



Title: Healthy Landscapes: Protecting Water Quality in Rural Landscapes

Name: Alyson McCann

Email: alyson@uri.edu

Organization: University of Rhode Island

State: RI **Region:** New England

Year of Funding: 2002

Theme: Drinking Water and Human Health

Situation: The Healthy Landscapes Project is a partnership project with the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension and North Kingstown, Rhode Island. This is an Extension education program aimed at pollution prevention best management practices that encompass the concerns within a local Rhode Island community that exemplifies southern New England's "mixed land use" watersheds. Audiences include landowners and residents and Green Industry Professionals and Retail Garden Center Employees.

Objectives: Deliver educational programs, enabling residents to protect the quality of their water resources. Increase the public's knowledge of BMPs and of personal actions they can take to conserve and protect watersheds. Establish local landscape demonstration sites. Conduct professional training programs. Develop a comprehensive media strategy. Strengthen existing URI CE Programs. Strengthen the New England Region Water Quality Program.

Methods: Mass media campaign. Establishment of local demonstration sites. Intensive training sessions for residents. Professional sector training. Development of programmatic materials and website. RI Flower Show and other local exhibits.

Partnerships: This project is a partnership among the following: University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Home*A*Syst, GreenShare, and Master Gardener Programs; Master Gardener Association; and the Town of North Kingstown Rhode Island.

Research: This project has received funding as an extension education project and is focused primarily on education and integrating the work of research scientists into the demonstration of landscape best management practices.

Resources: In addition to funding from USDA CSREES '406' program funds, substantial volunteer time from both the Town of North Kingstown, residents and Master Gardener volunteers have contributed to the implementation of this project.

Results: Outputs - Workshops and trainings; Professional training programs conducted; Updated and new educational materials, website, and displays developed; Television and print media segments developed and delivered; Requests for information; Columns in local newsletter. Outcomes - BMPs adopted; Increased partnerships; Increased protection of community water resources; Increased citizen awareness; Empowered citizenship; Strengthen the Residential Pollution Prevention focus area



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