erosion of the existing beach area, increase wildlife habitat, and enhance the overall aesthetics of the area. This project is part of a larger effort supported by local, state, and federal agencies to incorporate nature-based resilience solutions along the coastline of Oakland Beach that will increase the public's enjoyment of the shoreline by expanding public access and recreation opportunities.

Grantee: Woonsocket
Project Name: Blackstone River Vision Report Implementation
Award: $150,000
This project will implement up to four green infrastructure projects identified in the Blackstone River Vision Report. The projects will divert stormwater from the City's gray infrastructure and reduce flow rates and pollutant loads of stormwater entering the Blackstone River, an impaired waterway. The proposed projects are (1) vegetated swales at River's Edge Park, (2) a rain garden at River Island Park, (3) vegetated swales and rain gardens at Bernon Memorial Park, and (4) permeable paving, stormwater planters, gravel and sand filtration, and underground water storage at City Hall's parking lot.

Grantee: Woonsocket
Project Name: Iron Rock Brook at Mendon Road
Award: $150,000
This project will address recurring flooding at Iron Rock Brook and Mendon Road. Currently, an undersized culvert results in flooding at a residential property and across the state-owned

Mendon Road during heavy rain events. This is a public safety concern as vehicles attempt to pass the flood section and a public health concern as floodwaters can infiltrate and overflow the local sewer system, causing untreated sewage to be introduced into the environment. The City of Woonsocket will increase culvert capacity so more stormwater can be managed. If feasible, a nature-based, green infrastructure solution will also be included upstream to help capture stormwater and reduce overall demand on the culvert.