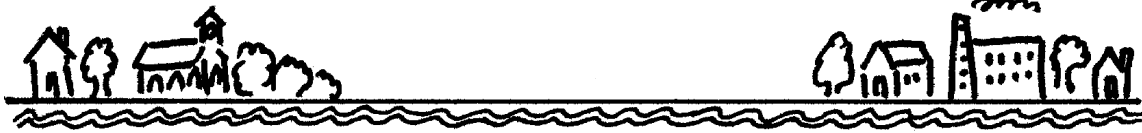


# Urban Rivers and Their Neighborhoods

Successful approaches to revitalizing urban rivers & their communities



**A statewide conference**

**Saturday, November 20, 2004**

**Great Hall, International Institute of Culinary Arts**

**100 Rock Street**

**Fall River, Massachusetts**

**Sponsored by Green Futures and the Urban Ecology Institute**

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Urban rivers provide an important opportunity to realize neighborhood and community revitalization goals. This conference will provide local officials and activists with successful approaches to realize the potential of urban rivers. This will include how successful greenways and trails projects have linked urban rivers to their neighborhoods, engaging developers and city officials to realize projects, and realizing effective partnerships that work. The conference will also focus on effective political advocacy, organizing with community-based groups and successful project funding.

**Registration:** *The conference is free.* To register, please notify Cassie O'Connor at the Urban Ecology Institute at [ocunnoev@bc.edu](mailto:ocunnoev@bc.edu) or at (617) 552-0938.

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## **Participating agencies and organizations:**

US Environmental Protection Agency	Massachusetts Audubon Society	City of Fall River
Massachusetts Environmental Trust	Trust for Public Land	Goody, Clancy & Assoc.
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	Groundwork Lawrence	City of Chicopee
Lowell National Historical Park	Chelsea Green Space	Greenleaf Collaboration
Arlington Community Trabajando	Mass Highway Department	City of Easthampton
Groundwork Somerville	Northeast Greenway Solutions	Mass Riverways Program
MA Department of Housing and Community Development		
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission		

**This conference is funded by a grant from The Massachusetts Environmental Trust.**



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## Agenda



**8:30 am** Coffee and breakfast refreshments.

**9:00 am** *Welcome:* Mayor Edward M. Lambert, Mayor of the City of Fall River.  
Tim Bennett, President, Green Futures.  
*Program outline and agenda:* Cassie O'Connor, Urban Ecology Institute.

**9:30 am** *Featured speaker:* Lois Adams, EPA, Special Assistant to the Office of Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.

**10:00 am** **Partnerships that work: case studies and moderated discussion.**

*Moderator:* Lois Adams, EPA.

- (1) Lawrence:** Reviviendo Gateway. Maggie Super Church, Executive Director, Groundwork Lawrence. How community, business, funding & vision created successful working relationships with all levels of government
- (2) East Boston and Chelsea:** Roseann Bongiovanni, Project Director, Chelsea Green Space. Organizing, visioning, building partnerships, finding funds, learning regulations, reclaiming parkland and advocacy.

**11:15 am** **Panels and Workshop Discussions: Round 1.**

- (1) Community organizing: staying involved; education and awareness about local issues.**

*Moderator:* Kristi Rea, EPA, Acting Chief of Pesticides, Toxics and Urban Programs.

Ana Luna, Ex. Dir., Arlington Community Trabajando (ACT) Lawrence.  
Jenny Pereira, Woonasquatucket River, Providence  
Cassie O'Connor, Natural Cities Program, Urban Ecology Institute.  
Everett Castro, Education Director, Green Futures, Fall River.

- (2) Making government work: inside out and outside in.**

*Moderator:* Betsy Deleiris, Grants Coordinator, City of Fall River  
Michael J. Rodrigues, State Representative, Eighth Bristol District  
Roseann Bongiovanni, Chelsea Green Space, Chelsea City Council.  
Carlos Matos, Lawrence City Council.  
Deborah Cary, Dir., Mass Audubon Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary.

**(3) Imagining the future: the role of design charrettes.**

*Moderator:* Rich Davis, Director, The Pawtucket Foundation.  
John Monroe, Greenleaf Collaboration.  
Herb Nolan, Senior Urban Designer, Goody, Clancy & Associates.

**12:30 pm Lunch and topic-related roundtable discussions.**

**1:30 pm Panels and workshop discussions: Round 2.**

**(1) Tales of bikeways and waterpaths: what works and what doesn't.**

*Moderator:* Craig Della Penna, Ex. Dir., Northeast Greenway Solutions.  
Robert D. Billington, Chairman, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission.  
Thomas Kelleher, President, Assabet River Rail Trail, Inc.  
Stewart Beckley, City Planner, City of Easthampton's Manhan Rail Trail.  
Todd Fontanella, Executive Office of Transportation.

**(2) Greenways: linking neighborhoods to their riverfront.**

*Moderator:* Michael Labossiere, The Trustees of Reservations.  
Nancy Kafka, Trust for Public Land.  
Maggie Super Church, Groundwork Lawrence, Spicket River Greenway.  
Alfred Lima, Green Futures, Fall River's Quequechan River Greenway.

**(3) Working with developers: mill rehab, housing & mixed use.**

*Moderator:* David Spillane, Goody, Clancy & Associates.  
Charles Parrott, Chief Architect, Lowell National Historical Park.  
Kate Brown, Chicopee City Planner.  
Robert Brooker, Developer of the Slade's Mill in Revere.

**3:00 pm Obtaining funding to implement urban rivers initiatives.**

*Moderator:* Cindy Del Papa, Mass Riverways Program.  
Kurt Gaertner, EOEA, Commonwealth Capital Fund.  
Toni Hall, Dpt. Assoc. Dir., Dept. of Housing and Community Develop.  
Maeve Vallely-Bartlett, Executive Office of Transportation.  
Bob O'Connor, EOEA Urban Lands Group.

**4:00 pm Concluding reception and refreshments.** A tour of the conference facility will be offered. Once a large church complex destined for demolition, the buildings were saved by a group of local citizens who rallied for their protection. The complex was later converted to a culinary arts institute.