



9 East Avenue
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sricd.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and Town of Westerly Receive Bridge Builder Award for Main Street Riverfront Renewal Project

WESTERLY, Rhode Island, October 28, 2024 – The Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and the Town of Westerly recently received a Bridge Builder Award from the SNEP Network for their work on the Main Street Resilient Riverfront Renewal project along the Pawcatuck River.

The award was presented by Elizabeth Scott, SNEP Network RI Liaison at Roger Williams Park Casino last week to recognize communities who excelled at outreach, engagement and consensus building in order to gain community support to advance their projects toward further planning, design or implementation.

“Since 2019, the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District has been working with the Town of Westerly on the Resilient Riverfront Renewal project for Main Street along the Pawcatuck River” notes Gina Fuller, District Manager, Southern Rhode Island Conservation District.

“We are thrilled to accept this award on behalf of the town and are so grateful for the support we have received from them on this important project that which will further Westerly’s resiliency goals relating to water quality and flooding, as well as their comprehensive plan’s goals to embrace the Pawcatuck River and build support for Westerly’s economic development as a gateway town to Rhode Island.”

Ultimately, the Resilient Riverfront Renewal project’s design will integrate a variety of green infrastructure features along Main Street to reduce flooding, filter pollutants from stormwater, provide pollinator and bird habitat, improve air quality, mitigate extreme heat, and add beauty and walkability to the economic center of Westerly.

The Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and the Town of Westerly continue to gather public feedback on this project through an online visual public input map. To learn more about the project and provide feedback, visit sricd.org/resilient-riverfront-renewal.



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The SNEP Network is a project of the New England Environmental Finance Center and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program. The SNEP Network provides training and assistance to municipalities, organizations, and tribes to advance stormwater and watershed management, ecological restoration, and climate resilience in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The network is committed to building capacity in conjunction with EPA's Southeast New England Program within EPA Region 1.

The Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD) promotes and achieves a healthy environment and sustainable use of natural resources for the people of Kent and Washington Counties and the State of Rhode Island, now and for the future, by coordinating partners to provide technical, educational and financial resources.

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