

»»» NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER «««

STORMWATER INNOVATION CENTER

Monitoring | Training | Community Engagement | Collaboration



WHAT'S NEW?



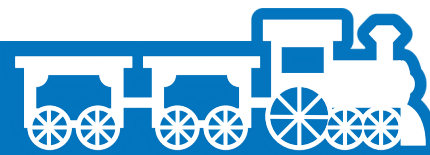
NEWSLETTER UPDATES

As we wrap up the year, we're excited to share that this will be our final newsletter for 2024! Starting in the new year, we'll be switching to quarterly newsletters to bring you even more in-depth updates on our projects and impact.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year — we look forward to reconnecting in 2025!

»» PROJECT UPDATES ««

TREATMENT TRAIN MONITORING UPDATE



Exciting progress is happening at Roger Williams Park! In collaboration with Contech Engineered Solutions, Pare Corporation, Providence Parks Department, the University of Rhode Island, and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, we have installed sensors and equipment designed to monitor water flow and quality within the Treatment Train system. These tools allow us to collect real-time data during storms, offering a clearer picture of how effectively the system is functioning in managing and treating stormwater.



And now that it has finally rained, we're beginning to see the system in action! This rainfall has allowed us to start analyzing its performance under real-world conditions, giving us valuable insights into its efficiency and capacity. The data gathered will help fine-tune the system, ensuring it operates at peak performance and continues to contribute to cleaner, healthier waterways.



PROJECT UPDATES



GEESE MANAGEMENT AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK



In 2012, a survey of Canadian geese estimated a population of over 600 residing in Roger Williams Park. Their presence contributes significantly to phosphorus pollution in the ponds due to their fecal matter, with an estimated 154 pounds of phosphorus added to the ponds annually. This pollution exacerbates algae blooms and diminishes water quality. Despite efforts such as egg addling, public education campaigns, signage discouraging feeding, and vegetation plantings at the pond edges, managing the geese population remains a challenge.

To better understand the effectiveness of these management efforts, we are reassessing the impact of current geese management strategies and public education programs. A new initiative involves a community science geese population survey, developed in collaboration with Jessy Minker and Dr. Charles Clarkson of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. Volunteers will conduct weekly surveys around the pond perimeters, counting geese and documenting instances of feeding, including the types of food being offered to the geese.



Additionally, innovative approaches, such as drone surveys, are being considered to complement on-the-ground data collection. While the survey details are still being finalized, the program will also include a partnership with URI and Sunshine Menendez's Environmental Communications class to create strategies for engaging and educating the public on the connection between geese and water quality issues.

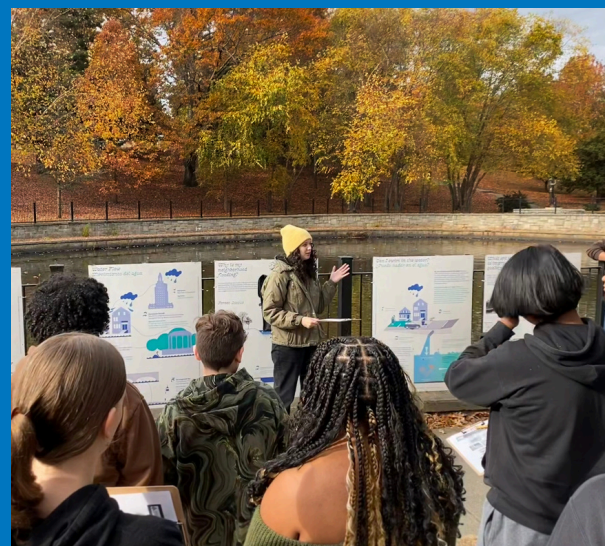
This comprehensive effort aims to develop more effective solutions for geese management while fostering environmental stewardship among park visitors and the broader community. Stay tuned on how to get involved as a volunteer!

COMMUNITY

THE MET SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS TOUR

The Stormwater Innovation Center hosted sophomores from The Met High School for a guided tour of the green infrastructure in Roger Williams Park. These students are part of the Environmental Leaders program, a year-long initiative led by the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) that empowers them to learn about environmental challenges in their communities through hands-on experiences and in-class sessions.

This tour marked the students' final field trip before they begin crafting individual research projects that connect their personal, professional, and environmental interests.



EPA EDUCATION GRANT FUNDING

The Stormwater Innovation Center is excited to announce funding from an EPA Education Grant to use Roger Williams Park as a hands-on place-based stormwater and water quality learning center from February 2025 to April 2026. This initiative will engage students, young adults, and community members in exploring stormwater management, urban water quality challenges, and green infrastructure solutions.

A new Stormwater Education Coordinator will lead the program, collaborating with five key partners: Below and Above Collective, Movement Education Outdoors, Building Futures, Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership, and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council—each receiving \$5,000 for their contributions.

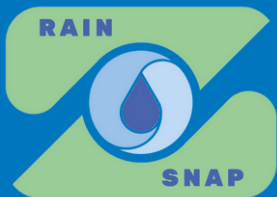
The project will conclude with our annual Rain Harvest Festival, showcasing best practices for stormwater management at home and celebrating collective efforts.

To learn more about the Stormwater Education Coordinator position:

[CLICK HERE](#)



»»» GET INVOLVED «««



VOLUNTEER WITH RAINSNAP

Are you passionate about protecting local waterways? RainSnap invites you to get involved in a unique community science initiative where your observations make a difference!

As a RainSnap volunteer, you'll document stormwater flow at green infrastructure sites during heavy rain events using your smartphone. These videos are uploaded to RainSnap.org, where they're used by stormwater professionals like city planners, engineers, and environmental scientists to optimize stormwater management and keep pollution out of our waterways.

No prior experience is required! By volunteering, you'll contribute valuable data and join a community dedicated to making a cleaner, greener future.



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

»»» STAY IN TOUCH «««

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INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact rreeves@asri.org for more information!



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