



2021

Land as the Community to Which We Belong¹

Land Use Narragansett Bay Watershed



NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

¹ This title refers to this quote “When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect” by Aldo Leopold from the foreword to [A Sand County Almanac](#).

Science Update: Land Use in the Narragansett Bay Watershed Between 2001-2016.

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

NBEP-21-244

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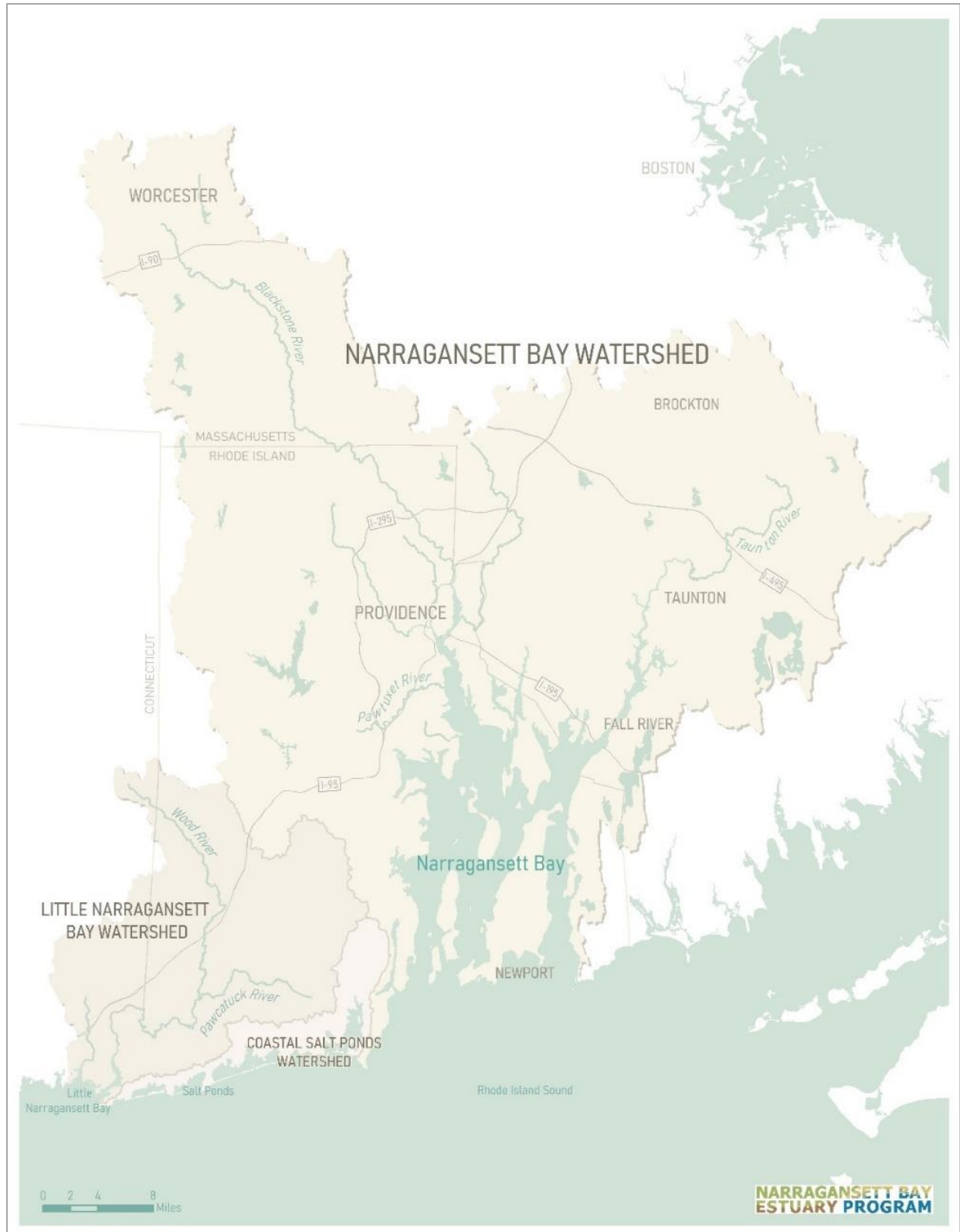
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NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM AND ITS STUDY AREAS

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is part of the National Estuary Program, established in 1987 as an amendment to the federal Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NBEP uses a voluntary, community-driven approach to enhance the water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in the Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The landscape unites 2 million people across 113 communities in 3 states. It hosts diverse habitats that sustain wildlife and vital economies.



Map of Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Study Areas

PURPOSE

This science update presents an analysis of land use change in the Narragansett Bay Watershed, focusing on the changes in area (acreage) of forest lands and developed lands from 2001 to 2016. This is an update of the 2017 [State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed](#). This science update is a companion piece to a larger report on land use in the Little Narragansett Bay and Coastal Salt Ponds Watersheds, included in this download.

The purpose of these documents is to inform our audience on land use change in NBEP's study areas, and to identify areas for further research. NBEP hopes that this update stimulates discussion among our partners and land use experts.

The audience for this piece is anyone who is interested in land use change, particularly environmental managers, members of land-trust committees, and the interested public.

METHODS & DATA

The methods used in this report are similar to the [Land Use Chapter](#) of the *Status of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* (NBEP 2017). The acreage reported in this update stem from National Land Cover Datasets (NLCD), clipped to the study areas, and then sorted by watersheds (study areas, HUC10, HUC12, etc.).

Data and methods available here: <https://narragansett-bay-estuary-program-nbep.hub.arcgis.com/>