Southeast New England Program Steering Committee Meeting 2/6/2023 10:30-12:30

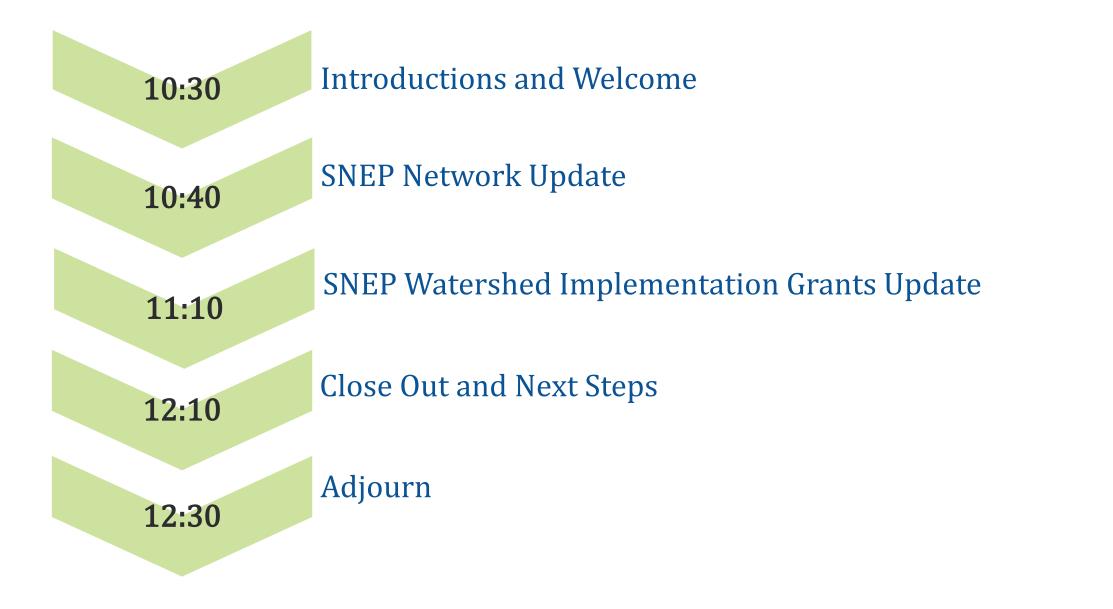
Meeting Held Virtually





# Today's Agenda







# **SNEP Network Updates**

SNEP Steering Committee February 6, 2023





- Network Highlights & Challenges
- Updates
  - Regional Initiatives
  - Stormwater Retrofit Manual Roll-out & STEWMAP
  - SNEP Network Pilot Projects
  - Network Tools and Resources





### **SNEP Network Highlights**

- **48** technical assistance requests in FY3, increase from 8 in FY1
- **16 completed community assistance projects** to date; 12 active projects either ongoing or awarded in FY4
- 34 Trainings/Webinars offered to date
- Continued support for EJ communities and meeting them where they're at
- Partners value the **collaboration** of Network





### **SNEP Network Challenges**

- Community capacity to engage in projects
- Planning for the future–reduced funding in FY5
  - How can we maintain Network (both internal and external) relationships after FY5?
  - How can we leverage Network initiatives and projects with other funding sources to ensure the work continues?





### **SNEP Network Regional Initiatives**

Network Initiative	Milestones	Next Steps
Nature Based Solutions Mapping Spatial Tool (TNC)	<ul> <li>Network Partner, TNC-Mass completed tool in 2020</li> <li>Determined transferability to RI</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>RI NBS Maps to be adapted with RI data</li> <li>Working closely with RIIB to incorporate into the MRP process–streamline projects</li> </ul>
Leadership Exchange with Aquidneck Island Communities	<ul> <li>Completed prioritization process with Newport, Portsmouth</li> <li>Currently working with Middletown</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Work with RIIB to facilitate leadership exchange with Aquidneck Island Communities to align resilience priorities for Aquidneck Island</li> <li>Start leadership exchange late spring, early summer</li> </ul>
<u>Bylaw Review Tool and</u> <u>Curriculum</u>	<ul> <li>Instructions on how to use tool</li> <li>Curriculum completed in 2022</li> <li>Delivered 2 in-person workshops</li> <li>Strategy team continues to meet</li> </ul>	Work with MassRivers to transfer curriculum for wide use     Mew England Finance Center



### **StewMAP** Dashboard is now LIVE!

- Completed July/August 2022
- Helps answer questions
   like...
  - Who are the active environmental stewardship groups in the Southern New England region?
  - Where do they work, how do they collaborate and what type of work do they do?
  - Where are there gaps and where are there concentrations of care?

🐼 Southeast New England S	STEW-MAP 2021-2022	Filter by Group Focus No Selection	Filter by Things Stewarde No Selection	
Select an Estuary Basin or a sub-watershed to view the count and names of organizations whose turfs overlap that area of interest below. Click again to	Welcome to the Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project of Southeast New England (STEW-MAP SNE)!           Get to the map by clicking the small arrow on the bottom right of this Project Background & Introduction page.           Watch this short video to learn how to use the Dashboard: Using the Southeast New England Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project Dashboard           STEW-MAP SNE is a project of the SNEP Network. The South East New England Program (SNEP) Network is a collaboration between universities, non-profit organizations and consultants whose mission is to empower communities to achieve healthy watersheds, sustainable financing, and long-term climate resilience through management of stormweter and restoration project in Rhodel Bland and an outheaster.           STEW-MAP SNE is part of a USDA Forest Service national research program that seeks to inventory, characterize, and geographically map the activities and relationships of environmental stewardship organizations in Stew-MaP SNE is Determed to a suburt the USDA Forest Service research program at the national STEW-MAP SNE is and the outprovide stewardship organizations, municipalities, researchers, and the general public with information about the USDA Forest Service nearch ones the Mergiann Rigon, where they work (their turf) and their knowledge and funding networks in the region, Information about the SiteW-MAP SNE project, methods, webitar recordings, reports, and download the data (data dictionary, attribute database, spatial data and network database) at: http://snepnetwork.org/stewardship.mapping/			
de-salect. Buzzards Bay (Estuary Basin) Cape Cod and Islands (Estuary Basin) Narragonsett Bay and Islands (Estuary Basin) Allens Fond Apponagansett Bay Aucost Cove Beaverdam Creek Blackstone River List of Organizations Select to see organization details - Devalect to clear				
Aquidneck Community Table Aquidneck Land Trust Audubon Society of Rhode Island - Conservation Audubon Society of Rhode Island - Education Audubon Society of Rhode Island - Policy Barrington Land Conservation Trust Blackstone Parks Conservancy Blackstone River Coalition Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park	The panels to the left, top right, and right allow you to interact with the Map element. To navigate to the Map element, use the small left and right arrow keys on the <i>bottom center</i> of this display. These same arrow keys are used to navigate to the Network Visualization elements (see below). <i>Interacting with the Map:</i> • Select an estuary watershed or sub-watershed from the list on the top left. • The list on the <i>middle</i> left will be filtered to show groups who work in these areas • The counter on the <i>bottom left</i> will give you a total count of those groups. • Click on any group name from the <i>middle</i> left list, and the may will pan, zoom, and highlight that group in th • De-select the watershed or sub-watershed in the <i>upper left</i> list to return to the entire sample • Note: When filtering organizations by watershed, keep in mind that the various boundaries come from exactly.		do not always match	
111 Organizations	<ul> <li>Click anywhere on the map itself and a pop-up will show a list of all groups whose turfs overlap in that area.</li> <li>The pop-up contains details about each group including address, web site, mission, focus areas, fundi         <ul> <li>Navigate through the groups using the small arrow keys in the upper right corner of the pop-up</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

Navgate through the groups using the small allow keys in the upper right corner of the pop-up

STEW-MAP Dashboard: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/2fe9 393c3fe343ab80cdcaf6c1a2cb33





### New England Stormwater Retrofit Roll-out

Target Audience	Objectives	Methods/Approach	
Municipal staff and practitioners (Including municipalities, planners, stormwater coalitions/groups)	Understand how to use the manual and incorporate practices/approach into their retrofit designs	<ul> <li>In-depth trainings         <ul> <li>SNEP Network Stormwater Training Series</li> <li>Webinars (audience specific)</li> <li>Direct Technical Assistance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Regulators and Adaptors ( <i>State and Federal</i> )	Regulators and Adapters endorse the of Stormwater Retrofit Manual Incorporate/reference in state stormwater guidance	<ul> <li>In-depth training for State Regulators</li> <li>Individual 'hand-holding' with decision makers; one-on-one meetings</li> <li>Webinars (audience specific)</li> </ul>	
Consultants/engineers	Understand how to use the manual and incorporate practices/approach into their retrofit designs	<ul> <li>In-depth trainings (audience specific)</li> <li>Webinars (audience specific)</li> <li>Conferences, presentations, etc.</li> </ul>	



### Approach to Retrofit Implementation

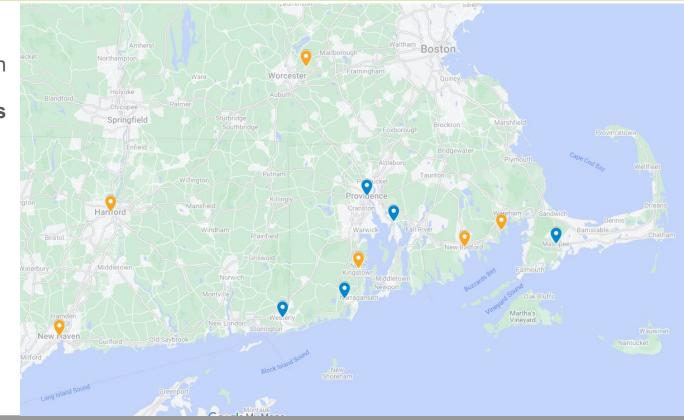
NETWORK Capacity building based on facilitative planning and stakeholder engagement





### So far....

- Taking approach with 11 New England communities/Tribes (2 Connecticut communities)
- 5 communities have completed the trainings
- Development of Trainings for State Regulators underway





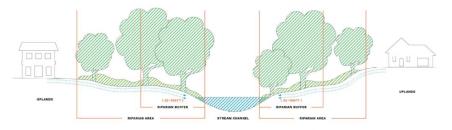
### **Maidford River Watershed Pilot Project**

Buffer Restoration Guide

- Completed 30% Design for restoring the river and its floodplain
- Awarded SWIG to advance to 60% design and prepare permit applications

Next Steps:

• Developing Case Study for the Maidford River Pilot Project INTRODUCTION ~ KNOW YOUR SITE ~ MAKE IT HAPPEN ~ EXAMPLES PROPOSED PROJECTS RESOURCES ABOUT US



#### BUFFER SIZE

Buffers of 35° to 100° width are considered an ideal minimum width to protect water quality, and the State of Bhode Island uses a standard of 200° riparia buffers a protective for diriking water supply tributaries, as well as water quality and some habitat functions. Where lot size prevents buffers of these widths, restoring the area immediately next to the water hody to stabilize the shoreline can reduce bank erosion and provide some water quality and habitat benefits.



IDEAL WIDTH

### The wider the buffer, the greater the benefits

#### BENEFITS OF BUFFERS

The environmental and economic benefits of buffers are well documented, and will help:





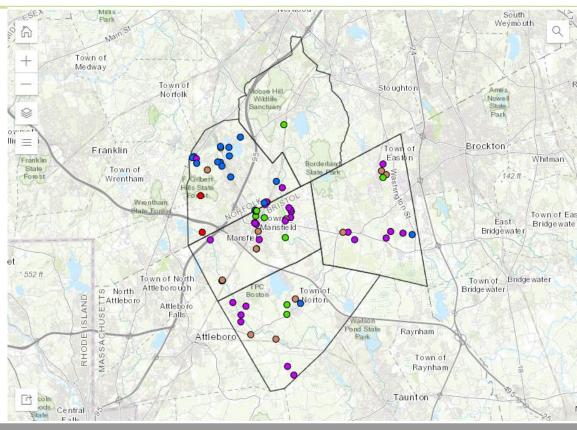
### **Taunton River Watershed Pilot Project**

### **NETWORK**

- Worked with 4 communities to prioritize 16 cluster sites
  - **Norton:** Working on MVP grant 0 application for culverts
  - Sharon: Partner with DER to  $\bigcirc$ move toward design on Cedar Swamp
  - Easton: Received 100K  $\bigcirc$ earmark in Economic **Development Bill**
  - **Mansfield:** Awarded MVP grant 0

### Next Steps:

MA Funding Webinar and Workshop 





### In FY23....

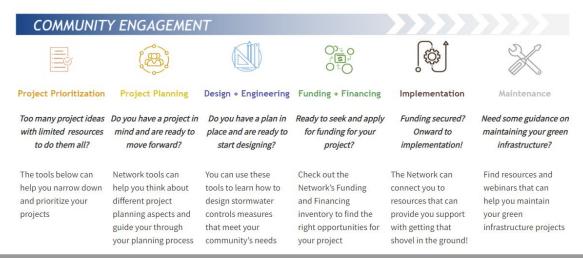
- Move from tool/resource development to application & implementation
- Network tools and resources all on one page-in progress
- Complete Community **Assistance Projects**

#### Getting Started with SNEP Network Tools and Resources!

Over the years, the SNEP Network has worked closely with SNEP communities to help build their capacity to move their climate resilient projects to implementation. Based on the communities' needs, the Network has developed a suite of tools and resources that help support communities advance their projects toward implementation and maintenance.

#### Where is your project on the Project Pipeline?

Depending on where you are on the project pipeline, you can access FREE Network tools and resources that will help support your community move toward project implementation.





### What we're thinking about...

- How can we maintain Network (both internal and external) relationships after FY5?
- How can we leverage Network initiatives and projects with other funding sources to ensure the work continues?





# **Questions?**



# SNEP WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

# TOM ARDITO RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Southeast New England Watershed Grant Program Director tardito@estuaries.org



# **Funding Priorities**

- *Restore Ecosystems, Improve Communities*
- Restore Clean Water Manage Nutrients
- Restore Ecosystem Functions & Values
- Build Capacity Technical, Institutional & Programmatic
- Foster & Support Partnerships
- Support Innovative Technologies
- Foster Regional Learning
- Develop Synergies with SNEP Network
- Support Diverse Communities, Organizations & Projects
- Holistic Approaches Water Quality, Habitat & Community



# **Examples of Projects Funded**

- Watershed-scale Estuarine Restoration
- Green Streets & Neighborhoods Urban Restoration & Community Engagement
- Stormwater Demonstration & Training
- Innovative Wetland & River Restoration
- Coastal Resilience & Other Habitat Restoration
- Pilot Projects: PRBs, bioreactors, innovative septic
- Applied Ecosystem Research, Monitoring & Data Management
- Watershed & Regional Plans
- Conferences & Tech Transfer (smaller \$\$\$)



# **2022 SWIG Grants**

- First grant round under new/current RAE/EPA cooperative agreement
- Awards
  - 11 Grants
  - \$1.9 M awards
  - 62% in environmental justice communities
  - 84% benefits EJ communities
  - 9 of 11 grants fund new project types or geographic locations within the SNEP region



# **New Areas of Investment 2022**

- Wastewater planning for urban mill village (\$250k Chepachet/Gloucester)
- Westerly coastal resilience & stormwater (\$200k SRICD)
- Dam removal planning in Big River Mgmt. Area (\$124k)
- Green building features / EJ in West End (Community Music Works, \$150k)
- Ghost fishing gear on Cuttyhunk (\$55k CCS)
- Flood plain restoration for urban redevelopment (Brockton \$150k)
- Coastal resilience on Nantucket (\$160k)
- Fall River EJ project at Cook Pond (\$216k)



# **2023 Request for Proposals**

# \$2.9 million available

### Funding Themes

- Restore Small Cities & Urban Environments
- Conserve and Restore Rural and Natural Landscapes
- Innovate to Improve Water Quality
- Address Environmental Change
- Build & Sustain Local and Regional Partnerships
- Foster Regional Learning



# **2023 Request for Proposals**

# **Continuities with 2022**

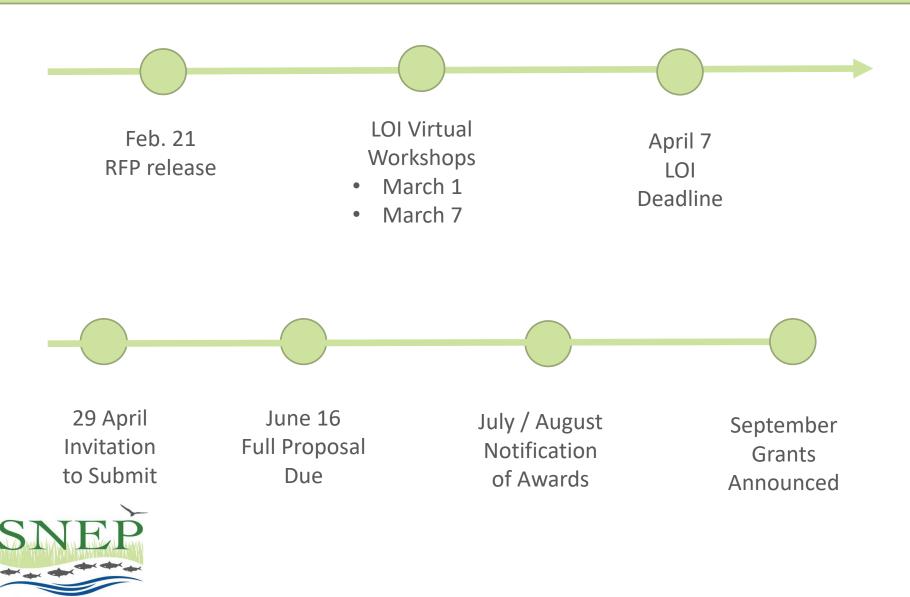
- Maintain 2-step application process for accessibility
- Close coordination with SNEP Network
- Continued emphasis on underrepresented communities
- Maintain \$500k maximum award

# **Suggested Changes**

- Increase emphasis on context of climate change
- Increase emphasis on peer-to-peer learning initiatives
- Increase emphasis on drinking watershed protection to meet broader habitat and water quality goals
- Expand Application Review Committee (ARC)



# **2023 Award Calendar**



Southeast New England Program



# Discussion...

