



NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **R.I. Rivers Council Awards NRPA Grant to Study River Data**

Suanderstown, R.I., January 2 2012 – The Rhode Island Rivers Council has awarded the Narrow River Preservation Association a \$3,500 grant to fund development and publication of a report on long-term trends in water quality in Narrow River based on the 20 years of data collected in the NRPA River Watch Program.

The River Watch Program, which is part of the URI Watershed Watch Program, is comprised of volunteer river monitors who test water quality at 14 locations in the Narrow River Watershed from Gilbert Stuart Stream in the north to Mumford Brook in the south, from May to early October. Measurements of dissolved oxygen and temperature are made every two weeks. Additionally, water samples are collected for analysis of salinity, chlorophyll, bacteria and nutrients. The monitoring results are recorded and mailed to the University of Rhode Island. Five times during the season the volunteers also collect water samples that they immediately bring to the URI Watershed Watch Laboratory for analysis of nutrients and bacteria.

The Rivers Council grant will fund creation of a database of the river data in Excel spreadsheet format, which is commonly used for data analysis and provides a feed for more sophisticated graphic applications. The trend analysis will focus on bacteria, nutrients and salinity. The NRPA team plans to correlate the river data with weather records and other historical data. The resulting database will be shared with other groups. The goal is to create a preliminary report by mid-June and a final report in time for the next NRPA Annual Meeting.

For additional information about Narrow River Preservation Association, including the River Watch Program, visit the NRPA website ([www.NarrowRiver.org](http://www.NarrowRiver.org)).

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