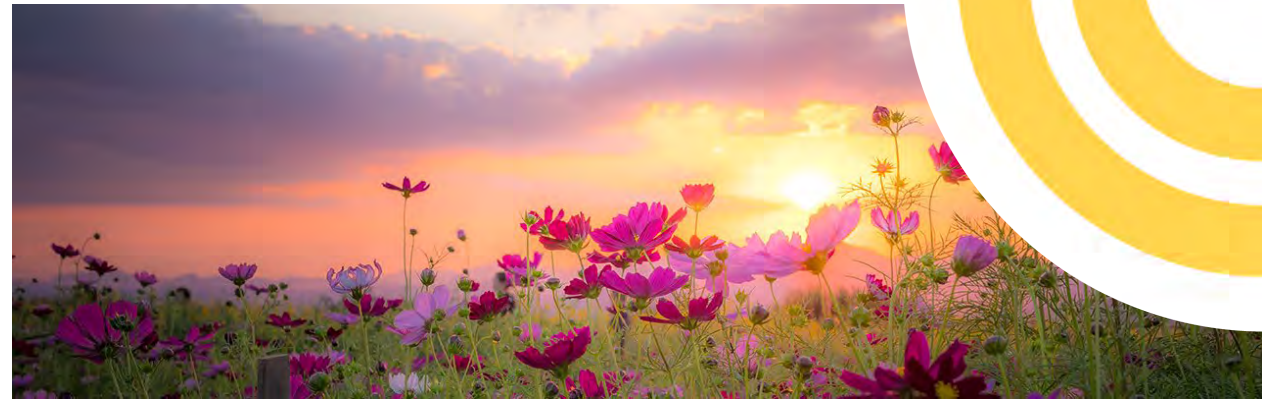




Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Rhode Island State Technical Committee

8/27/2025

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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Contact

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Programs Team Report

8/27/2025 Leadership Report

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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Financial Assistance (FA) Farm Bill Programs



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Fiscal Year 2025 Allocations by Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- \$11,424,489

Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)

- \$126,000

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- \$1,513,000

Fiscal Year 2025 Obligations by Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Obligated: \$8,997,440
- Contracts: 207
- Apps Received: 235

Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)

- Obligated: \$118,239
- Contracts: 7
- Apps Received: 36

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Obligated: \$1,188,390.00
- Contracts: 43
- Apps Received: 51

Total Applications Received: 322

Total Contracts Obligated: 257

Strong conversion rate: $\approx$ 80% Overall



FY25 Obligations by District

Program	Eastern		Northern		Southern	
	Contracts	Obligation	Contracts	Obligation	Contracts	Obligation
AMA	1	\$ 20,765.00	4	\$ 77,605.00	2	\$ 19,869.00
ACEP-WRE	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
ACEP-ALE	0	\$ -	1	\$ 1,030,000.00	1	\$ 237,500.00
CSP	13	\$ 450,775.00	18	\$ 507,395.00	12	\$ 230,220.00
EQIP	42	\$ 1,690,137.11	80	\$ 2,912,574.80	81	\$ 4,377,280.58
RCPP	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	2	\$ 293,500.00
Total Obligation	\$ 2,161,677.11		\$ 4,527,574.80		\$ 5,299,281.58	

Over \$11.9M invested!



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FY25 Spending Plan

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FY25 EQIP Fund Pools

Fund Pool	FY25 Allocation	FY25 Re-Allocations	FY25 Obligation
Urban Ag	\$ 185,108.00	\$ (14,276.93) ↓	\$ 170,831.07
Organic Transition (OTI)	\$ 25,000.00	No re-allocation	\$ -
Act Now CNMP Implementation	\$ 900,000.00	\$ (452,652.28) ↓	\$ 447,347.72
Organic Initiative	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 2,409.00 ↑	\$ 27,409.00
National On Farm Energy	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 6,076.58 ↑	\$ 81,076.58
LWG NORTHERN	\$ 1,676,038.00	\$ 509,862.98 ↑	\$ 2,185,900.98
LWG SOUTHERN	\$ 1,257,031.00	\$ 1,050,166.29 ↑	\$ 2,307,197.29
LWG EASTERN	\$ 1,257,029.00	\$ (358,231.90) ↓	\$ 898,797.10
National Water Quality Initiative	\$ 410,168.00	\$ (392,720.00) ↓	\$ 17,448.00
ACT Now Combustion System & Energy Initiative	\$ 284,231.17	\$ 8,995.68 ↑	\$ 293,226.85
CIC Crop	\$ 318,131.06	\$ (318,131.06) ↓	\$ -
CIG			
Reserve + Unobligated	\$ 254,504.85	\$ 123,034.48	
Emergency	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 670.16	

FY25 EQIP Fund Pools

Fund Pool	FY25 Allocation	FY25 Re-Allocations	FY25 Obligation
ACT Now IRA Combustion Systems and Energy Initiative	\$ -	No re-allocation	\$ -
IRA General	\$ 2,551,657.20	\$ (2,551,365.20)	\$ 292.00
IRA EQIP Oyster Reef Restoration TYPICAL	\$ 1,980,837.00	\$ (7,120.00)	\$ 1,973,717.00
IRA Oyster Reef Restoration LARGE	\$ 648,813.00	\$ (59,258.00)	\$ 89,555.00

FY26 Proposed EQIP Fund Pools

 = NHQ Mandated Programs in FY25

	Fund Pool	Percent of FY25 Allocation	Proposed 2026 Allocation
	Urban Ag	3%	0%
★	Organic Transition (OTI)	0%	0.4%
	Act Now CNMP Implementation	7%	0%
★	Organic Initiative	0%	0.4%
★	National On Farm Energy	1%	1%
	LWG NORTHERN	33%	30%
	LWG SOUTHERN	35%	35%
	LWG EASTERN	14%	11%
★	National Water Quality Initiative	0%	\$547,543.00
	ACT NOW FB COMBUSTION SYSTEM ENERGY INITIA	4%	0%
★	CIC Crop	0%	5%
★	CIG	0%	5%
	Reserve + Unobligated	2%	3%
★	Emergency	1%	1%

FY25 Practices



Combustion System Improvement



Restoration of Rare or Declining
Natural Communities

FY 25 Funded Practices & Activities **by Obligation**

	Practice name	Total Funds Obligated
1	Combustion System Improvement	\$ 3,672,772.42
2	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	\$ 2,558,584.00
3	Long-Term Protection of Land - Permanent Easement	\$ 1,267,500.00
4	High Tunnel System	\$ 610,061.80
5	Roofs and Covers	\$ 297,556.00
6	Access Road	\$ 177,706.00
7	Waste Storage Facility	\$ 162,297.00
8	Heavy Use Area Protection	\$ 125,720.00
9	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	\$ 115,494.03
10	Low Tunnel Systems	\$ 98,928.00
11	Water Well	\$ 90,230.00
12	Forest Stand Improvement	\$ 84,614.00
13	Fence	\$ 79,255.00
14	Lined Waterway or Outlet	\$ 77,448.00
15	Forest Trails and Landings	\$ 73,402.00
16	Forest Management Plan	\$ 69,406.70
17	Brush Management	\$ 64,763.65
18	Woody Residue Treatment	\$ 62,254.10
19	Tree/Shrub Establishment	\$ 56,274.27
20	Composting Facility	\$ 51,261.00
21	Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation	\$ 51,247.00
22	Pasture and Hay Planting	\$ 43,318.00
23	Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control	\$ 39,523.00
24	Underground Outlet	\$ 38,239.00
25	Pumping Plant	\$ 29,380.00



High Tunnel



Access Road



Heavy Use Area Protection

FY25 Practices



Livestock Pipeline



Cover Crop

FY 25 Funded Practices & Activities by Obligation		
	Practice name	Total Funds Obligated
26	Livestock Pipeline	\$ 28,429.00
27	Soil Health Testing	\$ 26,426.40
28	CNMP Design and Implementation Activity	\$ 25,216.00
29	Roof Runoff Structure	\$ 25,163.00
30	Agricultural Energy Assessment	\$ 23,321.00
31	Mulching	\$ 22,519.80
32	Access Control	\$ 21,351.00
33	Energy Efficient Building Envelope	\$ 19,673.00
34	Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food	\$ 17,322.00
35	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	\$ 17,300.00
36	Fuel Break	\$ 17,128.00
37	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	\$ 16,512.00
38	Structures for Wildlife	\$ 15,472.37
39	Well Decommissioning	\$ 13,730.00
40	Obstruction Removal	\$ 12,786.72
41	Stormwater Runoff Control	\$ 10,969.00
42	Early Successional Habitat Development-Mgt	\$ 8,984.00
43	Irrigation Pipeline	\$ 8,215.00
44	Wildlife Habitat Planting	\$ 6,992.00
45	Dry Hydrant	\$ 5,971.00
46	Diversion	\$ 5,746.00
47	Watering Facility	\$ 4,491.00
48	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	\$ 4,417.00
49	Cover Crop	\$ 4,289.00
50	Forest Management Assessment	\$ 4,217.00



Mulching



Structure for Wildlife

FY25 Practices



Irrigation Pipeline



Pasture & Hayland Planting

FY 25 Funded Practices & Activities by Obligation

	Practice name	Total Funds Obligated
51	Waste Transfer	\$ 3,677.00
52	Creating structural diversity with patch openings	\$ 3,608.00
53	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	\$ 3,054.00
54	Raised Beds	\$ 2,993.00
55	Subsurface Drain	\$ 2,397.00
56	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation	\$ 2,296.00
57	Critical Area Planting	\$ 1,814.00
58	Forage and biomass planting to reduce soil erosion or increase organic matter to build soil health	\$ 1,682.00
59	Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management	\$ 1,461.43
60	Trails and Walkways	\$ 1,356.00
61	Conservation Cover	\$ 1,185.00
62	Sediment Basin	\$ 977.00
63	Mulching with natural materials in specialty crops for weed control	\$ 763.00
64	Snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris for wildlife habitat	\$ 398.00
65	Cultural plantings	\$ 310.00
66	Planting for high carbon sequestration rate	\$ 275.00
67	Brush management to improve wildlife habitat	\$ 264.00
68	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter	\$ 197.00
69	Edge feathering for wildlife cover	\$ 114.00
70	Adding food-producing trees and shrubs to existing plantings	\$ 90.00
71	Reduce forest density and manage understory along roads to limit wildfire risk and improve habitat	\$ 86.00
72	Maintaining and improving forest soil quality	\$ 48.00
73	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction	\$ 44.00
74	Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site	\$ 42.00
75	Resource conserving crop rotation	\$ 39.00
76	Filter Strip	\$ 35.00
77	Mulching to improve soil health	\$ 13.00
78	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles	\$ 5.00
79	Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review First Review	\$ -
80	Acquisition Process - Environmental Database Records Search	\$ -

FY25 Practices



Forest Trails/Landings (Temp. Stream Crossing)



Forest Trails/Landings (Trail)

FY 25 Funded Practices & Activities by Count		
	Practice name	Instances Practice was funded
1	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	104
2	Mulching	82
3	Structures for Wildlife	69
4	Brush Management	68
5	Combustion System Improvement	49
6	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	42
7	Tree/Shrub Establishment	41
8	Soil Health Testing	33
9	Low Tunnel Systems	33
10	Forest Management Plan	32
11	High Tunnel System	31
12	Energy Efficient Building Envelope	25
13	Cover Crop	25
14	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	21
15	Forest Stand Improvement	21
16	Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation	19
17	Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food	17
18	Critical Area Planting	16
19	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter	15
20	Fence	14
21	Access Control	14
22	Heavy Use Area Protection	13
23	Brush management to improve wildlife habitat	13
24	Stormwater Runoff Control	13
25	Forest Trails and Landings	12

FY25 Practices



Tree/Shrub Establishment



Watering Facility

FY 25 Funded Practices & Activities by Count		
	Practice name	Instances Practice was funded
26	Mulching with natural materials in specialty crops for weed control	12
27	Roof Runoff Structure	10
28	Pasture and Hay Planting	10
29	Mulching to improve soil health	10
30	Underground Outlet	9
31	Watering Facility	9
32	Access Road	7
33	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction	7
34	Pumping Plant	7
35	Water Well	7
36	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	6
37	Wildlife Habitat Planting	6
38	Woody Residue Treatment	6
39	Lined Waterway or Outlet	6
40	Irrigation Pipeline	5
41	Livestock Pipeline	4
42	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	4
43	Agricultural Energy Assessment	4
44	Roofs and Covers	4
45	Snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris for wildlife habitat	4
46	CNMP Design and Implementation Activity	4
47	Resource conserving crop rotation	3
48	Composting Facility	3
49	Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control	3
50	Conservation Cover	3

FY25 Practices



Herbaceous Weed Treatment



Forest Stand Improvement

	FY 25 Funded Practices & Activities by Count	
	Practice name	Instances Practice was funded
51	Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site	3
52	Creating structural diversity with patch openings	3
53	Forage and biomass planting to reduce soil erosion or increase organic matter to build soil health	3
54	Forest Management Assessment	3
55	Obstruction Removal	3
56	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	3
57	Adding food-producing trees and shrubs to existing plantings	2
58	Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review First Review	2
59	Well Decommissioning	2
60	Diversion	2
61	Acquisition Process - Environmental Database Records Search	2
62	Long-Term Protection of Land - Permanent Easement	2
63	Waste Storage Facility	2
64	Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management	2
65	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation	2
66	Fuel Break	2
67	Waste Transfer	1
68	Filter Strip	1
69	Reduce forest density and manage understory along roads to limit wildfire risk and improve habitat	1
70	Dry Hydrant	1
71	Subsurface Drain	1
72	Maintaining and improving forest soil quality	1
73	Raised Beds	1
74	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles	1
75	Trails and Walkways	1
76	Planting for high carbon sequestration rate	1
77	Sediment Basin	1
78	Early Successional Habitat Development-Mgt	1
79	Cultural plantings	1
80	Edge feathering for wildlife cover	1

CSP Fund Pools Obligations

CSP		
Gen Agland Eastern	\$	251,247.00
Gen Agland Northern	\$	227,365.00
Gen Agland Southern	\$	40,000.00
NIPF Gen Eastern	\$	76,729.00
NIPF Gen Northern	\$	105,069.00
NIPF Gen Southern	\$	20,000.00
Renewal Agland	\$	201,651.00
Renewal NIPF	\$	266,329.00
Grand Total	\$	1,188,390.00

* CSP funding distributions will utilize the Local Work Group percentages in FY26



AMA Fund Pools Obligations

AMA

- **High Tunnel Practices**
- \$96,754
- #5 Contracts
- **Irrigation Practices**
- \$21,485
- #2 Contracts



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Easement Programs

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Easement Programs



Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE)



Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



Fiscal Year 2025 Easement Allocations

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE)

- \$1,267,500
- Original: \$556,074.00
- Additional Funds: \$711,426

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)

- \$137,826
- Original: \$542,616
- Returned Funds: \$404,790

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Forest Health Works Project

- \$579,077 (US Held)
- \$1,068,388 (Entity Held)



Fiscal Year 2025 Easement Obligations

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE)

- \$1,267,500
- Contracts: 2
- Apps Received: 2

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)

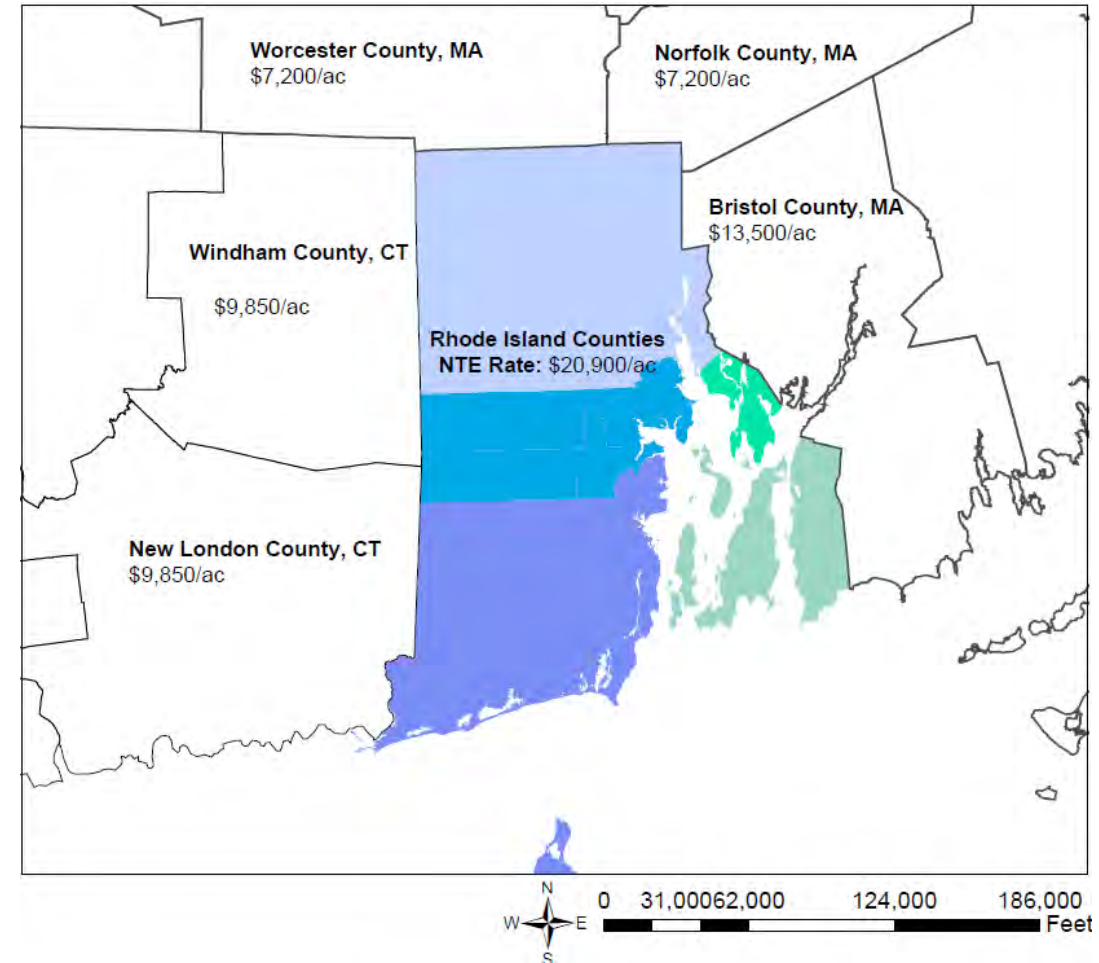
- \$0
- Contracts: 0
- Apps Received: 1

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Forest Health Works Project

- \$303,172
- Contracts: 2
- USH Apps Received: 33
- EHE Apps Received: 7

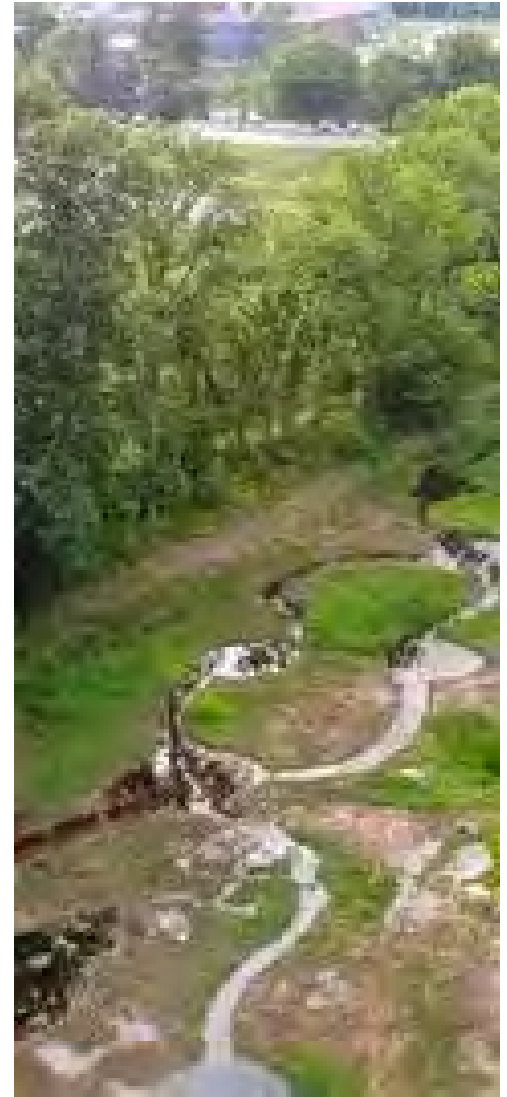
FY26 Geographical Area Rate Cap (GARC)

- The GARC is developed yearly to inform compensation rates for the ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements
- In RI, WRE targets habitat areas most ideal for saltmarsh sparrow, northern diamondback terrapin, wood turtle, and spotted turtle; all eligible land is considered as well.
- **The FY26 Proposed NTE Rate is \$20,900/acre.** This is a \$950/acre increase from FY2025.

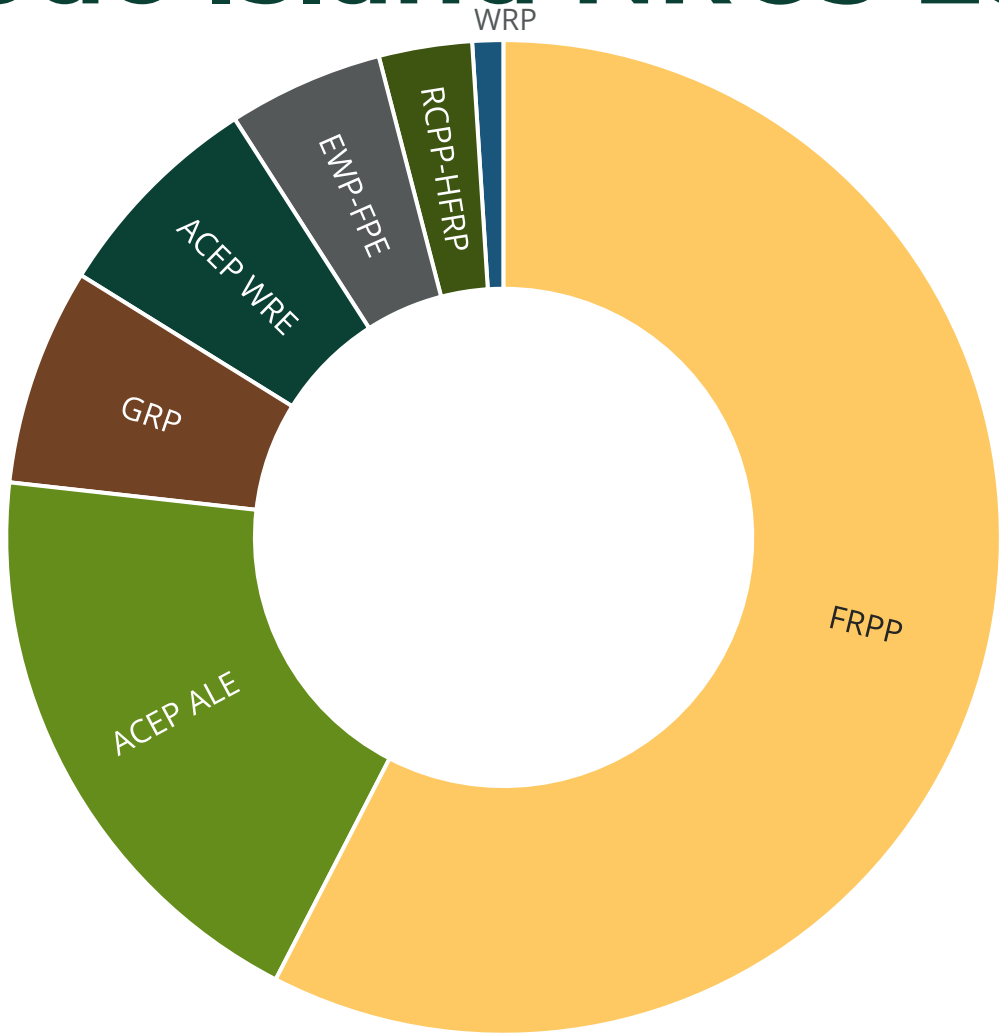


Special Project: EWPP-FPE

- NRCS received approval from the Deputy Chief of Programs to acquire six parcels impacted by a failed flood mitigation structure
- In partnership with the Town of West Warwick, NRCS will place an easement across each of the six parcels, the town will purchase the residual value of the land/structure, purchasing the property in full from the impacted landowner
- These homes will be demolished, and the land will be restored to floodplain
- Estimated project cost is \$3,203,129
- Acquisition of parcels to begin in FY2026



Rhode Island NRCS Easement Portfolio



Program	# Easements	Approx. Acres (ac)
ACEP ALE	19	404
ACEP WRE	7	478
FRPP	57	2,866
WRP	1	30
RCPP-HFRP	3	275
GRP	7	119
EWP-FPE	5	111
Total	99	4,265

- ✓ 33 U.S. held (stewardship) easements monitored
- ✓ 2 violations remediated
- ✓ 6 violations active

What would you like to see?

- Practices you would like us to prioritize?
- Are there emerging natural resource concerns and program needs?
- Do you have Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications?
- Areas or initiatives you would like us to consider?
- Other Topics?

Subcommittee Groups

Specialized Subcommittees	Program or Topic	Task
FA Program Ranking	EQIP, CSP, AMA	Provide input to develop State ranking criteria and make recommendations to the State Technical Committee.
Easement Program Ranking	ACEP ALE, ACEP WRE	Provide input to develop State ranking criteria and make recommendations to the State Technical Committee.
Conservation Easement Geographic Rate Subcommittee	ACEP-WRE and EWP-FPE	Develop recommendations for the geographic area rate cap and present it to the State Technical Committee.
Priority Watershed Subcommittee/Source Water	All programs	Recommend priority watersheds for focusing funding for effective use of available resources
State Forestry Subcommittee	All programs	Provide recommendations to the State Technical Committee on forestry conservation practices and payment rates to be supported in conservation programs.
Payment Schedule Subcommittee	All programs	Provide recommendations for practices and program payment percentages for conservation programs that support program objectives and State and local priorities



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Flood Prevention (WFPO) and Disaster Recovery (EWP) Update

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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

Preliminary Investigation Findings Report

6-12 Months

Watershed Plan-EA/EIS

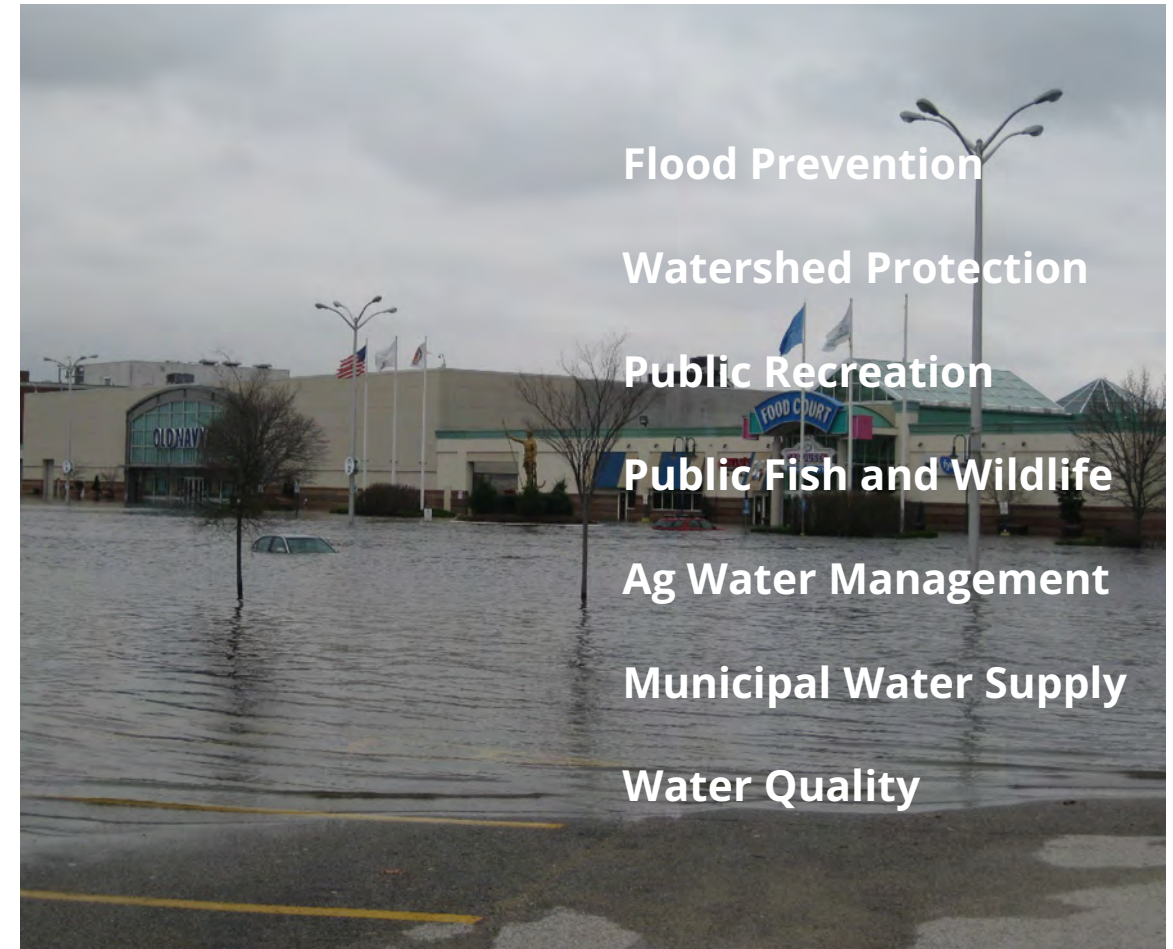
18 Months

Design and Permitting

1-2 Years

Construction/Implementation

2-5 Years





Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Request for Assistance

60 Days

Damage Survey Report

60 Days

Construction/Implementation

220 Days



Debris Removal

Streambank Protection

Drainage Facilities

Vegetative Cover

Levees and Structures

Conservation Practices

Property Buyouts



Sponsor Requirements: Eligibility and Responsibilities

State, Indian Tribe, Local Government

Permits and Licenses

Legal Interest and Responsibility

Authority to Levy Taxes

Power of Eminent Domain

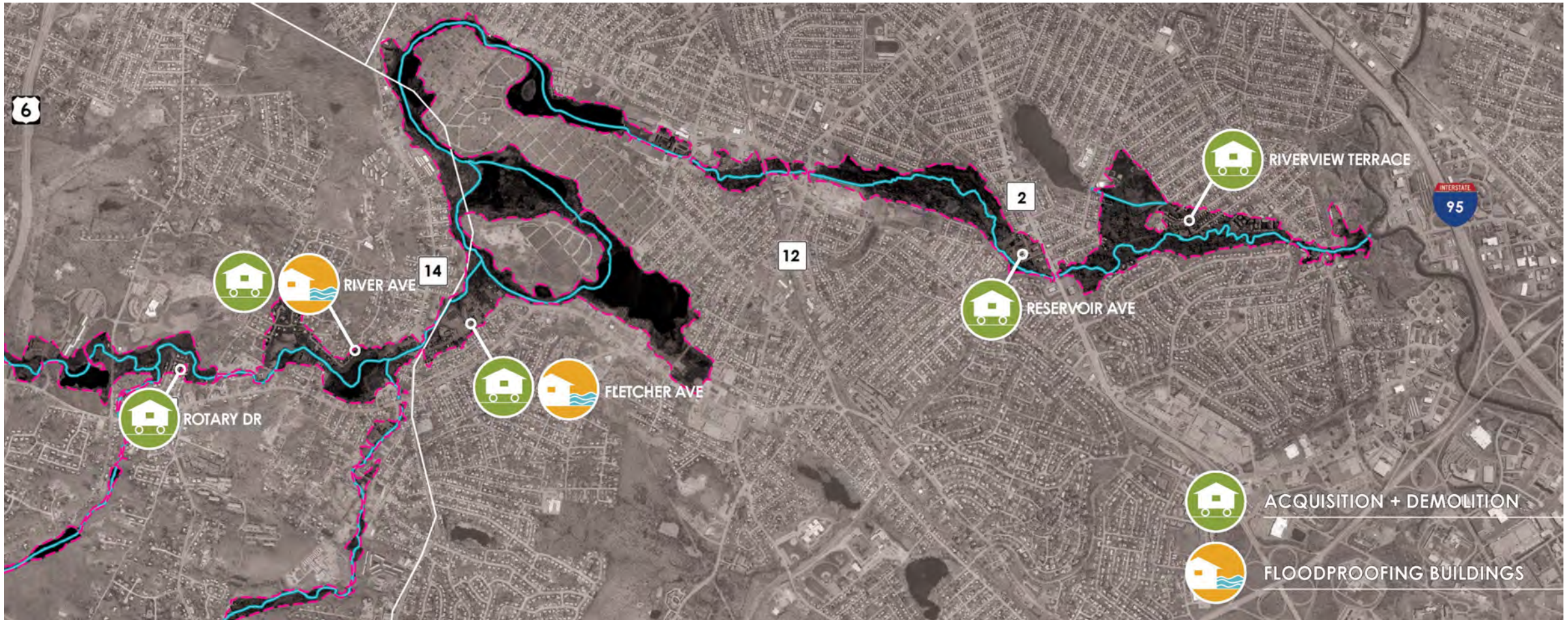
Financial Commitment

Land or Real Property Rights

Operation and Maintenance



Pocasset River Flood Damage Reduction Project







Buyouts: East Providence and Middletown









United Way River Wall Stabilization





Woonasquatucket Riverbank Restoration





Active Watershed Plans

Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers

- Sponsors: Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond, South Kingstown, Westerly
- Purpose: Flood Prevention
- Status: Preparation of Draft EA
- Estimated Completion: Spring 2026

Woonasquatucket River

- Sponsors: City of Providence and Town of Smithfield
- Purpose: Flood Prevention
- Status: Formulation and Evaluation of Alternatives
- Estimated Completion: Spring 2027



Active Buyout Projects

Salina Avenue

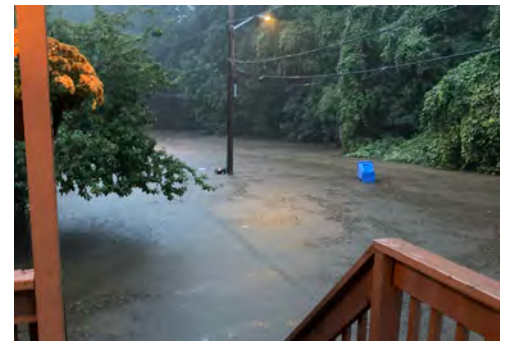
- Sponsor: Town of Johnston
- Status: Design and Permitting

Belfield Drive

- Sponsor: Town of Johnston
- Status: Technical Appraisal Reviews

Ballou Avenue

- Sponsor: Town of Lincoln
- Status: Title Due Diligence





Questions?

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