

CHARLOTTE HOPE PLAZA STORMWATER

STATE PROGRAM: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Providence Redevelopment Agency

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$2.7M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Providence Redevelopment Agency (PDA) partnered with EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to implement a project to redevelop a brownfield within one of the most economically distressed areas in Providence, Rhode Island. The production of a holistic design plan for this site provided for the conversion of a blighted property into a subsurface infiltration and stormwater management system and prioritized improving public health and environmental conditions at the Charlotte Hope Plaza. The project removed contaminated soil, eliminated harmful discharges into the Woonasquatucket River, and incorporated site reuse strategies developed from community engagement with residents and local non-profits like the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. This led to the cross-utilization of the capped land to create a new community parking facility with 150 free parking spaces to serve adjacent businesses, employees, patrons, and residents while also encouraging further creation of 15,000 square feet of publicly accessible green space for the community. This project illustrates how a collaborative approach to problem solving can yield multiple benefits for a community. PRA received a 20-year, \$2.7 million loan through RIDEM, which included approximately \$1.07 million in principal forgiveness, that allowed for an affordable cleanup and also preserved PRA's borrowing capacity to complete other projects in its pipeline. Through these partnerships with federal, state, and non-profits, PRA delivered a cost-effective, community enhancing Plaza for residents.

To read more about this case study, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/2021-pisces-compendium.pdf>.