

**Narragansett Bay Commission**

**NACWA National Environmental Achievement Member Spotlight**

**Category: Community Leadership**

**Title: Narragansett Bay Commission's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects in Central Falls, RI**

**Member Spotlight:**

As a part of the third and final phase of its Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Project, the Narragansett Bay Commission worked with the City of Central Falls, RI---identified as an environmental justice area---to determine potential sites for Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects in the densely populated community.

Four projects have been completed so far, including two soccer fields, a baseball field, a basketball court, and a riverfront park. They showcase the effectiveness of several types of GSI systems, provide aesthetic and safety benefits, and have reasonable maintenance requirements. The projects had the added advantages of being in a concentrated area, being of diverse sizes and uses, and having the ability to be retrofit to the existing landscape to maximize the potential stormwater capture. These projects add much needed urban green space to the City and even provided the Central Falls High School Warriors a home soccer field for the first time in over a decade.

In addition to diverting an estimated 900,000 gallons of stormwater annually to the NBC's combined sewer system, the project offers numerous benefits to the NBC and the ratepayers of Central Falls, including water quality improvements in the adjacent Blackstone River, added resiliency against increasing storm intensity, and the removal of contaminated soils from the City's recreational areas, all of which will enhance redevelopment in Central Falls. The project also opened up new avenues of communication, collaboration, and shared trust between the NBC and the City.

# Narragansett Bay Commission's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects in Central Falls, Rhode Island



The Narragansett Bay Commission



Water Quality Improvements

Reduced Combined Sewer Overflows

Reduced Stormwater Flows to WWTF

Resiliency Against  
Increasing Storm Intensity

Environmental Cleanup

Urban Redevelopment

Collaboration and Shared Trust