

Accelerating Climate Resilience Case Study: Norwood Green Stormwater Retrofits

Project Snapshot

Project Lead	Town of Norwood
Project Partners	Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA)
Grant Round	FY23
Grant Funding	\$50,000

The Town of Norwood is advancing green stormwater retrofits at the Savage Center and Cleveland School, both located in areas that experience increased flooding.

The Savage Center is a top priority, because it serves as one of Norwood's emergency shelters during flooding and other climate hazards. In addition to the retrofits, the program conducted community outreach about climate resiliency and green stormwater infrastructure. The goal is to bolster the resilience in Norwood when flooding occurs.

"I have studied the flooding throughout the years and looked at the changes. What I noticed is that it is not the depth of the floods getting larger but the velocity, which surprised me."

— NepRWA Green Infrastructure Specialist Anna Yie

This project advanced climate resiliency efforts by:

- Developing retrofit designs to transform Norwood's approach to managing stormwater
- Conducting widely-attended public outreach meetings to discuss climate change and current stormwater related projects.
- Increasing awareness of flood hazards by converging with existing stormwater capital projects.

ACR Program Priorities



Capacity building through partnerships



Nature-based solutions



Innovative public outreach and education



Flyer (left) for the Stormwater & the Future public outreach event in January 2024 and Article (right) written about the event in The Norwood Record

Project Outcomes

75+

Community members in attendance at “Stormwater & the Future”

80+

Community members in attendance at “Flooding and Norwood’s Future”

3

Outreach presentations at the Cleveland School

2

Languages used for translation of outreach materials (Portuguese and Spanish)

Lessons Learned



Identifying the places where people already are and providing programming in those spaces is more effective than trying to attract people to a new event or location.



Developing creative outreach strategies, such as a storytelling session about living through a big storm, lowers the barriers to engagement.



Combining outreach events among several related projects means that resources can be shared, audiences broaden, and more folks are likely to attend and engage.

Looking Forward

The green BMP retrofits will be incorporated when the re-paving of the Savage Center goes out to bid, currently in the Capital Plan for 2025. The parking lot would have been repaved just as it was originally 40 years ago if not for funding like ACR. The town is hiring a part-time stormwater coordinator to help coordinate stormwater permitting and projects, and the Community Development Department is rewriting local regulations to improve resiliency.