

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ipswich-Rowley Rotary Club Awarded Grant from Rotary International to Support Water Conservation Education along the Ipswich River

IPSWICH, MA. November 2022. Committed to helping its community tackle pressing environmental challenges, the Ipswich-Rowley Rotary Club along with the Ipswich-East, Ipswich England Rotary club have secured a \$38,624.00 grant from Rotary International to fund work on critical water supply issues on the North Shore of Massachusetts. Working with the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA), the Ipswich-Rowley Rotary Club will use these funds to produce a toolkit for water conservation and advocacy and begin implementation through public outreach and education. North Shore water supplies have long been under stress from intensive local use, and were under additional strain this summer due to the severe drought in the region, highlighting the need for this work.

Rotary International's Global Grants program fund large international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in one of Rotary's 7 areas of focus. This grant falls under the environmental area of focus. Ipswich-Rowley Rotary has partnered with Ipswich-East England Rotary to secure as their international sponsor to obtain this grant funding.. The Ipswich-Rowley Rotary Club identified water conservation as a key issue facing the local North Shore community and approached Ipswich-East Rotary to be the international sponsor for this grant. Ipswich-East England and their Rotary District as well as other regional rotary clubs in New England connected to raise matching funds to address this critical issue on a regional scale. The toolkit developed will also be utilized in England to address their water conservation needs.

This grant-funded project will provide training, networking, and resources to stakeholders, e.g Water Boards, Water Commissioners, and the like in the Ipswich River Watershed and to communities throughout the region. The goal of the project is to engage the North Shore's leading influencers and advocates to educate, mobilize, and activate the community leaders and the general public to effectuate societal level change necessary to significantly reduce water use throughout the region.

"We're ecstatic that the Ipswich-Rowley Rotary Club has thrown its support behind the Ipswich River Watershed Association as we work to address the many challenges that plague the Ipswich River, one of the most endangered rivers in the country," says Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director of IRWA. "This funding will help us expand our educational programming and accelerate the pace of work we are doing to promote water conservation efforts within North Shore towns."

About Rotary International

Rotary is an international organization that brings together local leaders in order to provide volunteer humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards, and help promote goodwill and peace in the world. There are 46,000+ Rotary clubs and more than 1.4 million members worldwide.

About Ipswich River

Ipswich River (Ipswich River Watershed Association) is a leading 501(c)3 nonprofit working to create a more resilient North Shore. We represent over 350,000 residents and businesses who depend on the watershed for clean water. Ipswich River and our municipal and nonprofit partners work across 28 communities on the North Shore, from Salem to Newbury. Since 2011 we convene PIE-Rivers (the Parker-Ipswich-Essex Rivers Restoration Partnership), the first cross-watershed collaborative in Massachusetts. Together, PIE-Rivers represents the many groups, agencies, towns and residents promoting healthy rivers and ecosystems in our waterways. For more info visit ipswichriver.org and pie-rivers.org.