

# FACT SHEET

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Office of Water Resources, March 2007

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## ***PURPOSE***

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is pleased to announce the availability of riparian buffer restoration grants for reestablishment of native species or other projects that will establish or restore riparian habitats. Riparian buffers are areas of land adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and coastal waters that is maintained in a natural condition and is integral to the ecology of natural systems.

Funding for these grants is provided by the Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration Bond to restore and protect the water quality, enhance the economic viability and environmental sustainability of Narragansett Bay and the State's watersheds.

## ***ELIGIBILITY AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES***

Eligible parties include state, local and regional government agencies as well as nonprofit agencies and private individuals with appropriate administrative capacity.

The grants, provided on a matching basis, will give financial assistance for projects for the re-establishment of native species or other improvement projects that restore riparian habitat to a natural condition for the purpose of water quality improvement/protection.

## ***APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS***

- Cover letter stating:
  - The purpose of the project, including existing conditions and proposed activities.
  - Expected water quality improvements
  - Other pertinent information
  
- Map of the Proposed Restoration Site
- Project Work Plan & Timetable
- Budget
- Supporting Materials and Information

## ***APPLICATION PROCESS***

All project proposals must be received by DEM, Office of Water Resources no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 1, 2007.

A review team will rank the projects based on:

- The public benefits of the project
- Technical merits of the project
- Consistency with approved plans
- Readiness to proceed

Awards will be announced by June 29, 2007 and development of grant agreements will follow. *(Projects should not be initiated until after grant agreements are approved as this may affect eligibility for funding.)*

## ***FURTHER INFORMATION:***

Information and application materials may be obtained from:

Gregg J. Cassidy, Senior Environmental Planner  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Sustainable Watersheds Office  
235 Promenade St.  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 222-4700 ext. 4403

