

Watershed Education in Rhode Island

(Field trip sites, guest speakers, and professional resources)

Organization	Contact Info	Age Group	Location(s)	Price	Time Length
Audubon Society of Rhode Island	Kristen Swanberg education@asri.org	Students grade 2-12, teachers resources and the general public	Smithfield, Exeter, North Smithfield, Seekonk	\$8 per student for the two hour program; can accommodate up to 60 students	2 hours outdoors for most programs
Blackstone River Coalition	Peter Coffin peter.coffin@zaptheblackstone.org 508-753-6097 www.zaptheblackstone.org	Children and the general public	Blackstone River Watershed: Public events, fairs, classrooms	To be determined	5-10 min-display mode; 30-45 min classroom program with watershed model; rain garden and storm drain projects vary
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council	Dianne Mailloux keep.bv.beautiful@gmail.com Cell #: 401-439-6827 Office #: 401-724-2200 http://www.rivertourblackstone.com/ http://www.keepblackstonevalleybeautiful.com/	Students 5 th grade– high school, teacher training, public tours for all ages	Tours aboard Blackstone Valley Explorer and walking tours, Central Falls, Woonsocket and classrooms	River Classroom Investigation (RCI) - \$250.00 /group; Public tours-\$10/adult & \$8.00/child Enjoy a free cruise the last Sunday of each month, May-Sept. (first come, first serve); leaves from Central Falls Landing Classroom Presentation - \$150 Keep the Blackstone Valley Beautiful – Clean-ups and recycling programs - free	1 hour River Tour with water quality testing 1 hour Classroom presentation

Narragansett Bay Research Reserve	Kristin Van Wagner Kristin@nbner.org	Children and the general public	Prudence Island, classrooms, special presentations	Free \$6.20 round-trip ferry fee that leaves from Bristol	Any – from 30 min to full day
Narrow River Preservation Assoc.	MJ Kanaczet mjkanaczet@mail.uri.edu	Students K-8 and teachers	Guest Speakers and/or field trip	Free for students	Varies – coordinate with MJ
Northern RI Conservation District and Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program	Gina Dimarco gina-demarco@nricd.necoxmail.com 401-934-0840 www.nricd.org	Children and the general public	Scituate Reservoir Watershed: Central Falls, Woonsocket, Scituate, Foster, Gloucester	School presentation - \$250 Interpretive Walk in Snake Den State Park - \$200 Rain Garden assistance - varies	1.5 hours for classroom demonstrations Hike – 1-2 hours
Save The Bay	Bridget Kubis-Prescott bkubis@savebay.org	Grades 3-12	Throughout the state: classrooms, after school programs, camp, festivals	\$150 for classroom or after school programs for 30 students	45-60 min
URI Learning Landscape Program	Vanessa Venturini* VVenturini@mail.uri.edu	Pre-K – 8 grade	URI Outreach Center, Kingston and Roger Williams Park Botanical Center, Providence	\$7 per child	2 hours
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association	Denise Poyer* denisepoyer@gmail.com	Elementary to High School Students and Teachers	Classroom and field trips in the Pawcatuck Watershed	Varies, see website	Varies

* Thank you to the RI Stormwater Solutions for the information found in this chart.

Educational Program Details

All

Audubon Society of RI – Kristen Swanberg — Audubon offers both a “Watershed Walk” and a Pond and Stream program that would be a good fit with the Watershed curriculum. They offer these programs at a few of our refuges - Smithfield, Seekonk, Exeter, and North Smithfield. They are both hands-on and immerse the students into the local habitats investigating fresh water with some ponding activities and a nature walk discussing how water flows through a habitat. We offer the Pond and Stream for grades 2-12 and Watershed Walk for grades 5-12. They conduct outdoor programs up until Thanksgiving and can accommodate up to 60 students. The cost is \$8 per student for the two hour program. Contact Kristen Swanberg at education@asri.org or call (401) 949-5454 x3014. www.asri.org

Central Falls
Woonsocket
Pawtucket
W. Warwick

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council — Dianne Mailloux – The River Classroom Program targets groups from 5th grade to high school with an outdoor component as well as a classroom presentation. The outdoor presentation can include a walk or a boat tour. The riverboat holds 40 people and on the river, you will see heron, swan, turtles and more. It is a beautiful river thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers over the last 40 years. Children get the chance to perform water quality tests on the Blackstone River. The in-class presentations include slide shows and hands-on presentations. Teachers can take tours aboard the Blackstone Valley Explorer where materials from the Blackstone River Coalition are shared. One example of a River Classroom program, the “River Science Investigation,” which targets ages from K-adult, teaches about the ecosystem of the river and includes a component on pollution and actions to take to keep the river clean. The “Keep the Blackstone Valley Beautiful” program is free due to a grant from “Keep America Beautiful” organization. Dianne can come out and talk about clean-ups and recycling, etc. www.tourblackstone.com/education.htm and www.keepblackstonevalleybeautiful.com

Central Falls
Woonsocket
Pawtucket
W. Warwick

Blackstone River Coalition – Peter Coffin – The BRC uses education and outreach in an attempt to target stormwater, the major issue impacting the Blackstone’s water quality, and a large hurdle in achieving the goal of a Fishable/Swimmable River by 2015. Educational programs use the Enviroscape watershed model either as a display for public events and fairs, or for a hands-on classroom program. They work on rain gardens – recent projects were in Pawtucket and Woonsocket. With partners, they built a great demonstration rain garden at Lincoln Elementary school. They have done storm drain stenciling, but only do this when local Public Works departments have assumed the leadership coordinating role. www.zaptheblackstone.org

N. Kingstown
S. Kingstown

Narrow River Preservation Association – Mary-Jane Kanaczet- The NRPA provides stormwater outreach to children through storm drain marking and also by providing education in classrooms and at the Environmental Day at the Beach in Narragansett. The Narrow River Handbook is an outreach guide for homeowners to reduce stormwater pollution in the Narrow River Watershed, including environmental do’s and don’ts for households. www.narrowriver.org

Central Falls
Woonsocket
Pawtucket
W. Warwick

Northern RI Conservation District — Gina DeMarco — NRICD holds a number of outreach events that engage the entire community, primarily in the Scituate Watershed, and funded by Providence Water. They hold an annual watershed-wide poster contest for students in grades 3-8. Teachers are provided with a packet of information to disseminate to students, and the winners of the contest are featured in a calendar that is distributed to the community.

A presentation at schools using the watershed model will teach students about watersheds, water conservation, non-point source and stormwater pollution, and how to change behavior to protect water quality.

An interpretive walk at Snake Den State Park in Johnston focuses on the role trees play in helping protect water quality, identifying plants, and general forest health and wildlife information.

An ongoing project involves high school students building an urban rain garden in Woonsocket as a first-hand experience with stormwater control. The students are publicizing the rain garden and encouraging the community to build more rain gardens in the Blackstone River area. A rain garden walk and talk for adults is scheduled for the Fall and another stormwater-themed walk and talk was held last year in the Village of Scituate. NRICD could give technical advice and/or help coordinate the installation for a cost. Get in touch with Gina about rain gardens.

NRICD also donates the use of their Envirosapes models. www.nricd.org

All

Save The Bay – Bridget Kubis-Prescott – STB has numerous watershed-related educational programs in the classroom, for after school programs and as field trips. “Walk in your watershed” uses the EnviroScape watershed model to allow students to build a town and then pollute it to see how actions on land affect our rivers and the Bay. The water cycle program also connects to watersheds. The “Life in your Watershed” program (Grades 3-12) explains how you are linked to Narragansett Bay. www.savebay.org

N. Kingstown
S. Kingstown

URI Learning Landscape Program – Vanessa Venturini – The Learning Landscape program incorporates a stormwater education component into the Eco-Exploration environmental field trip, using the EnviroScape watershed model. Did you know that the same water that we drink today was around when dinosaurs walked the earth? From rain drop to reservoir students dive in to the water cycle. What does cutting your lawn, walking your dog and washing your car have in common? All of these actions could have negative effects on the quality of our water. By viewing a model of a watershed and adding “pollutants” students can witness how water travels from the storm drain on your street all the way to the ocean. www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/YouthPrograms.html

All

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association – Denise Poyer – WPWA offers several programs on watershed education ranging from hour long classroom presentations to day long field trips. Options include information on groundwater, wetlands, aquatic animals, and water quality testing. Field trips can include kayak programs on the Wood River. Every other year WPWA conducts a 3-credit teacher training course based on the AWESome Curriculum, usually available to teachers for no fee. www.wpwa.org

*More stormwater educational tools are available from the RI Stormwater Solutions at: www.ristormwatersolutions.org

Other people to connect with about your local watershed (who are not listed above):

Name	Contact	Connection
Tim Cranston	Gcranston@northkingstown.org	Water Quality Specialist for the Town of North Kingstown
Bill Boardman	bboardman@southkingstownri.com	South Kingstown Town Engineer
Annmarie Brunn	annemarie@apeiron.org	Pawtuxet River Watershed Coalition (closer to WW clubs)
Peter Stetson	petestetson@cox.net	Pawtuxet River Watershed Coalition (closer to WW clubs)