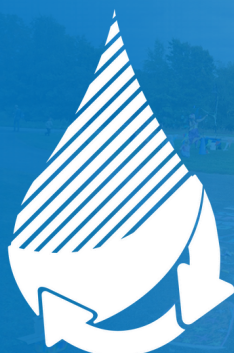


»» SEPTMBER NEWSLETTER ««

# STORMWATER INNOVATION CENTER

Monitoring | Training | Community Engagement | Collaboration



## Stormwater Innovation Center



### WHAT'S NEW?

**WE'RE HIRING!**

**Stormwater Program Manager**

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Project Leadership & Management
- Water Quality & Stormwater Research
- Professional Training Initiatives
- Community Science Programs

**INTERESTED IN APPLYING?**  
Go to [stormwaterinnovation.com/jobs](http://stormwaterinnovation.com/jobs) for more information!



### »» NEW JOB OPENING!

The Stormwater Innovation Center is looking for a Stormwater Program Manager to lead our technical stormwater initiatives. If you're a passionate environmental leader with expertise in stormwater management, water quality, research, and community science, this role is for you! You'll spearhead projects that improve Rhode Island's waterways, driving positive change through cutting-edge research, impactful training, and hands-on community science.

Visit [stormwaterinnovation.org/jobs](http://stormwaterinnovation.org/jobs) for more information.

# PROJECT UPDATES



## BARRINGTON LAND TRUST POLLINATOR PATHWAYS

On Tuesday, September 10th, 14 dedicated members of the Student Stewardship Team from the Barrington Land Conservation Trust planted 275 native pollinator plants at Barrington Middle School. The new teaching garden, a project led by BMS teacher Julia Texeira, is designed to connect students with their local environment and protect ecosystems.

Approved by the Barrington School Committee in May 2024, the project started as a zero-budget, student-powered effort. With support from the Stormwater Innovation Center, which funded the plants donated by Prickly Ed's Cactus Patch, the students transformed an area bordering the school's wetland into a pollinator garden. High school senior Connor Curran played a key role, dedicating over 20 hours to removing invasive species and preparing the site as part of his senior project.



**CONNOR CURRAN WITH BARRINGTON SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ROBERT WARGO**



This garden will serve as an outdoor classroom, offering students the opportunity to learn about native plants and the vital role pollinators play in maintaining biodiversity. The garden's design also has environmental benefits—by incorporating native plants, it helps filter precipitation, reduce stormwater runoff, and prevent erosion before water reaches storm drains that lead to Narragansett Bay. This installation showcases how green infrastructure, like native plantings, can positively impact water quality.





# EVENTS



## 2024 RAIN HARVEST FESTIVAL

This past weekend, the Stormwater Innovation Center hosted the Rain Harvest Festival at the Botanical Center Pavillion—a day filled with community, education, and fun!

The festival began with a land acknowledgment by Thawn Harris, who honored the traditional homelands of the Narragansett people and their enduring connection to the land and water. This set the tone for a day focused on our shared responsibility to protect the environment. We were treated to captivating storytelling from the Rhode Island Black Storytellers (RIBS), where tales of nature and culture came to life, and enjoyed local folk music from Atwater-Donnelly. Local artist Savonnara Alexander Sok, from AS220, also created a mural illustrating themes of aquatic life and green infrastructure.

Visitors engaged in interactive tables from organizations, like Save the Bay and The Nature Conservancy, and local vendors, providing hands-on learning opportunities. Attendees were also encouraged to tap into their own creativity with crafts and sidewalk chalk art pieces. We are grateful to everyone who attended and helped make this event a success!

## STORMWATER EXPO PRESENTERS

Meet the experts driving the conversation at this year's Stormwater Expo! These leaders are committed to advancing sustainable water management and environmental innovation across Rhode Island. Stormwater Innovation Center is proud to co-host this annual event alongside the Green Infrastructure Coalition. Below, you'll find the logos of some of the key groups represented by our speakers. Be sure to check out more details about the expo later in this newsletter!



# COMMUNITY



## RAPTOR WEEKEND

This month, the Stormwater Innovation Center participated in Audubon Society's Raptor Weekend. Families engaged with our interactive watershed model, learning how pollution enters local waterways and discovering ways to help prevent it at home. We're passionate about educating the community to keep our water clean and protect local wildlife. A big thank you to Audubon for hosting another fantastic event and to everyone who visited our table!

## URI'S SCIENCE SATURDAY

We had a fantastic time participating in URI's Graduate School of Oceanography's Science Saturday this past weekend! This family-friendly event, organized by the URI Coastal Institute, offered a fun and educational opportunity to engage with the community about stormwater management and its vital role in protecting both our oceans and local water bodies.

At our station, families explored the impacts of stormwater runoff using our hands-on watershed model, which visually demonstrated how stormwater carries pollutants from streets and neighborhoods into nearby rivers and eventually into the ocean. The model helped illustrate why managing stormwater is so important for water quality.

Heather Kinney from The Nature Conservancy also spoke about cyanobacteria—harmful algal blooms found in ponds and lakes, including those in Roger Williams Park. Her demonstration highlighted the importance of managing runoff to prevent these outbreaks.

Participants also learned how simple actions at home—like installing rain gardens, using rain barrels, and reducing the use of harmful chemicals—can help manage stormwater and prevent pollutants from reaching our waterways. These small but effective green infrastructure practices reduce runoff, minimize erosion, and contribute to healthier ecosystems.





# JOIN US!



## STORMWATER INNOVATION EXPO

OCTOBER 16TH, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Join the Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition and the Stormwater Innovation Center for the Sixth Annual Stormwater Innovation Expo. This is a great opportunity to discover new and innovative products and services being used in the construction and maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure across Rhode Island and the industry. General admission tickets include lunch and a light breakfast. Sponsorships and exhibition opportunities are available, contact [gerritt@mindspring.com](mailto:gerritt@mindspring.com) for information. Register [HERE!](#)



### BECOME A RAINSNAP VOLUNTEER

New sites have been added and we are still seeking volunteers!

- ✓ Take Videos During Rain Events
- ✓ Help Monitor Green Infrastructure
- ✓ Inform Decision Makers
- ✓ Help Keep Our Water Clean
- ✓ Quick & Easy Training Process
- ✓ Need An Umbrella And Smartphone

Register today at <https://rainsnap.org/join-rainsnap/>



## STAY IN TOUCH



### FOLLOW & VISIT

- [@stormwaterinnovationcenter](https://www.instagram.com/stormwaterinnovationcenter)
- [Stormwater Innovation Center](https://www.facebook.com/StormwaterInnovationCenter)
- [stormwaterinnovation.org](https://www.stormwaterinnovation.org)

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact [reeves@asri.org](mailto:reeves@asri.org) for more information!



Stormwater Innovation Center