



20 Priority Actions to Improve Resilience & Water Quality in the Blackstone River Watershed

1. Hire a **Watershed Coordinator** to establish and maintain a Blackstone Collaborative.
2. Develop a watershed-wide **fundraising plan** to increase and diversify funding coming to the watershed.
3. Establish a **green jobs program** with an initial focus on green infrastructure maintenance.
4. Create an **education strategy** that informs and energizes the public.
5. Develop a new **wetland restoration strategy** for the Blackstone.
6. **Target projects** that meet specific criteria for coordinated action at watershed scale.
7. Maximize effectiveness of existing long-term **monitoring programs** to influence action.
8. **Study surface water flow** to identify existing and future flow-challenged areas.
9. **Update local regulations** that enable implementation of nature-based solutions.
10. Create **bridge funding program** to help municipalities more quickly protect undeveloped lands.
11. Increase support for **permanent land protection**.
12. Increase support for planning for and installation of **low impact development** practices.
13. Accelerate management of **water chestnut** to support habitat and recreation.
14. Create the pre-conditions for achieving **fish passage** on the first four dams on the lower main stem Blackstone.
15. Advance **aquatic connectivity** projects from headwaters to estuary.
16. Complete new sections of the Blackstone River **Bikeway/Greenway**.
17. Increase **maintenance of waterways** for wildlife, recreation, and safety.
18. Create program to recognize developers and communities that execute **sustainable development**.
19. Increase free and **equitable access** to use and benefit from waterways.
20. Pursue coordinated **advocacy** to advance these recommended actions.

These priorities were identified by the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report (2021), created by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (nbecp.org) available at <https://bit.ly/BlackstoneReport>

With over 100 partner organizations, the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative is working together to improve the health and resilience of our communities from Worcester, MA to Pawtucket, RI and help us meet the increasing challenges to water quality such as urban growth and climate change impacts.

Learn more at blackstonecollaborative.org