



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2019-20



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OUR VISION

The Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District strives to promote and improve long-lasting and environmentally-friendly practices that protect natural resources such as soil, water, and air.

OUR MISSION

The Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District aims to meet its vision through outreach, education, help with environmental questions, and financial assistance. We work with a variety of people and groups including farmers, landowners, cities, towns, schools, and others in the community.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Beverly Migliore, Barrington

Robert Carr, Tiverton

Nancy Parker Wilson, Portsmouth

Brenda Mottram, Tiverton

Jessica Freedman, Tiverton

Emerson Wildes, Little Compton

STAFF

Sara Churgin - District Manager

Kevin Ormerod, Laura Vigil, Dennis Milbourne, Nate Lucas - Agricultural Technicians

Lauren Carson - Stormwater Outreach & Implementation

STORMWATER MITIGATION & OUTDOOR LEARNING ACTIVITY ZONE AT MELVILLE SCHOOL PORTSMOUTH, RI

Rain gardens capture rainwater carrying pollutants such as fertilizer and pesticides, allowing it to more naturally absorb into the ground. They can be large or small. The installation at garden Melville Elementary School in Portsmouth takes up 1/3 of the school's back field. It collects polluted stormwater that would normally flow into Melville Pond, an integral water source in the Narragansett Bay Watershed. This project was made possible by a partnership between ERICD, Melville, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and Thrive Outside.

It is also a wonderful resource for our community! While it is working to absorb excess water, it is also a beautiful place to take a stroll and enjoy nature.

In addition to the environmental benefits, this stormwater mitigation project serves as an Outdoor Learning Activity Zone with an outdoor classroom. The outdoor space allows students to learn safely while adhering social distancing protocols.

Uniquely, anyone can enjoy this garden because it is fully handicap accessible!



HOOGENDOORN NURSERIES

MIDDLETOWN, RI



In partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, and the RI Department of Environmental Management, ERICD completed a Green Stormwater Infrastructure project at Hoogendoorn Nurseries in Middletown. This nursery's location on a hillside causes stormwater runoff from agricultural operations to drain onto adjacent Berkeley Avenue, causing drainage problems on this public road, before draining into the Maidford River.

This BMP (Best Management Practice) will collect and slow down polluted stormwater, allowing it to soak more naturally into the ground. This project redirects stormwater from flowing down the Maidford River before it reaches Narragansett Bay.



RESIDENTIAL RAIN GARDEN PROJECT

AQUIDNECK ISLAND

In the Spring of 2019, eight rain gardens were installed at residences across Aquidneck Island. Residences were carefully selected based on the impact of the rain garden, as well as visibility for the community to learn about rain gardens.

These sites serve as models for neighborhoods from Newport to Portsmouth with ways residential homeowners can protect stormwater and the Bay by capturing stormwater on their property.



COMMUNITY CENTER RAIN GARDEN

PORTSMOUTH, RI

A large rain garden at Common Fence Point Community Center in Portsmouth is beautifying the landscape for the community while absorbing stormwater runoff.

The garden was installed by a team of volunteers who generously donated their time for the installation, including excavation, backfilling with rocks and mulch, and finally – placing and planting native plants. In addition to capturing polluted stormwater, this rain garden provides much needed habitat for flowers and insects.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TIVERTON, RI

This Summer, ERICD reached over 3,000 community members at the Tiverton Farmers Market. Jessica Freedman, ERICD Board of Directors Member, distributed materials about ERICD and has offered additional resources including a composting demonstration. Funds were raised with a weekly raffle prize generously donated by local businesses and artists.



AGINNOVATION FARM

PORTSMOUTH, RI

An exciting new project has sprouted up in Portsmouth!

The AgInnovation Farm in Portsmouth is a student volunteer-run farm that aims for kids to learn about agriculture with hands-on problem solving experiences. Similar to Melville Elementary School, it will include an outdoor classroom. The land for this farm is leased by Cloverbud Ranch.

Portsmouth Middle School, our volunteers, and many others have donated time, money, and resources to create a farm where our children can learn about sustainable agriculture.

Unfortunately, as of Fall 2020, the project is on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to pick up where we left off, whenever it is safe to do so.



P O R T S M O U T H

Ag INNOVATION

F A R M

WORLD PLOGGING DAY FUNDRAISER ANYWHERE!

April 25th is World Plogging Day. Plogging is a combination of jogging with picking up litter (Swedish: plocka upp). It started as an organized activity in Sweden around 2016 and spread to other countries in 2018, following increased concern about plastic pollution.

This year, we held a COVID-friendly plogging fundraiser, where people around the country plogged in their own neighborhoods and tagged us on social media in their photos. This was an effort to raise awareness about plastic pollution, clean up our neighborhoods, and fundraise for ERICD.



The board rated the best photos for the following categories: 1) best plog/plack selfie, 2) most trash collected, and 3) most interesting find. Prizes were awarded to a winner of each category, donated by Greenvale Vineyards, Happy Earth Apparel, and Green Island Co.

We plan to hold the event again this upcoming World Plogging Day.



FY2019-20 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

EASTERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Support and Revenue

Grants.....	\$197,938.21
Municipal Income.....	\$4,500.00
State Funding.....	\$5,545.85
PPP.....	\$25,089.14
Fundraising.....	\$288.00
Total.....	\$233,361.20

Expenses

Program Services.....	\$137,939.60
Management & General.....	\$35,444.25
Total.....	\$173,383.85

Net Assets.....\$59,977.35