New EPA Polluted Runoff Rules Imminent

Would force towns to get more rainwater into ground, rather than running off into streams and rivers, bringing major benefits:

- Cleaner Rivers
- Improved Low Flows in Summer
- More Reliable and Protected Drinking Water

NSRWA will engage with towns to help implement measures.

Before there were roads, parking lots, and other hard “impervious” surfaces that water can’t penetrate, rainwater and melting snow would mostly seep into the ground, recharging aquifers.

During times of low precipitation, this ground water would slowly seep into rivers and streams, maintaining a base level of streamflow even in summer and providing a reliable source of drinking water even when it didn’t rain.

Modern development brought more impervious surfaces ranging from streets and parking lots to the roofs and driveways of our own homes. The flow of water after storms changed dramatically:

Rather than seep into the ground to recharge aquifers, water runs off the surfaces, picking up oil, grit, pet waste, trash and other pollutants, and into the nearest stream.

The new rules are part of the Clean Water Act, and while the new rules were just recently issued, the government is allowing towns two years to provide plans for complying. The new rules will reduce this pollution by getting more of the runoff back into the ground. There, it is cleaned naturally, it seeps into streams slowly like it used to do, and it maintains aquifers for our drinking water.

Public education and NSRWA

In addition to cleaning stormwater catch basins, using new porous surfaces that water can pass through and into the ground, and many other structural requirements, the new rules require that municipalities increase their public education efforts. Two constituencies that towns must reach are their residential and business communities.

continued, page 4
Letter from the President

Many people perceive our Association as focused only on the actual physical North and South Rivers, or perhaps the herring brooks that constitute their main tributaries. But our purpose is much larger than that. We have to think about where the water originates, how it is channeled, how it is used, and how to keep the entire watershed system clean and healthy for all of us.

That is a big challenge – one we cannot meet without the support of all of our members. And that support begins with engagement. Engagement is about finding purpose, identifying that thing that inspires the passion in each of us to embrace a cause and to take action.

All of our members are engaged at a basic level. You are akin to the drops of water that flow through the watershed. You may write us a greatly appreciated check, or attend a Water Watch event. And like the water droplets, you are a critically needed part of the larger whole. We could not exist without you and we need ever more of you. One challenge for us as an organization is to continue growing our basic membership.

Individual drops are important. But their power is truly felt when they join together and constitute the broader stream, the one that flows joyously over rocks and through the woods. That’s where the life is, and where the fun is. When individuals become part of something larger, they find opportunities to become truly engaged and fulfilled.

We simply could not exist without our engaged and committed members, and we must continue to nurture and grow this community to ensure future success. To that end, at our annual retreat this winter, the Board decided to formally address this need and bring on a new Director of Community Engagement and Development. We are delighted to welcome Gabriela Silva to this new position!

The role of this new position is to help us find even more ways to kindle passion for the place we are blessed to live in, and to grow our community of active supporters. We know there are more people like you out there. Our task is to go find them and inspire them with our purpose. And of course, we cannot do this alone and we can use your help in spreading the message. We are all, in some way, directors of community engagement and development, if we choose to embrace the cause.

Thanks for your help.

Peter Kelly-Detwiler, Board President

Legacy Circle Founding Members

To help assure that NSRWA will be strong and effective into the future, a first group of benefactors is leaving bequests to our Association in their wills.

Betsey and Robert Detwiler  •  Peter and Julie Kelly-Detwiler
Herb and Pauline Emilson  •  Craig and Danny Hannafin
Richard and Jackie Leach  •  Debbie Lenahan
Michael and Susan Wolfe

We encourage other members to consider leaving bequests to NSRWA. Please contact Samantha Woods at 781-659-8168.
What Is a Healthy River?

How do NSRWA programs work together to achieve Healthy Rivers?

We define a healthy river as one that supports a full range of both human and ecological uses.

For humans, healthy rivers have water quality and quantity that support fishing, swimming, boating, and aesthetic and drinking water uses.

Ecologically, healthy rivers provide water quality and quantity, streamflow and habitat connectivity that support biodiversity and resilience to change.

These are diverse concepts, but our river restoration programs are interrelated to achieve multiple benefits. Sound science, persistence, and a focus on engagement with our communities have yielded broad results.

For instance:

**1st Herring Brook**

Scituate has a water supply problem. By working with Scituate leaders to solve their supply problem through water conservation and structural adjustments to the town’s reservoir dams, we also improved streamflow in 1st Herring Brook, restored connectivity between the ocean and Reservoir Dam, and allowed the first herring in decades to swim beyond Old Oaken Bucket Dam.

**3rd Herring brook**

Norwell and Hanover also have water supply problems, but unlike Scituate their water systems only use town wells. We are working with the towns to model their water use and its stresses on 3rd Herring Brook, and together with them will detail a program of water conservation and use to both increase the reliability of their water supplies and enhance streamflow and habitat.

continued, page 4
Polluted runoff control
Our lead article on page 1 describes new EPA rules controlling polluted runoff. NSRWA will work with towns across the watershed to implement these rules, simultaneously improving habitat by reducing pollution and increasing low flows, and increasing drinking water reliability by increasing aquifer recharge.

Land conservation
The North River Greenway, a succession of protected properties enhanced in 2015 with the addition of a new 33 acre parcel, provides recreation, enhances the river’s beauty, protects water quality, and assures connected natural habitat.

New Runoff Rules  continued from page 1
NSRWA can help. We worked with Scituate to educate residents about water conservation, and our town-supported Greenscapes program already takes conservation education into eleven South Shore communities. We have initiated our first water-use education program focused on our South Shore business community, WaterSmart Business (see next article).

We believe it is a natural fit for NSRWA to expand these local partnerships, and contract with communities to help educate residents and businesses about both water conservation and polluted runoff.

What Is a Healthy River? continued from page 3
Water Smart Business:
Promoting Water Conservation and Controlling Polluted Runoff Through Direct Business Education

Our South Shore rivers and streams are among the most stressed in Massachusetts, and low flow, especially in summer, is one of their gravest threats.

Water conservation directly enhances streamflow by keeping water in the ground to seep slowly into the river during periods of low precipitation. And controlling runoff after storms, so that it seeps into the ground rather than rushing over parking lots and quickly into the rivers, not only reduces pollution but also helps to recharge aquifers.

With better information, many of our South Shore businesses could reduce their water use, reduce polluted runoff, and save money at the same time. The goal of WaterSmarter is to help them accomplish that.

How WaterSmart works
Enrolled businesses will receive a water-use report that details consumption patterns and ways to reduce polluted runoff. The business owner will then be presented options to reduce water consumption and polluted runoff.

Assessments for Cardigan Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scituate and Planet Subaru in Hanover are already completed, and we are recommending 30% and 50% conservation measures respectively. ProtectoWire in Pembroke, Clean Harbors in Norwell and Cravings in Kingston are also participating in the program.

With initial funding from local towns and the McKim Family Foundation, our goal through June is to have engaged ten businesses in this new program. While ten businesses is a small number, we expect that many more in later years will embrace this opportunity to save money while doing the right thing.
“Boundaries don’t protect rivers, people do.”

Brad Arrowsmith, landowner along the Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska

2015 Treasurer’s Report

by Rick Mayfield, NSRWA Treasurer

First, I am excited to be your new treasurer. Having lived on the North River now for ten years, seeing our mission in action has continued to expand my point of view on our watershed and the need for NSRWA.

From a financial perspective, 2015 was a good year. I credit great fiscal leadership from Samantha and her team, and the engagement and support by you our members; without you we would not be able to do all that we do! Richard Leach, our treasurer for the past twelve years, laid a solid financial foundation for our organization and we sincerely appreciate his dedication.

Membership income for 2015 was the second highest in the organization’s history and exceeded our 2015 plan, however it was 8.1% behind the record 2014 year. As in past years we continue to look for members who can step up to our River Guardian Circle by contributing $500 or more annually to the NSRWA. While every member is important, our River Guardians provide us the incremental lift necessary to achieve our goals. This group represents just over 5% of our members but contributes nearly 60% of our membership income.

The value of our endowment fund at the end of 2015 was $123,088. We began the fund in 2008 to provide NSRWA with a long term financial stability vehicle and now have more than doubled the initial investment. In the first quarter of 2016 we added $25,000 to the fund which will bring the total to over $148,000. This new investment is the result of a bequest from the estate of Mary Eliot.

We established the Legacy Circle in 2014 to recognize those generous individuals like Mary who planned to leave bequests to the NSRWA. Gifts like these are essential to supporting the long term mission of the NSRWA and we encourage others to consider including the NSRWA in your estate plans. Should you have questions regarding such planning, please contact the office for assistance.

From a program perspective, 2015 was a good year. As many of you know we received a gift of a pontoon boat late in 2014 which allowed us to take people for eco or history tours of the North River. We exceeded every expectation for this new program, and plan to expand it in 2016 with the addition of a youth ‘Science on the Rivers’ program supported by a grant from the Battelle Institute. Also this past year our president Peter Kelly-Detwiler and his pals raised over $11,000 by doing the historical Wampanoag Paddle. (Again!)

Lastly, as we look to 2016, our new strategic plan highlighted some needed investments. We are investing in a new leadership structure to respond to increasing market demands from the towns across the watershed. In addition, we are continuing to invest in new technology to better connect and support our members and run the organization more efficiently. While these changes will require increased capital investments we feel financially we are in the best position we have been in years to invest in the future and that is in large part because of you!

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*2015 results are un-audited
RiverWatch & 2015 Annual Report

River Guardians $5,000 +
Herb & Paulie Emison
Richard & Jackie Leach
Mark & Jerilyn Tyrrell
Paul & Neta Vercollone

River Guardians $2,500 - $4,999
Anonymous
Mark & Joel Bianchi
William Earley
Bruce & Marcia Humphrey
Debbie Lenahan
Rick & Holly Mayfield
Lauren Payne & Bill Swanson

River Guardians $1,000 - $2,499
Anonymous
Donna Burrell & Jane Eggerstedt
Alex & Davis Clark
Mark DiRico
Peter & Roberta Fairbanks
Richard & Barbara Johnson
Margaret Kearns & Paul Nguyen
Peter & Julie Kelly-Detwiler
Sandra & Peter Moll
Margery & Allan Parker
Andrew & Jamie Sullivan
Richard Sheffield
Brian & Kathy Tedeschi

River Guardians $500 - $999
Kezia Bacon
Cynthia Bayley
Kevin Beggs & Stephanie Whitin
Len & Dolly Bicknell
William & Susanne Bottiggi
Sally Caverly
Susan & David Caron
Liz Carrerro
Brian & Gracemarie Concannon

River Guardians $250 - $499
Martha Brezina
Sarah & Kevin Cassidy
Jean & Jack Christensen
Richard & Patricia Clemente
Dawn & John Croll
Neal & Lorrie Dahlen
Stephen Day & Ann O’Hara
Joseph Devine
Janet & William Fairbanks
Allison Feeley & Michael Versace
Mark & Lita Fenton
Nancy & Gar Ferguson
Allan Greenberg & Lisa Foley
William Hahn
Richard & Lois Hall
Valma Horton
Tim & Jeanne Horan
Sandy & John Husbands
Eric & Lucy Hutchinson
Jim & Lisa Lyons
John Mariano & Debbie D’Isabel

River Guardians $100 - $249
Rick Mesel
Andrea Miller
Martyn & Adria Pitkow
Thomas Pray
Kathryn Robichau
William & Ann Shalnery
Suzanne Sheehan
Richard & Loretta Siegel
Karen Stone & Michael Waddell
Kathleen & Alexander Thomson
Peter & Paula Tyack

Sponsor $100 - $249
Julia Adams
John & Marcy Amore
Anonymous
Robert & Georgette Anzalone
Sarah & Alex Aminoff
Scott & Marcia Babcock
Elizabeth Bates
Barbara & George Baumgarten
Wendy Babrave
Elise & Constance Beal
Daniel & Norah Blaney
Linda Bornstein
Anne Bodnar
Leo & Maureen Boudreau
James & Betty Brabazon
Robert Brian
Seven & Leslie Bright
Gretchen & Robert Burnham
Jeffrey & Sylvia Caira
Katherine Campbell
Barbara & Otis Carney
Joseph Carly & Grace Carly
Norman Cedarstrom
Bob & Joan Christie
Susan Cooper Cronyn
Catherine Cullen & John
Kessinger
John & Carolyn Dacey
Sarah Das & Andy Kurtz
Virginia Day
Michael Dean & Karen Vieira
David DeGhetto
Donaul & Lynn Dehart
Bob & Robin Deiner
Alison & Ned Demong
Betsy Detwiler
Andy & Kathy Detwiler
Jonathan & Laurie Detwiler
Emilud Di Jorio
Richard & Ada Diedrich
Jack & Krista DiRico
Brian Donahue
Dorothy & Douglas Donahue
George & Pam Dow
John & Linda Eaton
Eldredge Caleb Estabrooks
Neil & Karen Farmer
Peter Finnegan
Harold Flight
Robert & Mary Frattasio
Nancy & David Friedman
Jo Ann Fugazzotto
Michael & Susan Gaffney
Suzanne Gallagher
Arthur & Jacqueline Gareau
Jeff & Pre Goodale
Crystal & David Gould
Mr. & Mrs. Sloane Graff
James & Mary Lou Greene
Dan & Alice Hall
Amy & Jim Hamilton
Susan & Gib Hammond
John & Christine Harris
Thomas Hart
Stephen Hartlah & Joanne Kaplan
Russ & Laura Haskell
Judy Ann & Dan Heitzman
John & Linda Hilton
Dean & Carol Ford
Sally Hopfinger
Steve & Jeanne Ivas
Jon Jensen & Candy Oben
Joan Jones
Clark Jesslyn
Philip Katz
Ken & Susan Kellaway
Russell & Patricia Kelley
James & Maureen Kellner
Maureen & Gerald Kelly
Wallace & Barbara Kemp
Jim Kilcoyne
James Kilroy
William Knissel
Deborah & Paul Ladis
Pat LaRose
Maryanne Leonard
Bayard & Wendy Livingston
Anne & Bernard Lorge
Mark & Carolyn Loughlin
Chick & Donna Luther
Don & Marilyn LeMellon
Dennis & Mary Mahoney
Peg & Phil Maloney
Kelly McClintock
Tom McManus
Gail Meehan & Paula Rooney
Nicholas Mirebal
Paul Miskins
Charles Moloney & Paula Wright
Mike Moyer & Mary Coogan
Valerie & Richard Murphy
Mark & Hilary Newby
Chris & Nancy Oldfield
John & Deborah O’Leary
Linda Osborne
Phil & Jane O’Sullivan
Robert Flashkowsky & Karen
Joseph
Jim Paul Family
Deborah Peterson
June Powers
Gregory & Christine Prendergast
Peter & Cindy Ramsay
James Rayel
Dori & James Read
Stephen Richards
Patriza Rinko
Diane Ritcher
Cynthia & Wayne Robbins
Ron & Nancy Robertson
Craig & Jeanne Robinson
Winnie Lou Rounds
Len & Suzanne Rubenstein
Scott Sanderson
James Schuttz
Sue Sibor
Ava & Robert Sigby
Jay Silver
Robert Skolnick
Alice Smyth
Michael & Robyn Solimando
Gregory Spann
Peter & Jeanne Spillane
John & Kay Spurr
Hugh & Rosemary Spurway
Nasol Stevenson & Lisa Marler
Joseph & Cherry Strazza
Andrew & Jamie Sullivan
Robert & Lauren Tedeschi
Harold & Joan Thomas
John Thomson
Alexander & Thomas
Robert Tocci
Barbara & Jim Toomey
Chris & Jean Tsokanis
Lance & Kristine VanLenten
Sarah Warren
Kathryn Webers
Mark, Judith & Mary Whitcher
Ronald White
Blanche Whitman
Dan & Sue Whitney
Gary & Barbara Wolinsky
Henry & Jan Yeh

Supporters $50 - $99
George Alexander
Bob & Barbara Alexander
Sarah Allen
Scott & Laura Anderson
Lori Arnold Rounds
Sandy & Bob Bacon
Mary & Alexander Bain
Mark & Dolores Bailey
Lillian & Leo Barry
Bob & Virginia Bartlett
Pamela Barz
Stephen & Lynn Baum
John Beattie & Pamela Page
William & Earlene Beattregard
Terry Beckland
Tara Bokha
Jim Brawder
Lebaron Briggs
Jeff Burns
Jerry & Barbara Cain
Virginia Callahan
Michele Campon
Scott & Nancy Carleton
John & Peg Carpenter
Robert & Kathleen Carr
Frances Carriere
Sue Carson
Sandra Cheslock

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Members in bold have supported the Association for 15 years or more.
Their long term commitment keeps our Association strong and we want to recognize their long standing support of our rivers.
**NSRWA Members**

Paul Buckovich  
Larry & Lyn Buettner  
Dorothy Busiek  
Ralph Butler  
Ellen Callahan  
Anne Callahan  
Jack & Peg Cantwell  
Michaé Caplinger  
Kevin H. Cassidy  
Don Cavachi  
Lsa Chapman  
James Clinton  
Mari Coffin  
Edward Colbert  
Eleanor Coleman  
Janice Conti  
Debbie & Thomas Cook  
William Cormay  
Gary Crocker  
James Crosta  
Cindy Curry  
Meaghan Daley  
Denise Darby  
Sally Delina  
Matthew DeLaca & Carol Kilroy  
Jon & Deborah Devine  
Carl DiRocco  
Mark Donelan DMD  
James & Virginia Downing  
Vicki Doyle  
Elizabahg Durant  
Ellyn Einhorn  
Jean Ekstrom  
Kathleen Endriunas  
Brian & Beverly English  
Tara & Chris Fein  
Brian & Beverly English  
Kathleen Endriunas  
Jeffrey & Judith Volpe  
Alain & Gail Valles  
Charlene Trudelle  
Jack Sullivan  
Janis & Jay Stevenson  
John Stanton  
Janis & Jay Stevenson  
Rebecca Sprague  
Stuart & Emily Sprague  
John Stanton  
Jennifer Amon  
Barry Ashton  
Liz Barger  
Beverly Bauman  
Alexa Batykevich  
Taylor Beckett  
Austin Beringer  
Jennifer Bilyou  
Scott Bowers  
Carla Breitenstein  
Brett Bryon  
Heather White  
Jamie Lynn Weatherston  
Jerome & Catherine Vaganay  
Scott Thorburn  
Terrence Strong  
Jacqui Sullivan  
Jenn & Sharon Tassianni  
Scott Thorburn  
Denise Torres  
Kristin & Patrick Utterwijk  
Jerome & Catherine Vaganay  
Robert Volcano  
Joe Walsh  
Jamie Lynn Weatherston  
Heather White  
Andrew Zayac
SAVE THE DATE

NSRWA’s 26th Great River Race
Saturday July 30th

Race Details are available online - Registration begins April 30th!
This annual family friendly fun 7+ mile paddling event is a great way to enjoy and see the river. If you can paddle, you can participate! Race starts at 9 am from the Bridge Street Bridge in Norwell. This year you can help us keep the rivers healthy by becoming a fundraiser yourself and ask your friends to sponsor you.

Yoga at the River’s Edge
Saturdays 8:30 - 9:45am • June 18 through September 10
Different locations on the rivers. $10 pp NSRWA members, $15 for non-members. No registration required.

Herring on the Run
A Tour of the Herring Runs in the Watershed • Sunday, May 1, 1-4 pm
Sponsored by the NSRWA and Mass Audubon's North River Sanctuary
Join us for a van tour of the local herring runs. Listen to enlivening stories depicting the history, science and social significance of herring runs and efforts to restore them. If we are lucky we might see some actual herring making their way upstream to spawn!

Guided Pontoon Boat Tours on the North River
Discover the Nature and History of the North River
Guided Pontoon Boat Tours 2 hour tours leaving from Roht Marine/Incluides professional captain and a historian/naturalist.
Cost is $360 (includes 2 memberships)/$300 for members for up to 6 passengers. To book one of these tours visit nsrwa.org to fill out a scheduling inquiry form and our captain will get back to you within 24 hours. For scheduling inquiries please fill out our online inquiry form or email your phone number to Captain@nsrwa.org for a call back.

Calling All Golfers! Save the Date!
NSRWA Benefit Golf Tournament at Widow’s Walk, Scituate
Monday, September 12th • Online registration coming soon!
**SPECIALTY BOAT TOURS**

**Clamming the North River**  
Saturday May 14 11 am – 1 pm  
or 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (2 trips)  
Saturday May 28 9 am – 11:30  
or 9:30 – 12 pm (2 trips)  
You will be transported by boat out to the clam flats and must have your own clamming equipment and a valid Scituate shell-fishing permit. The cost is $15 for NSRWA members, $20 for non-members.

**Guided Fly Fishing Expedition on the North River**  
Saturday May 28 (Rain date June 12)  
6 am to 10 am  
Guided 4-hour fly fishing expedition for Striped Bass at the mouth of the North River! You must have your own equipment including your own saltwater fly rod with an appropriate line and waders. Flies and leaders will be provided if necessary. The cost is $100 for non-members and $75 for NSRWA members. Space is limited to 6 people per trip.

**Sunset Landscape & Wildlife Photography Workshop on the North River**  
Sunday June 12, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
During this 2-hour boat excursion up to some of the most preserved parts of the North River professional landscape and wildlife photographer Paul Nguyen will explain how to use the right lenses, techniques, and settings to get the best shots of nature. You must bring your own equipment. Space is limited. The cost is $70 for NSRWA members, $95 for non-members and includes boat trip.

**Bird Watching on the North River**  
Saturday May 28th 4:30 – 6:30 pm  
Come take trip on our pontoon boat with experienced birder Sally Avery and learn about the various birds that use the marshes and banks of the river for nesting and feeding. Bring your binoculars for this one! Space is limited to 6 passengers. The cost is $70 for NSRWA members, $95 for non-members.

**NSRWA 2016 NEW BOAT SERIES**

**Exploring the Science of Our Watershed**  
Explore by boat the geology, ecology and maritime archeology of the rivers with experts in each of these disciplines. Cost for each tour is $50 for members, $75 for non-members (includes membership). Registration online. Space is limited to 6.

**Maritime Archeology of the North River**  
Sunday June 5th 6 am – 8 am  
North River maritime archeological river tour to be led by Paul F. McCarthy, an amateur maritime archeologist, historian, and raconteur who will engage you with a substantive and entertaining visit to our shared past.

**Geology of the North and South Rivers**  
Saturday July 9th at 9 – 11 am  
Join local Coastal Geologist, Jim O’Connell, for a tour of the geology of the mouth of the rivers. You will stop and get out at the Spit for a walking tour along this ever changing landform at the mouth of the rivers.

**Ecology of the Salt Marsh**  
Thursday August 4th 1-3 pm  
Join Dr. Sara Grady, NSRWA’s Watershed Ecologist, on an exploration of the ecology of our salt marshes. She will explain how they formed, their unique vegetation and why they are so important to preserve.

**Kayaking on the Rivers (Kids & Adults 8+)**

**KAYAK FUNDAMENTALS**  
Saturday June 4, 11 am – 1:30 pm • Sunday July 10, 4:30 – 7 pm  
Cost per Member: $50 (includes all kayaking equipment) / Non members: $75 (includes NSRWA Membership) All kayaking trips leave from the Marshfield Canoe Launch off Union Street.

**SCENIC TOURS**  
Saturdays, June 11; 5-7:30pm • July 23; 2:30-5pm • August 20; 1:30-4pm  
Cost per Member: $50 (includes all kayaking equipment) / Non members: $75 (includes NSRWA Membership)

**NORTH RIVER HISTORIC TOUR**  
Saturday, August 6; 1:00-5:00pm  
Cost per Member: $70 (includes all kayaking equipment) / Non members: $95 (includes NSRWA Membership)
It is hard to imagine but at the end of 2015 Paula Christie, NSRWA’s Assistant Director, retired after 20 years of caring for the rivers, organizing and managing events that engage other people in caring for them and making sure our office ran smoothly. We are all going to miss Paula’s passion for making our events successful and fun for all and wish her the best in her retirement. Her legacy lives on!

Thank you, Paula!

Special Thank You to artist Gayle Loik for sharing her talent and designing the Great River Race t-shirts for the last decade! Her original artwork made every race t-shirt a one of a kind design. Thank you Gayle for all your support.

Thank you, Gayle!