

CSO PHASE 3A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

STATE PROGRAM: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Narragansett Bay Commission

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$35M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) provides wastewater treatment to 10 communities in the greater Providence area. NBC entered into a \$35 million programmatic financing arrangement (ProFi) with the CWSRF that creates an agreement to fund any portion of a NBC's eligible projects identified in an established project portfolio. NBC's ProFi agreement contains a commitment to fund a CSO Phase 3A Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Initiative. The City of Central Falls, which had limited green space and 548 acres of impervious surface, is considered the smallest, most densely populated, and economically disadvantaged community in the State. This GSI Initiative will include two construction projects within the City designed to infiltrate over 778,000 gallons of stormwater that would have otherwise been discharged as CSOs. Through investing in the Initiative, the City significantly expanded its green infrastructure and added a new soccer field for Central Falls residents to enjoy.

In addition to the \$35 million ProFi CWSRF loan made by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank in partnership with Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), over \$1 million in additional subsidy was incorporated as principle forgiveness, which further reduced the economic impact on the community. These GSI projects also received a combined \$700,000 in state water quality and recreation grants from RIDEM, as well as \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant. Funding these GSI projects reflects how utilizing a collaborative approach with innovative financing can yield water quality and recreational benefits for the residents of Central Falls.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/documents/2020_pisces_compendium.pdf.