

**G**reenwich Bay provides vital shellfish habitat, shoreline access, boating opportunities, scenic views, and historic significance. Pollution from stormwater runoff, failing septic systems, and overdevelopment threatens the water quality needed to support those uses. Residents, marinas, yacht clubs, shellfishing operations, restaurants, and other commercial enterprises depend on a healthy Greenwich Bay, so all are invited to take part in a plan to restore the Bay to well-being.

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council is coordinating with Warwick, East Greenwich, government agencies, and community organizations to prepare the Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP).

A SAMP is built on government cooperation and community participation. It is adopted into state and local law and recommends policies and actions that government can undertake to protect a complex natural resource that is part of a larger watershed ecosystem. The SAMP will describe the present status of the Bay, characterize its watershed, identify sources of pollution, and recommend steps to help government work with communities to restore, protect, and balance uses of Greenwich Bay for this and future generations.



*Oakland Beach*



**In partnership with**

RI Department of Environmental Management  
 RI Department of Health  
 RI Economic Development Corporation  
 RI Marine Trades Association  
 RI Shellfishermen's Association  
 Save The Bay  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Southern Rhode Island Conservation District

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# What is a SAMP?



## The Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan

2003

# The SAMP: Protecting and Restoring Greenwich Bay

## The SAMP works to:

- Identify and reduce pollution sources
- Protect and restore critical wildlife habitats
- Create policy for sustainable use of watershed resources
- Help communities engage with CRMC
- Improve review of development proposals
- Balance uses of the Bay

## The SAMP can improve Bay water quality through:

- Assessment of waste systems in the watershed, emphasizing coastal areas
- Guidelines for controlling stormwater runoff, erosion and sedimentation
- Improvement of marina pumpout facilities
- Work with marinas to adopt clean marina standards
- Mandated sewer hookups or alternative septic systems



Warwick Cove



The Greenwich Bay SAMP is an important step to improving the water quality of the Bay coves.

## SAMP strategies for improving Bay habitat management include:

- Recommending buffer zones to protect critical wetland and estuarine areas
- Encouraging best land-use practices
- Developing public education programs
- Recommending shellfish protection districts
- Connecting dredging needs to habitat restoration

## The SAMP approach to hazard and flood protection includes:

- Risk assessment and mitigation strategies
- Coordination of post-storm restoration plans
- Coordination among local, state and federal agencies involved with disaster response

## The SAMP addresses beach erosion and bottom silting by:

- Identifying degraded shorelines and sedimentation areas
- Recommending beach restoration strategies
- Working with communities on dredging issues and beach nourishment

## The SAMP protects cultural and historic resources by:

- Identifying priority preservation sites
- Engaging historic and cultural organizations in watershed protection efforts
- Assisting natural disaster plans for historic and cultural resources

## The SAMP protects public access by:

- Designating access sites
- Guiding designation, development, and management of public right-of-ways
- Enhancing maintenance of access sites

## SAMP economic strategies:

- Promote best management and environmental practices for marine dependent tourism
- Foster business support for Bay research
- Promote updating and enforcing municipal development regulations
- Guide public investment in marine businesses