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

- 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
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)
- 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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