
Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan Economic Investment Chapter Summary

The Greenwich Bay is an environmental asset, one whose unique resource offerings and aesthetic beauty are significant drivers behind local economic growth. The Bay provides opportunities for business development that can help improve the financial well-being of the people and municipalities in the area **while also supporting investments in functional community design and environmental health.**

To restore and protect the environmental qualities of Greenwich Bay and its watershed, economic investment and incentives need to be targeted to implement the Greenwich Bay SAMP. A focused economic development strategy that incorporates environmental concerns can reduce infrastructure costs, provide economic stability for marine related businesses, retain a community sense of place and improve the quality of life for local residents.

What are the key findings?

- **Commercial fishing**
 - The bay is valuable to commercial shellfishing for both the productive shellfish resource and the excellent harbors for the quahog fleet. The bay is a primary source of quahogs for the Narragansett Bay winter commercial shellfishery. It is estimated that the commercial quahog fishery generated \$1.167M in 2003.
 - Affordable dockage for work skiffs and commercial fishermen is limited.
- **Boat-related Businesses**
 - The bay has one of the largest concentrations of boats in the state (27 marinas and yacht clubs, 3662 slips and 4000 recreational boats).
 - Property tax revenue from boat-related businesses in 2003 for Warwick and East Greenwich were \$110,005 and \$410,444, respectively. Gasoline taxes collected from boats generated additional revenues for the state.
- **Marine Recreation and Tourism**
 - Estimated revenue from Warwick's 664 moorings was \$36,750 (1996), while East Greenwich's 115 moorings generated \$25,540 (2003). Revenue in East Greenwich goes to fund the harbormaster, while Warwick's funds go to the town's general fund.
 - There is limited information available for the economic impact of recreational fishing. The bay is a popular fishing area due to its productivity and shelter from storms.
 - There are three waterfront-lodging businesses in the bay and at least thirteen waterfront restaurants around the bay. These businesses help create a sense of place for their neighborhoods and attract tourists.
 - Goddard State Park is the third most visited (800k/YR) park in RI. It plays an integral role as a tourist attraction for the region. Revenue (\$265k/YR) is only collected for golfing and facility rentals. Beach closures at Goddard ranges from 7 to 28 days per year.
 - Oakland and Warwick City Park generate revenue from parking fees (\$10,179 in 2003). The fees were about 50% lower in 2003 due to beach closures. There were 66 beach closures in 2003.
- **State Economic Development Plans linked to the Greenwich Bay area**

Various state policy documents advocate that expenditure of public dollars focus on growth centers in established urban areas for marine commuter transportation, increased public access, waterfront bike paths and growth in the marine sector while protecting a sense of place and the environment.

 - *Marine Clusters*: gives policy direction for state investments in marine economic development. Greenwich Bay is one of the centers for boat-related businesses, marine recreation & tourism, and commercial fisheries.
 - *Growth Centers*: Greenwich Bay borders the T.F. Green Growth Center making it a likely candidate for attracting state investment for urban growth that maintains a sense of place. Goals include linking the airport to regional trains and high-speed ferries.
 - *RI Economic Strategy*: Outlines the opportunities for economic growth in the region focusing on maintaining a sense of place, urban growth, protecting the environment and increasing public transportation links across the region.
- **Local Economic Development Plans**
 - *East Greenwich Downtown Revitalization Plan*: includes linking the waterfront to main street for pedestrians and targeted mix use development of a brownfield site near Greenwich Cove.

- *Warwick Economic Development Plan*: targets expanding the sewer system to allow commercial growth, developing commercial incubators in existing industrial mill space and continued development of coastal related economic resources.

What are the issues?

- Major policies to improve water quality in the GB watershed, such as mandatory sewer tie-ins and reducing stormwater runoff, will require substantial economic investment from federal, state and local government and the private sector.
- How does Greenwich Bay maintain its sense of place and environmental health while also encouraging/accommodating economic development?

What are the SAMP's goals?

- Ensure that economic investments and incentives support and encourage the implementation of SAMP policies, regulations and recommendations.
- Identify economic investments and incentives that maintain Greenwich Bay's unique sense of place while also allowing for growth.
- Identify investments and incentives that maintain and strengthen Greenwich Bay's marine industry cluster.

What are the recommended actions for economic investments or incentives?

Type of Action	Who will Implement?
Policies	
♦ Make sure property owners who are still using septic fields are operating properly	DEM/CRMC
? Treat water quality on all sites of at least 5000 ft ² of impervious surfaces	DEM/CRMC
Recommendations	
♦ State Revolving Fund: Lower the bond interest rate for stormwater retrofits/STP upgrades	
♦ Procure funding to address highway runoff sedimentation	DOT
♦ Procure funding for greater "No Discharge" enforcement	Towns
♦ Increase mooring fees in Warwick to better fund the harbormaster budget	Warwick
♦ Purchase tax lots for use as public access, buffers, or denitrification	Towns
♦ Real estate transfer tax	-
♦ Encourage local banks to offer 'Ecodeposits' which then fund watershed supportive activities in Greenwich Bay (home improvement with buffers and removing impervious surface)	-
♦ Like aquaculture, establish marina lease fees for restricted funds, such as habitat restoration, public access, and marine education for the public	-
♦ Procure Federal funding for restoration of fish runs	All
♦ Marinas are at significant risk for storm hazards; identify lots for storage of boats out of V zones	Towns
♦ Revitalize Chepiwanoxet	-
♦ Create affordable dockage for work skiffs and commercial fisherman. Possible sites include Apponaug & Warwick Coves and possibly a site in Brushneck Cove in the event that the channel is dredged.	Towns
♦ Apponaug – city and Federal match for a quahog cooperative for maintenance and lift outs; invest in quahog cooperatives in Greenwich Cove and Warwick Cove	-
♦ Address the lack of data concerning the economic impact of recreational fishing in Greenwich Bay	-
♦ Research the trends of average dock price for each Cove.	
♦ Identify joint funding from public and private sources for dredging in Greenwich Bay	All
♦ Link business park expansion around the airport to use in restaurants and businesses in the Greenwich Bay watershed	

How do actions in this chapter relate to other issues in the SAMP?

Economic Investment strategies:

- identify the sources of the needed funding to implement the SAMP
- designate the use of government funding for specific SAMP actions
- balance the needs for environmental protection, economic development and recreational use