

# Successes in the BRC's Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone

- Actions Taken
- Results Seen



# Rain Gardens



## Benefits:

- Intercepts & captures stormwater runoff
- Increases groundwater recharge
- Supports stream flow during dry weather
- Supports wildlife

**Constructed:** More than 20; Presented 23 programs/workshops

**Location:** Worcester, Grafton, Sutton, Woonsocket, Lincoln, Central Falls, Pawtucket

**Partners:** Mass Audubon, Manchaug Pond Association, RiverzEdge, Audubon Society of RI, Clark U., Mass DCR, Fisherville Redevelopment Corporation, Blackstone Headwaters Coalition



# Other BMPs



## Project Types

- Roof diversion
- Infiltration trench (snow)
- Bio-retention areas
- Plunge pools
- Gabion check dams
- Vegetated swales/buffers
- Leaching catch basins
- Sediment traps

## Locations

- Worcester
- Grafton
- Sutton
- Douglas
- Woonsocket
- Burrillville



# Clean Ups

## Benefits:

- Removes potential contaminants from waterway
- Improves habitat for aquatic plants and animals
- Improves recreational access to waterways
- Increases aesthetic value of water and adjacent lands



**Partners:** BRWA, BRWC/FOB, Manchaug Pond Foundation

**Locations:** Worcester, Millbury, Grafton, Sutton, Upton, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Hopedale, Douglas, Millville, Blackstone, Woonsocket and Cumberland



**Trash removed:** literally tons of cars, furniture, appliances, construction debris, steel, general litter, and hazardous material.

\* over 20,000

# Outreach & Education to Youth



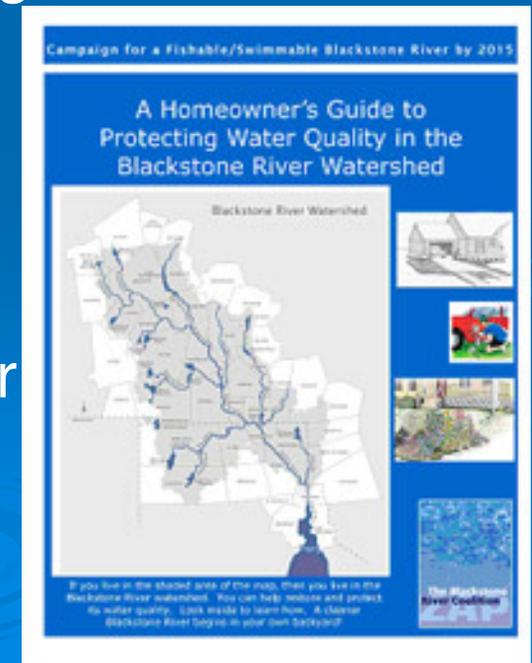
- **Watershed & Us:** BHC and BRWA have used an interactive watershed model to engage over 1200 youth in classrooms and at public events from Worcester to Blackstone.



- **River Rat Program:** BRWC/FOB has worked with students in Cumberland using both classroom and field activities.

# Outreach & Education to Adults

- In Business for the Blackstone: Mass Audubon and Audubon Society of R.I. have reached out to over 60 businesses; providing information, technical assistance, and certificates of merit.
- Tackling Stormwater in the Blackstone River Watershed: Mass Audubon and the BRC's 4-pronged program worked to reach local decision makers, developers, business owners and homeowners.
- Stormdrain Stenciling: 425 in Worcester
- State of the Blackstone River Report  
Wrote and distributed 500 copies



# Water Quality Summits

- Held Yearly: 2005 – 2016
- Hosted by: BRC, BHC, BRWA, & BRWC/FOB



- Annual Report Card: assigns grades for physical, chemical, and aesthetic parameters at 75 sites in MA and RI

| Blackstone River Coalition<br>Watershed-wide Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program<br>Report Card for 2015 Monitoring Season |                               |                         |               |            |       |    |        |           |  |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|-------|----|--------|-----------|--|
| map #   | WaterBody                     | Site Location           | Town          | Aesthetics | Temp. | DO | % Sat. | Nutrients |  |
| <b>TRIBUTARIES continued</b>  |                               |                         |               |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 58  | Mill River                    | Fitzgerald Street       | Hopedale      |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 59  | Mill River                    | Mill Street             | Hopedale      |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 60  | Mill River                    | Hartford Avenue East    | Hopedale      |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 61  | Mill River                    | Park Street Valati Park | Blackstone    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 62  | Mill River                    | Privilege Street        | Woonsocket    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 63  | Clear River <sup>MA</sup>     | RI 102                  | Burnsville    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 64  | Chepachet River <sup>MA</sup> | Gazze Road              | Burnsville    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 65  | Tarkin Brook                  | Tarkin Road             | Burnsville    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 66  | Branch River                  | Rte. 146A/Great Road    | N. Smithfield |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 67  | Cherry Brook                  | Olo Street              | Woonsocket    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 68  | Crockfall Brook <sup>MA</sup> | Sayles Hill Road        | Lincoln       |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 69  | Mussey Brook                  | New River Road          | Lincoln       |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 70  | Sinech Brook <sup>MA</sup>    | Albon Road              | Cumberland    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 71  | Monastery Brook               | Mendon Road             | Cumberland    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 72  | Peters River <sup>MA</sup>    | Paine Street            | Bellingham    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 73  | Sylvys Brook                  | Grants Mill Road        | Cumberland    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 74  | Robin Hollow Pond             | Dexter Street           | Cumberland    |            |       |    |        |           |  |
| 75  | Millers River <sup>MA</sup>   | Hines Road              | Cumberland    |            |       |    |        |           |  |

**KEY TO COLOR CODES**

Excellent  
Good  
Fair  
Poor  
Not Enough Data

**Categories**  
(Each category is derived from the combination of the following factors)

**Aesthetics** - turbidity, water appearance, water odor & visual assessments  
**Temp.** - temperature  
**DO** - dissolved oxygen  
**% Sat.** - dissolved oxygen % saturation  
**Nutrients** - nitrate & orthophosphate

# Advocacy

- FERC relicensing of hydroelectric Plants (Blackstone, Woonsocket)
- MS4 permit, MA (2016)
- Poor Farm Brook water withdrawal permit, Shrewsbury (2015)
- Peterson Puritan Superfund Site, Cumberland & Lincoln, RI (2010)
- Rule 2: Housing unit development project, Lincoln (2007)
- Rule 2: Dowling Village Development, N.Smithfield (2005)
- Upper Blackstone WWTP NPES permit, Millbury (20xx)
- Proposed recycling facility, Cumberland (2006)
- Promoted use of fish ladders on the Blackstone



# Invasive Plant Removal

## Asian Water Chestnut

BRWA, Uxbridge, MA



## Japanese Knotweed

BRWC/FOB, Cumberland, RI



## Aquatic Weed Survey Teams

Manchaug Pond Foundation

# Recreation

- Hosted Greenway Challenge
- Installed and improved river access (MA & RI)
- Coordinated river races and paddle trips
- Organized guided hikes throughout watershed
- Provided “on the water” opportunities for over 2,500 people in Worcester



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