

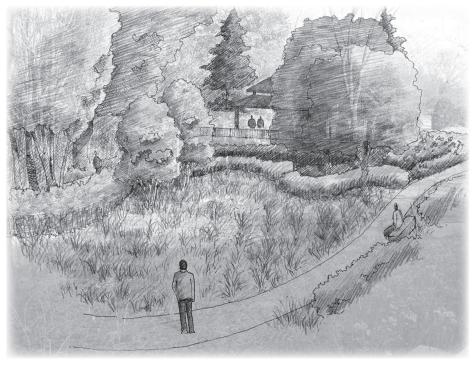
Blue Communities Preserve Land -Keep Community Preservation Strong!

ver the past 10 years, the NSRWA and its members spearheaded the passage of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), first passing it in Scituate, Marshfield and Norwell and then in Hanover and Pembroke. Why? Because we need to stop paving over our watershed and one of the most effective tools to keep land from being paved is to buy it and protect it in perpetuity.

By dedicating town revenues, and leveraging state matching funds, CPA provides the necessary funding certainty when critical lands become available and allows a town to pursue lands that are important for their community. Approximately 1,750 acres of open space have been saved in South Shore communities with CPA funding. From large acquisitions such as the 150 acres of cranberry bogs at the headwaters to the Herring Brook in Pembroke to the small but critical 1.5 acre parcel in Marshfield that we hope will become our South River Park, CPA works to protect our watershed.

Unfortunately, several South Shore communities - Hingham, Cohasset and Marshfield, have initiatives on their Town Meeting warrants to almost eliminate their contributions to CPA. Please help us continue to protect land here on the South Shore by attending your town meeting and voting to keep CPA strong in your community.

by Samantha Woods Executive Director



Artist's rendering of future South River Park in Marshfield.

Reclaiming the South River

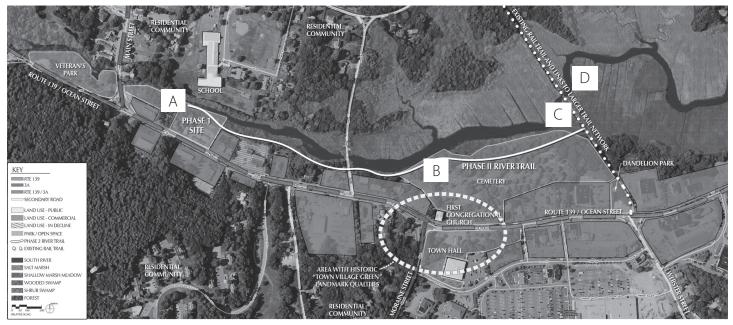
Marshfield to vote on new South River Park, future entrance to potential South River Greenway

This April residents of Marshfield will have a unique opportunity to make a difference for the future of the South River by voting to use Community Preservation funds to move ahead with construction of the South River Park. A potential gem in itself, the park (marked as location A on the map next page) is also planned to be the entrance to a 1/2 mile walking path along the river extending all the way to the newly constructed Dandelion Park and linking to the Bridle Path Rail Trail.

A cleaner and more accessible South

River has long been a vision of NSRWA. We fought for the 1970s National Natural Landmark Designation, and worked on the 1990's South River initiative where the idea of a walking path and the acquisition of lands along the river was born. As part of our recent Blue Communities Campaign we set a goal to pursue land protection critical to the health of the watershed including the creation of a Greenway along the South River.

Over the last several years, Marshfield's continued, next page



An aerial view of the proposed South River Greenway in Marshfield Center.

Reclaiming the South River,

continued from page 1

Open Space Committee, with support from the NSRWA, has been pursuing the acquisition of parcels along the South River, particularly along the Rte 139 corridor. This highly urban and commercial corridor has literally turned its back on the South River, relegating the river to an unseen, inaccessible, largely unnoticed and often maligned resource in an otherwise very busy part of the community.

In 2007 and 2008 three parcels directly abutting the South River and totaling 1.7 acres--with the support of NSRWA Marshfield members at town meeting--were acquired for \$686,000 using Community Preservation funds in Marshfield. In 2009 we returned to town meeting and passed \$65,000 in funding again from CPA to develop plans for a park on the newly acquired parcel and for a feasibility plan to develop a walking path from the new park along the South River.

The proposed park as designed will be a green oasis in an otherwise paved and urban environment. The park design calls for approximately 1,000 feet of handicap accessible walking trails that have the potential to connect to the longer walking path along the river, parking for 8-14 cars (with rain gardens and permeable pavers to reduce any impacts to the water cycle), restored native vegetation (the property along the river is host to many invasive species), and access to the South River though an overlook and boardwalk.

Linking to the proposed South River Greenway

The longer range plan is to have the proposed South River Park be the entrance to a walking path along the South River that would thread along the backside of existing commercial properties and would connect other existing open space and walking paths along the river like the cemetery, the new Dandelion Park and the existing Bridle Path. The initial feasibility study is completed and shows that the path can be built. There is enough room behind the existing buildings and between the bank of the river to run a stone dust walking path with only 2 places that



The South River Park as it looks today.



Cedar Grove Cemetery, which borders the South River.

continued, next page



A view of the South River just downstream of the Keville Bridge.

Reclaiming the South River, continued from page 2

will require structures such as a boardwalk or retaining wall in order to overcome topographical features. This plan will take time as it is going to require the cooperation of many individual owners but the first step - Is it possible?-has shown that indeed it is.

As Marshfield members of the NSRWA you helped to bring this vision to reality by attending previous town meetings and voicing your support. I urge you to come to this Spring's Town Meeting on April 26th and speak for the South River again. If you belong to a civic group in Marshfield please contact me to make a presentation to your group about the proposed park and walking path.

by Samantha Woods, Executive Director



A view of the bike trail/bridle path at the Francis Keville Memorial Bridge.



NSRWA River Guardian Circle and Matching Challenge Fund Progress Report and THANK YOU

We reported to you in January about the founding of our new River Guardian Circle to recognize major donors of \$500 or more, and the \$20,000 Challenge Fund offering to match new contributions of \$500 or more.

We were given until June 30 to match the fund, and are extremely pleased that with more than 3 months to go over \$17,000 in matching contributions have been received! It is extremely important that we fully achieve this match on time, as success triggers a follow-up \$20,000 challenge over the next 12 months. If you can help please let us know!

Welcome to new members of the River Guardian Circle:

Mary Eliot

Bluestone Energy Services Harold Flight Sylvester Fund Mark and Sally Moore David Romano Paul Vercollone

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

The mission of the North & South Rivers Watershed Association is to preserve, restore, maintain and conserve in their natural state, the waters and related natural resources within the watershed.

Our goals are to: • Restore the water quality of the rivers by identifying and correcting adverse impacts;

• Encourage stewardship of the watershed through public education, outreach and recreation programs; and

• Promote responsible growth by working in partnerships to preserve open space, scenic vistas and sensitive natural resources.

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Address Correspondence to: NSRWA P.O. Box 43 Norwell, MA 02061 phone: 781-659-8168 www.nsrwa.org



5th Grade Water Curriculum Has Lofty Goals



Cohasset 5th Graders on a field trip to their water supply.

y the end of this school year 5th grade students throughout the watershed and beyond will have participated in the "Water All Around You program". An outgrowth of our Greenscapes program--which was primarily focused on educating homeowners about water conservation-this new approach is focused on educating a different audience-our youth.

In 2008, with financial support from the Scituate Rotary, we piloted the program by taking the 5th grade students of Scituate on a tour of their water treatment plant, reservoir (part of the First Herring Brook), sewage outfall and other highlights of Scituate's water supply and our watershed. In the 2009-10 school year, through financial support from a 319 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and our participating Greenscapes communities, we are able to expand the program to encompass more communities. This past spring we took 5th graders from Hull and Cohasset on tours of their water treatment plants and water systems. And this spring, with help from our partners, we intend to bring the program to 5th graders in Weymouth, Norwell, Scituate, Hanover, Marshfield, Kingston and Pembroke.

NSRWA's "Water All Around You" Program

Over the next few months 5th graders in the towns mentioned will get an overview of their watershed and their town's water resources. The pilot program entitled "Water All Around You" includes a classroom presentation provided by the NSRWA and Mass Bays Program to the teachers. To add some fun and to reinforce the information in the presentation, the students will play a localized version of Watershed Jeopardy, which gets the kids not only excited, but interested in the information.

To reinforce the classroom activities we then assemble the students for "Water Day Activities." Half of the students will board a bus that will take them to see first-hand where their water comes from, how it is treated at the water treatment plant, where the rivers and other relevant surface waters are in their community and a visit to their local rain garden for a discussion of stormwater pollution.

Meanwhile the other students will be doing hands-on water-related activities. From study-

continued, next page

Upcoming Citizen Scientist VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Top Five Reasons to Volunteer for the NSRWA

You will have an excuse to get outside; 2) You will learn new skills; 3) You will meet other cool people;
 4) You can feel good about yourself; 5) Your rivers need you!
 If interested in volunteering please contact Sara Grady at 781-659-8168 or email sara@nsrwa.org

Third Herring Brook Gage Reading

Go with the Flow. Help us to monitor flows in the Third Herring Brook

Timing: Any time of day (that you can see!), year round

Location: Any of our three sites on the Norwell/Hanover town line - River St/Broadway, Mill St., and Rt. 123/Jacob's Pond How long will it take? Quick (< 1 minute once you get there)

Training: Contact Sara and stop by the NSRWA office for an info packet and datasheet

Herring Counts -One Fish Two Fish

Timing: April 1- May 31, within one or more "time blocks" (7-11am, 11am-3pm, 3-7pm), 3-7 times a week (more is better). You don't have to do it all - the more volunteers the more we can spread out the workload!

Locations: Herring Brook, Pembroke; South River, Marshfield; Bound Brook, Scituate How long will it take? 5 minutes of

counting fish each time you stop Training: Contact Sara

River Watch Water Quality Monitoring

Timing: June 3 - August 31, every other week (June 17, July 1, July 19, August 3, August 17, August 31)

Location: Throughout the North and South Rivers Watershed (requires driving or we will partner you with someone who can drive)

How long will it take? Each sample event takes about 4 hours to complete all stations. You can sign up for one date or multiple dates.

Training: Training session on June 3rd, 7:00am at the NSRWA office

NSRWA's 5th Grade Water Curriculum Has Lofty Goals continued from page 4

ing how dye flows through a groundwater simulator -- to doing a taste test of different types of water (tap water, distilled, bottled), students will be observing, analyzing and drawing conclusions about the importance of water quality and quantity.

The last, and perhaps most exciting aspect of the program, is the stewardship component. Students will be given worksheets to do a water use analysis in their homes. Students and parents will look for leaks, determine if their toilets and faucets are as efficient as possible, assess ways they can conserve water as they do ordinary tasks, and most importantly confront the biggest water consumer of all - their lawns - to come up with a strategy to reduce summertime water usage. After tallying their projected water savings with the other students in the school, a grand total of gallons of water potentially saved will be calculated, and students will sign pledges that they will continue being water stewards.

When all is said and done, these are the goals of our "Water All Around You" program: to teach children to appreciate the complexity of our watershed, both manmade and natural, how water is brought to their homes and disposed of; to understand that water supplies are limited and easily degraded; and finally to advocate for plentiful, safe and clean water in a healthy watershed throughout their lives.

by Debbie Cook, Greenscapes Program Manager

The Greenscapes program is a collaboration of nonprofit, government and community partners focused on promoting water conservation. Wetland delineations
Notice of Intent filings
Regulatory interpretation
Permitting strategies
Water management compliance
5 Main Street Ext., Suite 303, Plymouth, MA 02360 Ph: 508.747.4266 Email: lenore@wetlandstrategies.com

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Letter from the President

orty years ago, a small group of environmentally-concerned people decided to organize as a watershed association to combat pollution of the North River and the alarming impact on its marshes. I recently had a chance to read a first hand account of those beginnings by one of the founding members. In perusing those stories, it's hard not to be inspired by the founders' vision, or not to be grateful for providing a foundation for environmental successes that are reflected in the current health of the river-shed.

There is clearly much for the members of today's NSRWA to celebrate in this milestone year. Five years ago, our stated objective was to be the south shore's leading environmental organization. We believe that we have earned that position - measured by successes in protecting open spaces, restoring our rivers, and in our educational programs for youths and adults.

However, it's important to understand that much of this progress was achieved while encountering stiff headwinds.

As economic concerns have risen in recent years, there has also been a disturbing decline in the public's support for environmental priorities. That shift in priorities is all too apparent in surveys like the annual Pew Center poll where the percentage of those citing the environment as a top priority dropped from 57% in 2006 and 2007 to 42% in 2009.

In 2005, the membership of the NSRWA was nearly 1,500; today it is hovering around 1,100. Although many other environmental groups have also experienced membership declines, it is one of our highest priorities to reverse our trend.

The economic crisis has affected all of us, but non-profits have encountered a kind of "perfect storm" of conditions. Endowments have been depressed in value; governments and agencies at all levels have been squeezed; individual donors' ability or inclination to give has been reduced.

Facing our own set of challenges we have evaluated the programs that are critical to supporting our mission and their supporting financial requirements. The Blue Communities Campaign was an important outcome of that process. The Campaign has been key to focusing our efforts in the difficult environment of 2009.

The board of directors is committed to representing the entirety of the NSRWA membership and our mission responsibly, ethically, and transparently. We encourage your involvement; we value your ideas and feedback.

It would be great if forty years from now, future stewards of the watershed looked back at what this organization is doing today...and were inspired by what they saw.

by Russ Haskell

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Charlene Trudelle Dorothy Underdown Kristina Vicario David Vogel Jeffrey & Judith Volpe Walker Family John Walkins Maurice Ward Patricia Watts Anne Weaver Charles Webb Ian Webb Patricia Weber Chip Weier Joseph Weinman Scott Weiss Holly & Jim Whelan David White Deanna White Hebert William & Virginia Whitmore Ron Wilk Chris Williams Wayne Wilson Ron Wilson & Judith Ann Avnet Taylor Wolf Jo-Ellen Wood Justin Woolf John & Patty Wright David Yampanis & Wendy Prentiss Sophia Yang Arthur Young Dorothy Young Charlotte Young Walter & Chris Zaremba

Business Sponsors \$100 - \$499

A.W. Perry Inc. Bayside Marine Corp. Brant Rock Fish Market Carpenters Local 424

Cavanaro Consulting Charles River Canoe & Kayak Citizen's Bank of Massachusetts Clearwater Recovery Conveted Organics Inc. Crawford Boatbuilding Daniel W. Clark Real Estate Hubbard Plumbing and Heating Humarock Mooring Service Image Resolutions J & B Power Equipment J.E. Fitzgerald - Housesmith Inc. Kethro & Thomas, P.C. L Knife & Sons Local Pottery Monahan's Marine Norfolk Ram Group LLC North River Gardeners North River Marine North River Marine Enterprises P.F. Spencer Jr. Inc. Rand Handy Oil Co., Inc. Rockland Federal Credit Uion Sea Tow South Shore Solar Fan Man South Humarock Civic Assoc. South Shore Periodontics Spit Dudes Outerwear Village Green Landscape Wetland Strategies, Inc Whole Foods Market

Business Sponsors

Alvin Hollis & Co. Inc. Andrew G. Gordon Inc. Bending Branches Bergsten Music Company Inc. Charles H. Reed Export, Inc. Cohasset Garden Club Cohasset Yoga Center

In Memory of Maggie (Wilma) Walker

20 Year NSRWA Member & Volunteer

River Lover, Mother Grandmother, Kayaker, Teacher, Volunteer, Artist and Adventurer

Harbor Morrings Service Hull Garden Club J.R.Holmes Jewelers Jacobs & Jacobs Lord Randall Bookshop Mariner Community Newspapers Mass Irrigation Services, Inc. McGreal's Tavern McKay Construction Co. Merrill Associates Inc. Morrell Associates MTI Adventure Wear Nantasket Kayaks Nature Preserve Inc.

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Curtis Liquor

Hanover Garden Club

North and South River Rides Patricia G. Cobb, P.C. Pembroke Conservation Comm. Planet Subaru Scituate Garden Club

Seven H Trust

Signs by Syd Stetson Kindred of America Walnut Hill Garden Club

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Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Priscilla Reed Jane Coleman Gertrude Lynch Chuck & Winnie Lou Rounds

Volunteers

The NSRWA thanks the following 2009 volunteers and apologizes for any left off the list. Kezia Bacon-Bernstein Dave Beck Nicole Bertone Michael Bilas Leah Bleiken Jonathan Bond Ralph Butler Barbara Cain Otis Carney Frances Carriere



Volunteers, continued Norm Cedarstrom John Chessia Mary Jeanne Christie Claudette Clunan Virginia Coburn Janice Dayton Ed Diiorio Wyatt Dowd Jean Drinkwater Elizabeth Durant Ellvn Einhorn Bea Ellis Paula Elsmore Aria Fitcher Sarah Fuller Sarah Garretson Lowry **Bill Grafton** Judy Grecco Penney Gustafson Tom Hall Daniel Hannafin Chris Head Sarah Head Chip Hebert Diane Hewins Alan & Janet Holbrook Janet Ingram Ionathan Iackson Mark Jackson Jordan Jacobs Robert Kniffen Rachel Laiosa ALLaRue Jim Lathop Jackie Leach Carmen Lendvay Gavle Loik Natalie Loomis Anne Lorge Alex Mansfield Doug McPherson Andrea Miller Linda Miller Sean Morrison Mary Morrison Flora Moynihan Renee Parry & Family June Payne Kerry Richardson Nancy & Ron Robertson Jeff & Betty Rogers Noreen Rowley Don & Louise Salvatore Allyssa Scoppettuolo Maria Sestina Carolyn Sones Bill Stanton Janis Stevenson Mark Stevenson Jencie Stewart Gary Thomas Kathi Thomson Pat Traynor Nick Tyack Peter Tyack Michael Waddell Maggie Walker Bob Warner Kensey Waterman Patricia Watts Nancy Whipple Ron Wilk Gail Wills

Treasurer's Report

ike every organization we struggled financially last year, but with your help we made it through and will continue with your support. We have made an effort to be frugal with our expenditures. In addition, our staff has made sacrifices. We continue to be cautious and watchful in our spending while maintaining our mission to preserve, restore, maintain and conserve the waters of the watershed.

Our 2010 budget also reflects this approach to our spending. We are still receiving grants, but there still is uncertainty regarding the continuation of some grants.

Our endowment fund has now been existence for over a year and we have begun a program of periodic planned investments to be done over a year and a half. We have chosen this method of dollar cost averaging in order to minimize market fluctuations. Using this method of investing means that an investor's returns will be be determined more by the overall trend in the market as opposed to the investor's specific entry price. In addition, it helps investors reduce their cost basis when securities decline. Our investment allocation is a combination of stocks and bonds, as well as money market funds, all invested through low cost mutual funds.

As always we appreciate the support of all of our members who value the work of our organization.

Richard E. Leach, Treasurer

North and South Rivers Watershed Association • 2009 Statement of Financial Position

Balance Sheet		Major Sources of Funds	
Total Assets	\$476,846	Government Grants:	\$125,492
Total Liabilities	\$ 12,882	Department of Environmental Protection	
Net Assets	\$ 389,899	Department of Conservation and Recreation	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$476,846	Massachusetts Bays Program	
Statement of Activities		Town of Cohasset Town of Hanover	
Revenues Restricted Grants Unrestricted and Restricted	\$161,819	Town of Kingston Town of Marshfield	
Donations	\$ 77,850	Town of Norwell Town of Pembroke	
Program/Events	\$ 32,130	Pine Hills	
All Other Total Revenue	\$ 29,731	City of Weymouth	
Total Revenue	\$301,530	Foundations and Trusts:	\$ 29,099
Expenses		Sheehan Family Foundation	
Payroll	\$182,425	Island Foundation	
Contract and Professional	too 000	Individuals & Corporations:	\$146,939
Services	\$22,033	individuals & corporations.	, 1-10, J J J
Occupancy and Utilities	\$ 9,138	VAL	
Printing and Postage All Other	\$ 20,351 \$ 77,385	*Not reviewed by Accountant	
	\$ 77,383 \$311,332		
Total Expenses	2271122		
Net Revenues	\$-9,802		

Thank you for your support.

To sign up or for more information contact us at 781-659-8168 or paula @nsrwa.org

23rd Annual River Clean Up Day

Saturday April 24th 10 am - 12 noon Sponsored by Whole Foods

What doesn't belong in the river? Trash-including plastic bags, coffee cups, nip bottles, etc. Help the river you love and join us for our annual river clean up. We provide the trash bags and rubbish disposal. You supply the energy and the job done. If you are interested in being a station captain or have a pick up truck please let us know by contacting Paula or Sam at 781-659-8168. At noon we gather at Scituate's Driftway Park for a great barbecue sponsored by Whole Foods in Hingham.

Upper Reaches Photography Paddle

from the Hanover Canoe Launch Saturday, June 12, 10am-1pm

The focus of the paddle will be to capture photos on the river hopefully with co-operative river inhabitants. The paddle will begin at 10:00 am and be finished around 1:00 pm. Everyone is invited and bring a camera if you have one (waterproof storage bag for the camera is a good idea). This will be a gentle paddle and photographic tips from all!

Pre-registration and PFDs are mandatory as space is limited to 8 boats. To register, email paula@nsrwa.org or call Paula Christie at (781)-659-8168. Suggested donation is \$5 per person

NSRWA's Spring 2010 Events

Spring Walks to Celebrate Community Preservation - Marshfield

10 years ago the NSRWA spearheaded passing the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in our watershed communities enabling towns to be able to purchase open space. Marshfield was one of the first to adopt CPA and we want to celebrate what has been preserved using those funds. The NSRWA along with Mass Audubon South Shore, The Trustees of Reservations and The Wildlands Trust are co-sponsoring a series of walks this April on lands protected in Marshfield using CPA funds. Join us and find out how the Community Preservation Act has worked!

Saturday, April 3rd at 11 am Easter Egg Hunt at the Ellis Preserve

Saturday, April 3rd at 11 am - Easter Egg Hunt at the Ellis Preserve Bring the family and kids to find Easter eggs, some painted by North River Arts Society artists! The parcel is approximately 28 acres, protected in 2006 using CPA funds. It has a cranberry bog, a pond and a forest of oak and white pine and protects drinking water wells and the South River. Wildlands Trust holds the conservation restriction and its staff will lead this walk. *Park on Sandy Hill Road* (off Route 139) next to the Preserve in Marshfield.

Sunday, April 11th at 1 pm Maryland Street on the North River

This 17 acre parcel abutting the North River marshes and The Trustee's 68 acre Two Mile Farm is a real gem! Protected at town meeting just last fall, this the first time that it will be open to the public for walking. Please join the NSRWA and TTOR staff as we walk the original cart paths and explore this new addition to the conservation parcels of Marshfield. *Meet at the Two Mile Farm parking lot on Union Street, Marshfield.*

Sunday, April 18th at 1 pm Little's Conservation Area, 915 Union Street

This lovely 25 acre parcel was protected in 2008 and abuts other areas conserved privately. The parcel is mostly upland with vibrant green ferns and a nice walking path. There is a small parking lot at 915 Union Street, Marshfield. Mass Audubon South Shore Sanctuary staff will lead this walk, a reception will be held at a neighbor's afterwards with light refreshments.

Sunday, April 25th at 1 pm Site of Proposed South River Park

(formerly Buckles and Boards) 2148 Ocean Street (Rte 139)

Join us to look at the site of the future (we hope) South River Park! The South River Park Working Group members including the NSRWA will be on hand to show the existing site and the proposed park drawings as well as discuss the opportunities for extending the greenway and a future walking trail along the South River. Please come find out more about this project!

Yoga at the River's Edge

Saturdays, 8:30 am - 10 am • June 19 - September 11 Various outdoor locations along the North and South Rivers

For more info watch our website, get on our Rivernet email list, or join our Facebook group "Yoga at the River's Edge."



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In This Issue:

Protecting land along the rivers is critical for watershed health.

We report on:

- Community Preservation Act success.
- The beginning of a South River Park.
- What NSRWA is doing about it!

2010 is NSRWA's 40th Anniversary!

This issue of RiverWatch is your Annual Report.



Buy a Rain Barrel, Save Water and Support the NSRWA

(By April 14th!)

Rain Barrels are on sale for \$82.95 through the New England Rain Barrel Company. To order call (877) 977-3135 or order online at nerainbarrel.com. *Rain Barrels will be available to be picked up April 15th or after at the NSRWA office* 214 South Street, Norwell.

Kennedy's Native Plant Sale

April 17 - April 25 to benefit the NSRWA

QUESTION: What is great for the environment, your pocketbook and the NSRWA? Answer: NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants are the best food sources for birds and animals; they are great for our pocketbooks because they require very little water or fertilizer; they are perfectly adapted to our New England environment; and they are beautiful!

Come see the extensive display of native plants at Kennedy's Country Gardens, Saturday, April 17 through Sunday, April 25. You'll have the opportunity to learn all about these plants from Kennedy's plant experts and American Beauties, the premier source of native plants. Checkwww.kennedyscountrygardens.com for more information, including lectures and other events. Native plants may be in stock or ordered.

All purchases of native plants benefit the North and South Rivers Watershed Association. For every \$25 spent on native plants, you will receive \$5 in "Kennedys' Bucks" to be spent anywhere in their store! Restrictions apply.







SAVE THE DATE

the GREAT RIVER RACE

Saturday JULY 24th



