



WOONASQUACKETT RIVER  
WATERSHED COUNCIL



## **Land and Water Conservation Summit**

### **Multi-Use Trails**

The Intersection Between Active Transportation, Clean Water, Climate Resilience, Social Justice, Public Art and Education

Amanda Peavey- Education Director

Sharad Wertheimer- Nuevas Voces/New Voices Program Coordinator

Jacob Gorke- Greenway Manager



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

*WRWC Mission: Create positive environmental, social  
and economic change by revitalizing the  
Woonasquatucket River, its Greenway and its  
communities.*

# Presentation Overview

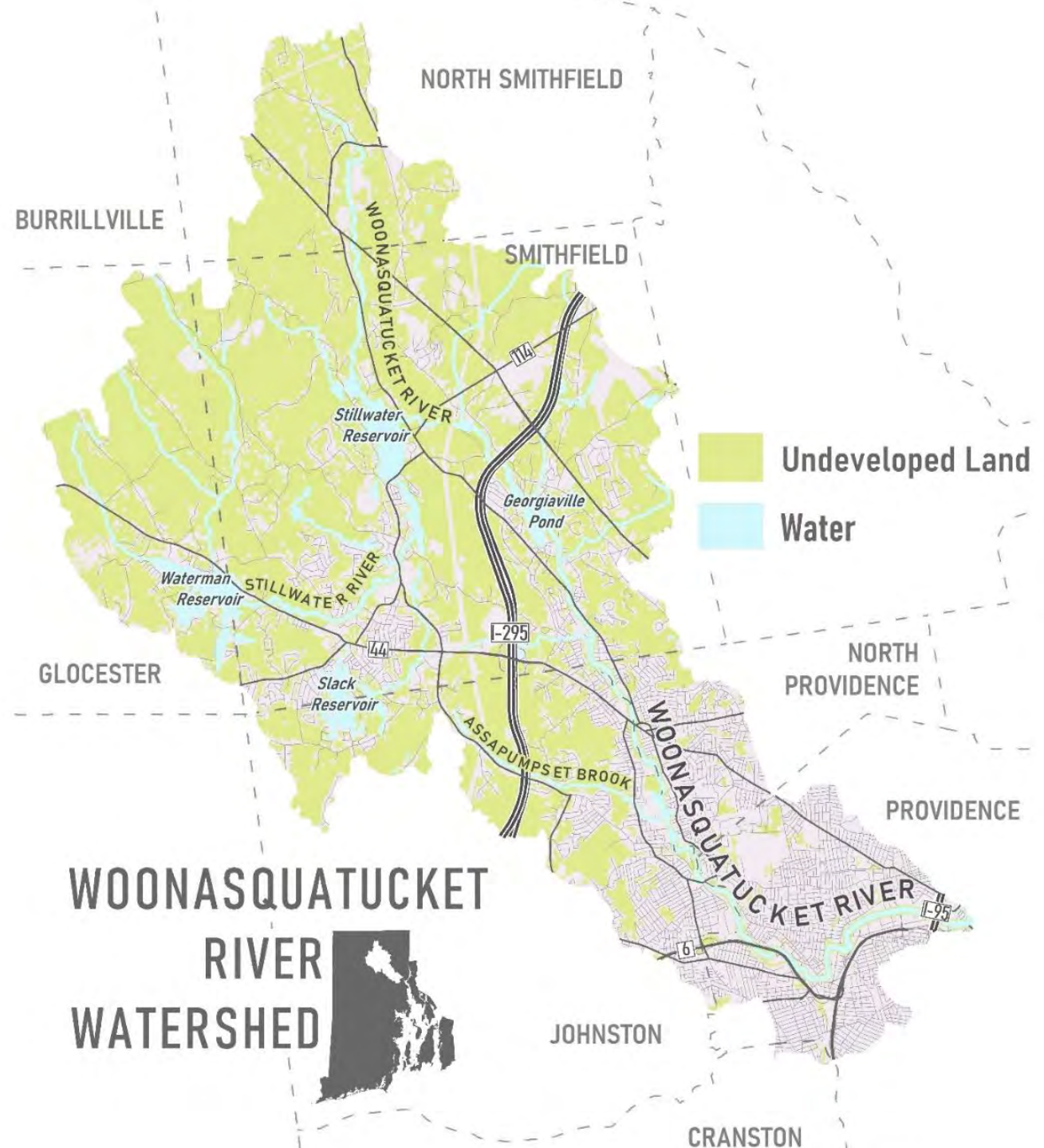
- On the Greenway
  - River Ranger program
  - Environmental Education programs
  - Nuevas Voces Environmental Justice program
  - Collaborations



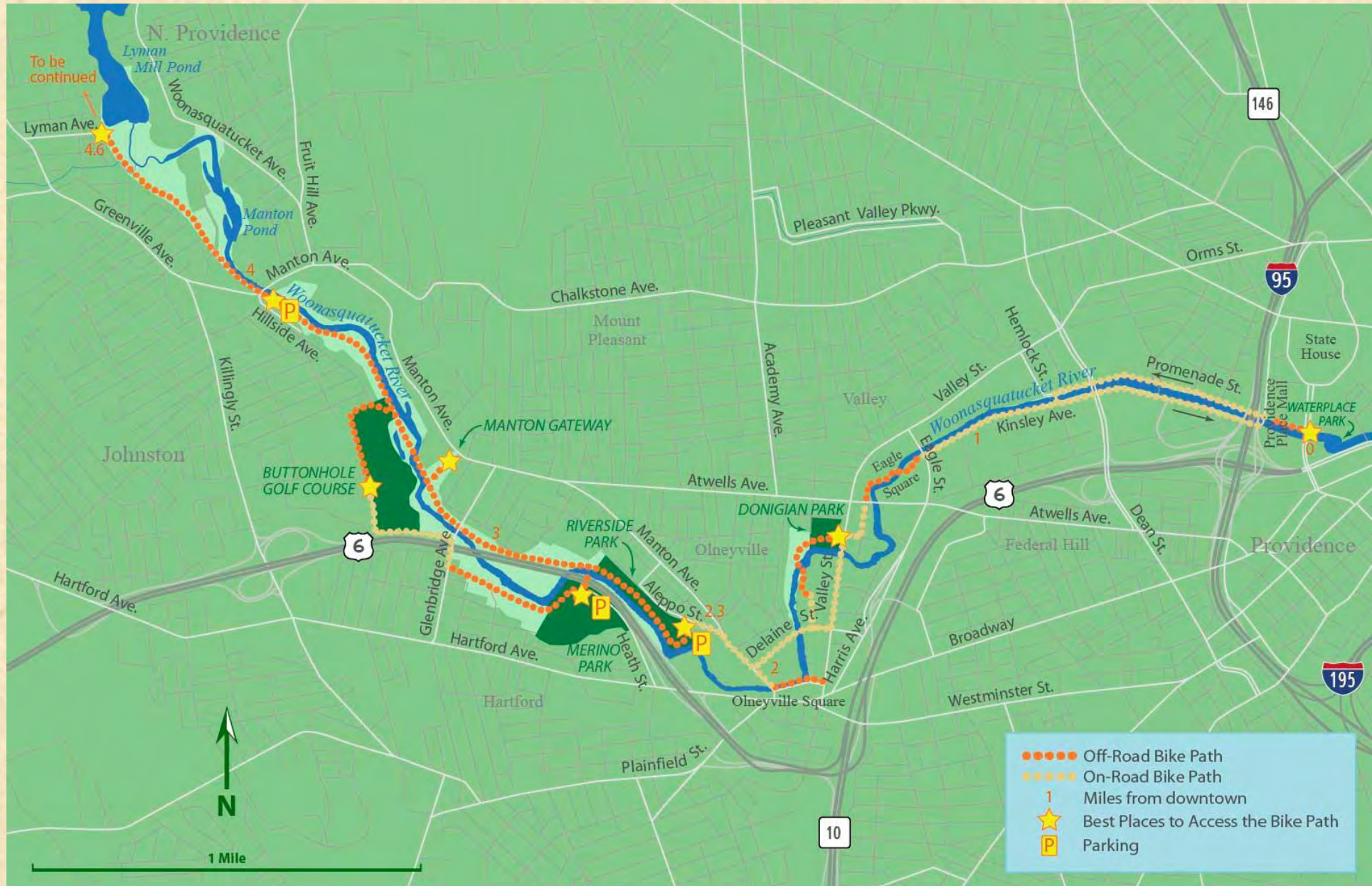
Woonasquatucket is the Algonquin word for "where the salt-water ends".

Traditional Lands of the Narragansett and Nipmuc peoples.

**283,757 total population**  
**(27% of RI)**



# The Woonasquatucket River Greenway



# Greenway History Overview



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Early 90's- Jane Sherman and the Providence Plan

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Worked with legislators to raise funds for rehabilitating Riverside Park and build Greenway

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Riverside Park, 7 total miles of Greenway, several fish ladders built and dams removed

# Jacob Gorke



# Rangers on the Greenway





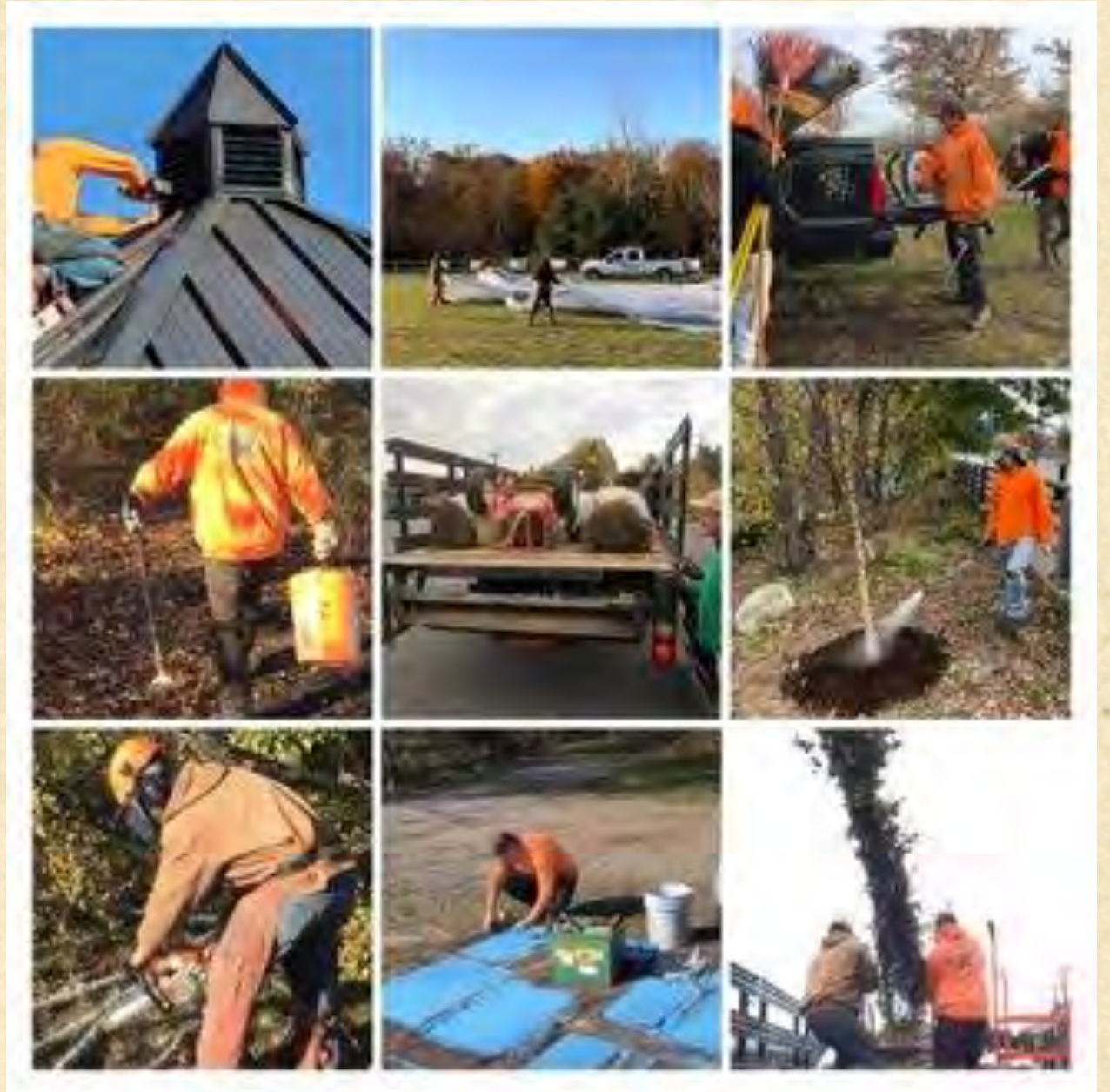
# What is a River Ranger



- River Ranger Program since early 2000's.
- Stewards of the Woonasquatucket River, its watershed, and the Greenway
- Youth that live in the community

# Ranger Responsibilities

- Maintenance
- Invasive management
- Planting native species
- Removing trash and litter
- Installing art
- Involving the community



# Tree Planting Partnerships



# Park Infrastructure



# Art Installations



# Greening the Greenway Pilot Project



90% Impervious

42 Parking Spaces

Entrances & Exits

- Westminster Street (x1)
- San Souci Drive (x2)

 Catch Basin

# Greening the Greenway Pilot Project



6,000 SF of impervious surface removed

38 Parking Spaces

Entrances & Exits

- Westminster Street (x1)
- San Souci Drive (x1)

Bioretention Basin

Volume: 1,450 CF

Treats runoff from 17,400 SF of impervious surface

# GTG Pilot Construction Concurrent w/ New Greenway Spur





# Citizens Bank – Post Construction



# GTG Pilot – Post Construction



# WRWC River Rangers Install GTG GI Job Training



Signage in English & Spanish  
Engages Community

# GTG Potential Projects

5 DRAFT

Title  
**Lower Woonasquaket Focus Sites 5-13**

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Client/Project  
Client: Woonasquaket Watershed Plan  
Project: Greening the Greenway  
Report

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Project Location  
Prepared by DW on 2020-02-20  
TR by JD on 2020-02-20  
Lower Woonasquaket Watershed, RI  
IR Review by CF on 2020-02-20

**Legend**

- Lower Woonasquaket Watershed
- 10D CSO Area
- RIDOT State Roads
- Existing Greenway Bike Path
- Proposed Greenway Bike Path

|  | <b>Id</b> | <b>Name</b>                       |
|--|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f08080; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Completed   | 1         | Bath St Property                  |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffa500; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> In Progress | 2         | Providence Journal Bulletin       |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Potential   | 3         | Farm Fresh RI Food Hub            |
|  | 4         | Pleasant Valley Parkway           |
|  | 5         | Puerta de Refugio                 |
|  | 6         | Delaine St Streambank Restoration |
|  | 7         | Cathedral Arts                    |
|  | 8         | Citizen's Bank                    |
|  | 9         | O'Reilly Auto Parts               |
|  | 10        | Manton Ave Tree Filters           |
|  | 11        | Atlantio Mills                    |
|  | 12        | Wolfe Myrow                       |
|  | 13        | Contech Medical                   |

Notes  
1. Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary System  
2. Data Source:  
3. Background: URI: EDC, RIGIS



# Site 2 – Farm Fresh RI Food Hub – Ranger Install



The Market Now! Photo Credit: Farm Fresh RI

# Site 3a – Iglesia Puerta De Refugio – Ranger Install



# Site 3a – Iglesia Puerta De Refugio - Before



# Site 3a – Iglesia Puerta De Refugio - After





# Site 3b – Iglesia Puerta De Refugio - Before



## Site 3b – Iglesia Puerta De Refugio - After



# Centerdale Manor



# In Design – GTG Phase II -Downtown Greenway



# In Design – GTG Phase II -Downtown Greenway 2023





TikTok

👤 @the\_woonasquatucket

# Education on the Greenway



# Fish Release Celebration













# River Adventurers- After School











# Environmental Leaders



# Birds of the Woony

- Practice using binoculars
- Identify birds by sight and sound
- Understanding birds' habitat
- Practice mindfulness through birding



# Monarch Butterfly Tagging



- Understand the life cycle and migration route of the Monarch butterfly
- Understand why we tag Monarch Butterflies
- Understand the cultural ties to Mexico

# Intergenerational Opportunities



SPRING ON THE  
WOONY

  
TikTok  
@the\_woonasquatucket



# NEW VOICES/NUEVAS VOCES PROGRAM

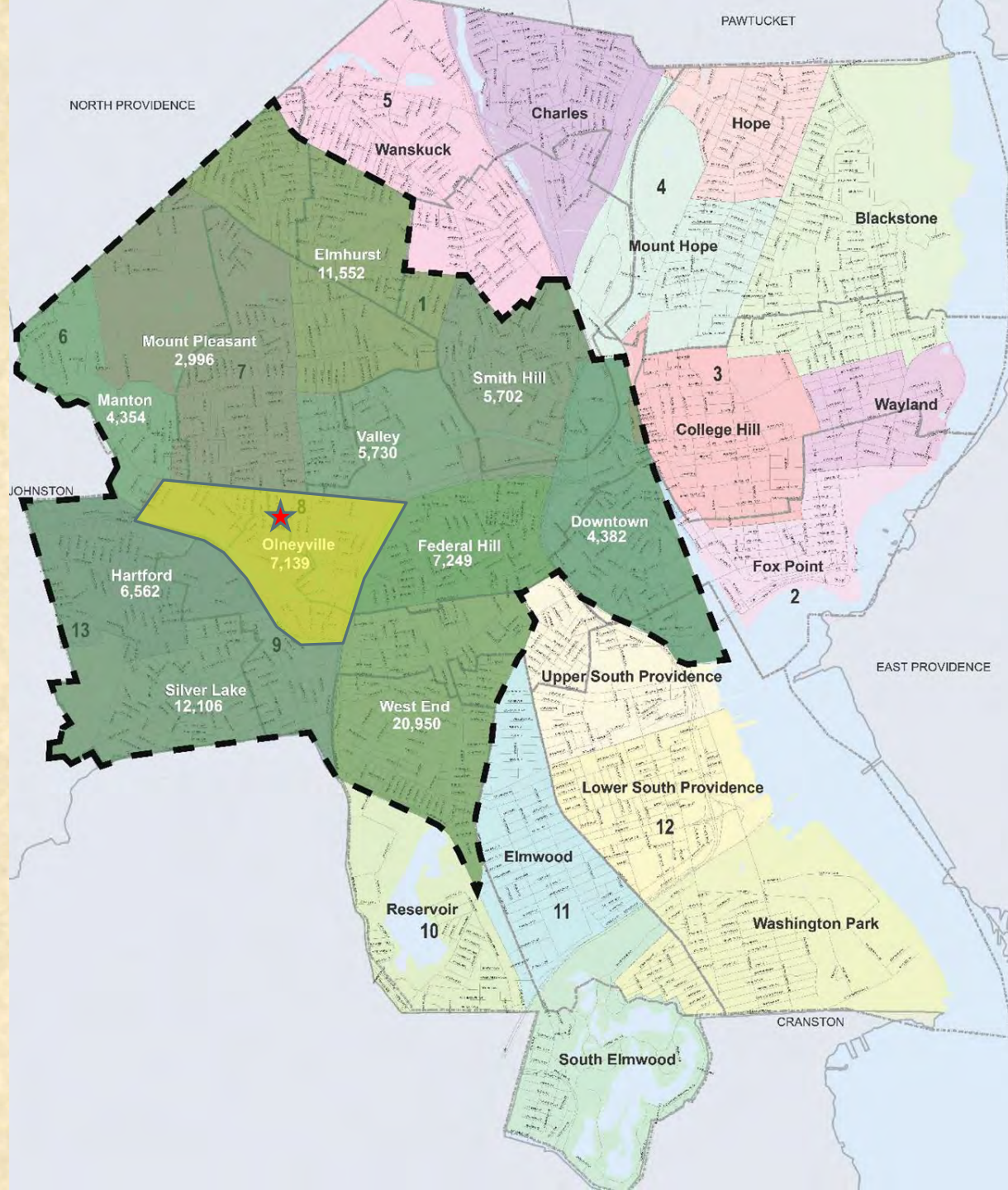
## Front Line Community Engagement

Capacity Building & Leadership  
Development for Climate Resilience



# Olneyville

Providence, RI



# Olneyville, Providence RI

- Around 60% Hispanic/Latinx, 15% white, 13% Black
- Median household income between \$30,000-\$40,000/year
- Main countries of origin- Guatemala and Dominican Republic.
- Also residents from Mexico, Bolivia, other Central American countries



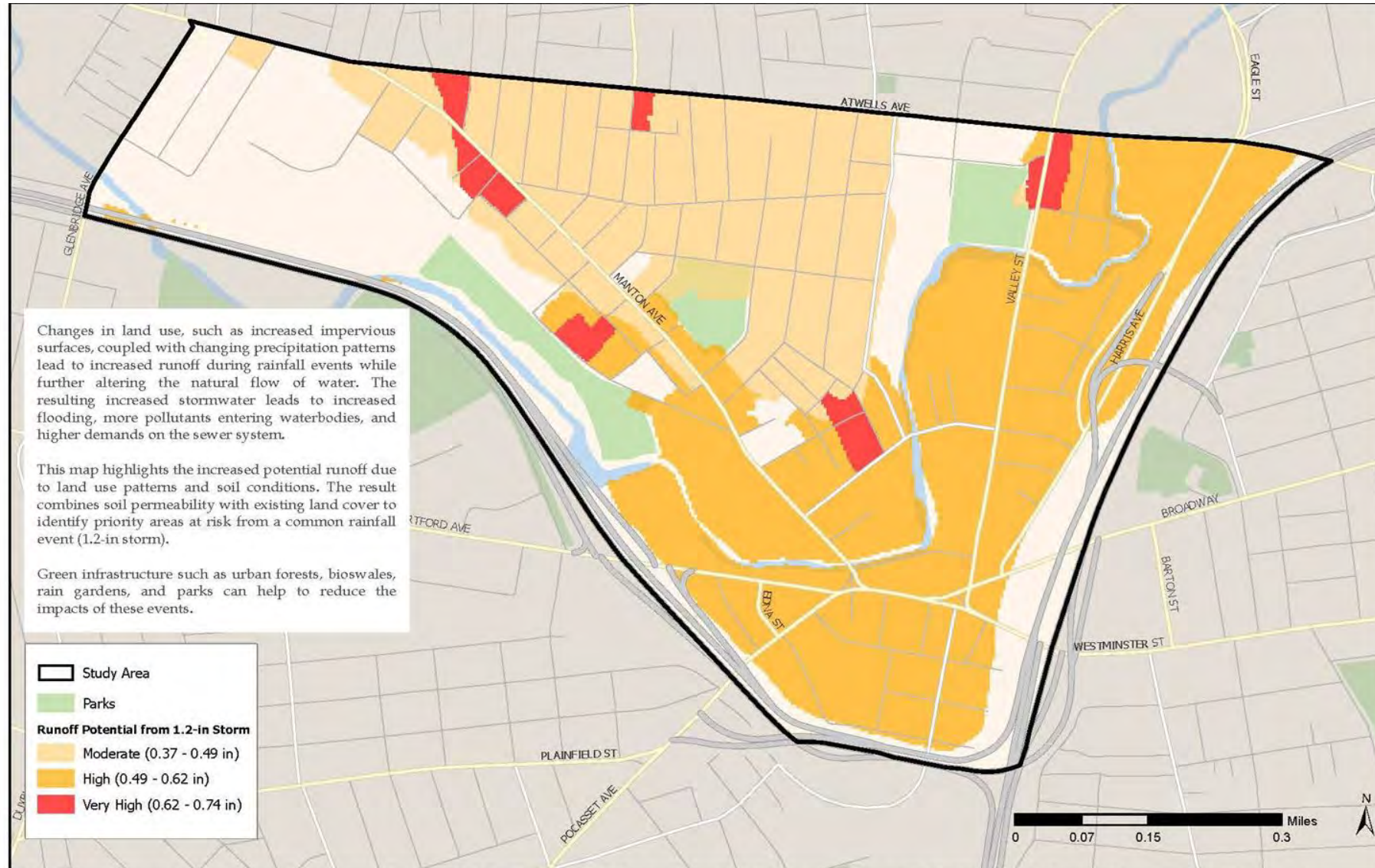


# Flooding



Flood, March 2010

# Why Olneyville? Flooding as a climate issue



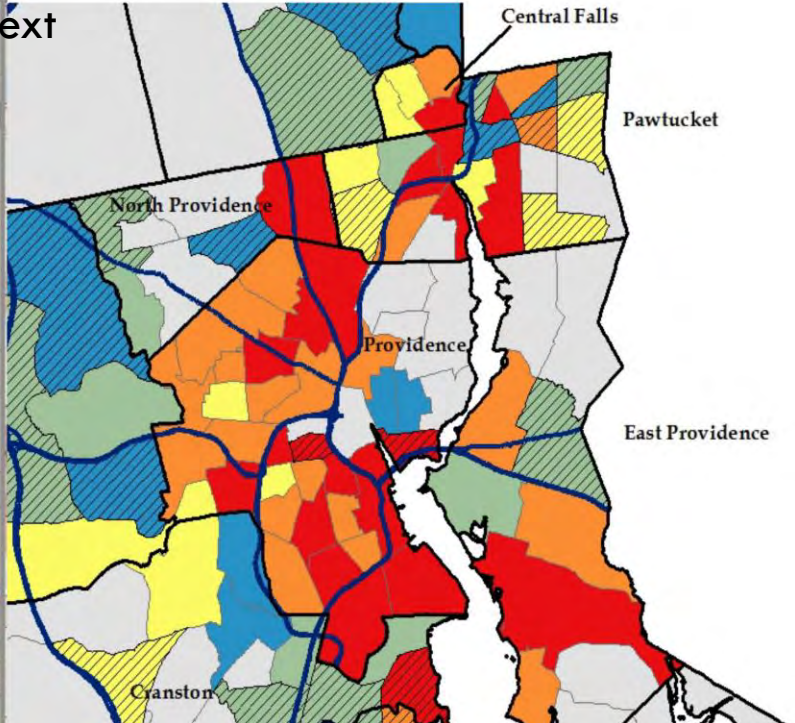
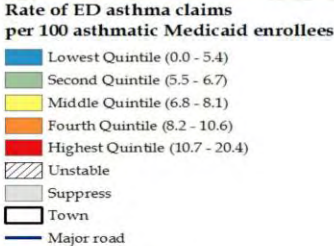
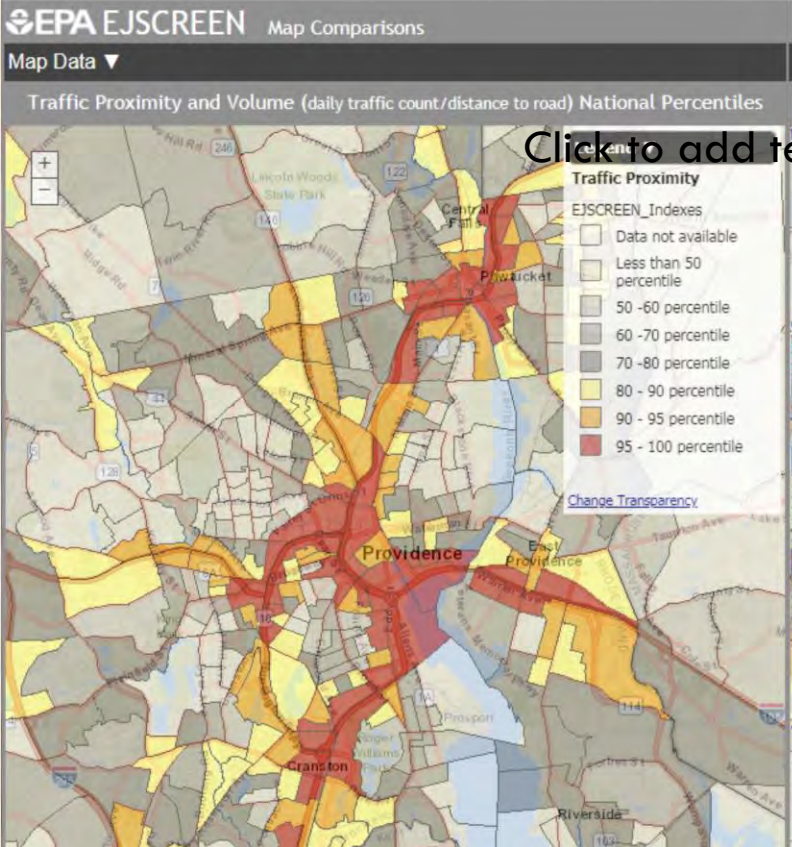
This map was created by CGD Analytics([cgdanalytics.com](http://cgdanalytics.com)) for the Rhode Island Department of Health in conjunction with The Trust for Public Land ([www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)). Information on this map is provided for visualization and discussion purposes only. For more information, please contact the Rhode Island Department of Health. January 2019

# Why Olneyville? Air Quality as a Climate Issue

## Traffic Exposure and Asthma



### Exposure to Traffic (compared to rest of US)



## **Other Environmental Justice Issues**

- **Urban Heat Island**
- **Lack of Tree Canopy**
- **River Contamination (Unsafe for fishing)**
- **Soil contamination**

# **Nuevas Voces Project Goals**

- **Cultivate Engaged Climate Resilience among Latinx residents of Olneyville**
- **Build Climate Justice Literacy**
- **Develop Leadership Skills**
- **Connect to resources and information**
- **Frontline Resident Co-Governance**

# Resident Co-Facilitators

## Maria Jose Gutierrez

- Moved from Bolivia 2 years ago
- Professional nature tour guide and French teacher in Bolivia
- Amazing designer of interactive programming
- Currently learning English but still only fluent in Spanish



## Jenny Mercado

- Nicaraguan, lived in RI for over 10 years
- Emergency Room CNA at Hasbro Children's Hospital
- Bilingual
- Mother of 3
- Fled Nicaragua due to organizing against the dictatorship

# Indoor classes, Outdoor education in the field



# Learning Between Sessions – Relationship with Environment



Re-establishing living relationships with the environment that have been disrupted because of migration people chose in hopes of a better life



# Learning Between Sessions – Green Infrastructure Tour



Learning about GI as a climate adaptation. WRWC's GI work that people have passed and not known.

# Learning Between Sessions – Climate Creatives



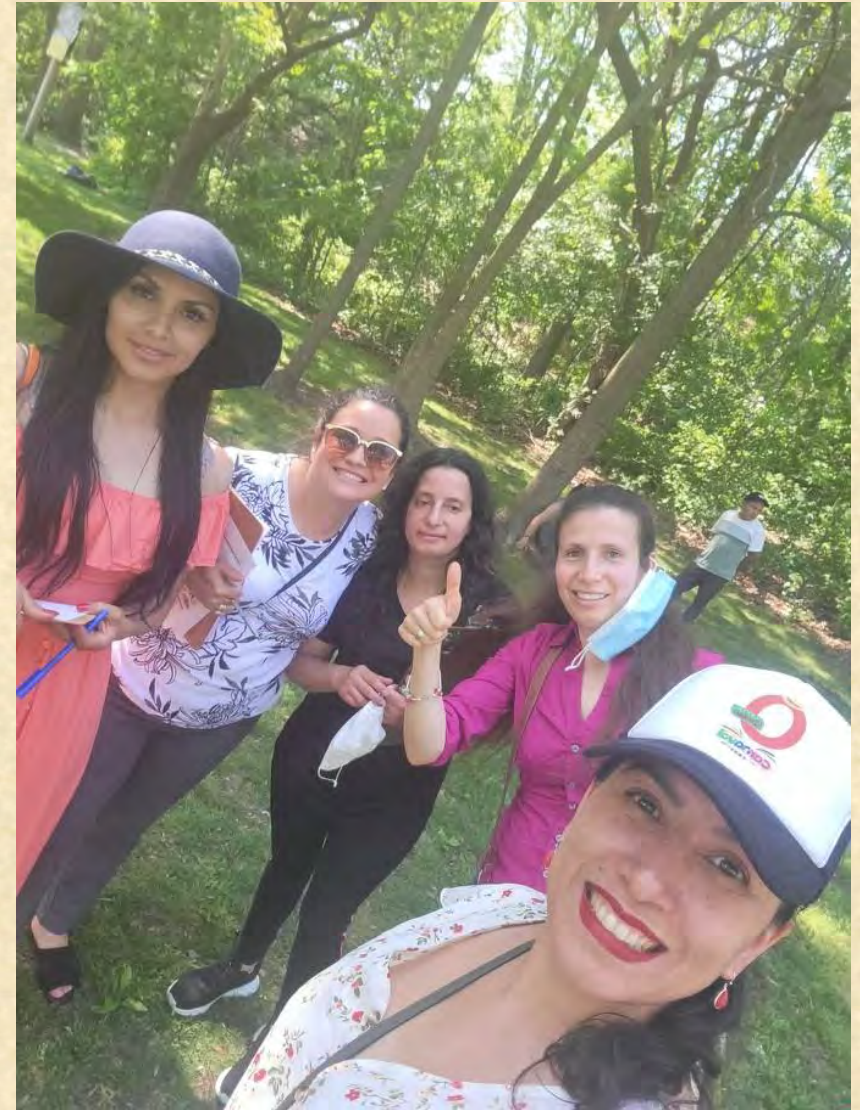
Sea Level Rise and Flooding Events Markers- Community Hopes and Dreams.

# Learning Between Sessions – Neighborhood Canvassing



Environmental Justice Conversations, but also gathering information on community needs.

# Merino Park



# Additional Opportunities - Recreation



First time for many families canoeing, and even being by the River that's right in their neighborhood.

# Resident-led Programming Proyecto Agri Cultura



Residents asked for agriculture support. Important way of connecting to the environment.  
Youth leaders also involved.

# **Future Goals**

- **NV Leaders Co-Direct Community Watershed Climate Planning**
- **NV Leaders Co-Lead Green Infrastructure Projects along the Greenway and River**
- **NV residents get paid to help with Greenway programming as Greenway Community Ambassadors**

# Morning on the Woonasquatucket



TikTok

@the.woonasquatucket





# **Interdepartmental Greenway Programs**

# Electrofishing



# Rain Barrel Workshops



# Clean Days on the Greenway



# Clean Days on the Greenway



# Recreation Programs



# Bird Walks



# Bike Programs and Bike Camp

Picture of Donny  
and/or Red Shed?





# Other Partnerships

- RIDEM
- Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership
- Partnership for Providence Parks
- Providence After School Alliance
- Providence Recreation Dept.

## Multi-Use Trails

The Intersection Between Active Transportation, Clean Water, Climate Resilience,  
Social Justice, Public Art and Education

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Video Credit: River Ranger  
Andrew Delisle

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@wrwc on Twitter



Thank You



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