

## Public Works Makes It Happen



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# President's Message



**Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all!**

Let me begin by stating that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association as your president the past year. A member since 1996, involved with the Executive Board since 2008, I did my best to carry on the professionalism and traditions of this great organization. Many before me have guided this Chapter since its inception (it will be 70 years in 2024); I am just one person in the long line of past presidents and leaders. I have been lucky enough to call many of them mentors and friends throughout my career, even a few co-conspirators on occasion.

With the new year upon us, we should reflect on the past to learn and prepare for our future. What did we do and what did we accomplish in 2023? We held our monthly Executive Committee meetings using a combination of Zoom, MS Teams, and face-to-face

when the opportunity allowed at the Spring, Summer, and Fall Conferences as well as at our Holiday Gathering on December 2nd in Plymouth, MA.

Our Spring Conference was held in April at Rentschler Field in East Hartford and totaled over 130 attendees, a very successful conference for our Chapter. As we explore opportunities for the future, we have established a Program Committee to plan our conferences and events over the next several years, similar to National APWA. The role of the Program Committee is to identify new locations that meet our needs and to spread our wings in New England. The committee is getting up to speed and identifying locations for the Summer Conference in 2025 as a first initiative. As you may recall, the Sea Crest Resort in Falmouth was the site of our 2023 Summer Conference for the first time since we moved from the Red Jacket. We recently learned that the Sea Crest is booked for 2025 and the Program Committee will be searching for new venues. They issued an RFP to several new locations in New England and will be reporting to the Executive Committee in Jan/Feb. with options for 2025. The RFP identifies all of the usual Summer Conference activities for gathering our group, 100+ hotel rooms, concurrent education sessions, corn hole tournament, clam bake and/or member of the year banquet, executive committee meeting, and other social event space for dinner and entertainment. Our program committee will identify more long-term locations for planning chapter events and activities over multiple years.

Shortly after the Spring Conference, we held our Vermont Municipal Equipment Show and Field Day (VMESFD) with over 550 attendees in Barre, VT. The VMESFD Committee put together a great day to showcase Public Works. For the second year in a row, this event has been so successful that follow-on events have been scheduled and held in the area to continue to promote the benefits of becoming a member of the

chapter. The follow-on NW Committee Event was originally scheduled for July but was postponed and held later in the year as communities dealt with the significant rainfall events that impacted Vermont between July 7-21. Much of that region and other parts of Vermont were severely impacted by significant rainfall events in July which received a disaster declaration from President Biden, allowing Federal Emergency Management Funds to be used to "...provide assistance to survivors of the storms for damage caused during those dates." It is no longer an accepted practice to discuss 100-year storm events. The past several years have experienced storm events that have exceeded that prior benchmark dictated by climate change, requiring a new measurement stick. You may find this article interesting: <https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2023/07/flood-vermont-climate-change-one-hundred-year-deluge/>.

In closing, we anticipate our Chapter will continue to utilize Zoom and/or MS Teams communications for many of our Executive Committee Meetings in 2024. While face to face is best for collaboration, Zoom and MS Teams save significantly on food and travel costs as well as rental space for our meetings. If you are interested, contact Molly Otero for the meeting link and connect to the Executive Committee Mtg. the third Wednesday of the month, listen to the discussion, and get involved with a committee. Our chapter has been hovering around 1,000 members the past few years but we could always use more support and participation for the Chapter. Find a committee that interests you and get involved, we need you.

John J. Bechard, PE

NEAPWA Past President



**The 2023 Newsletter Team**

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**Executive Committee**

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 Lisa Schaeffler, *First Vice President*  
 John P. Lawlor, Jr., *Second Vice President*  
 Molly Otero, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
 John Westerling, *Council of Chapters Delegate*

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 William D. O'Neill

**Directors Emeritus**

Jacqueline A. Connors  
 Jack J. Henebury

**Membership Corner**

**Not a member or trying to recruit a friend?  
 Take advantage of this offer!**



**1st Time Member Special Offer:  
 \$99 USD for your first year**

Get your first year of individual membership at half price! Any employee or official of a governmental agency, manufacturer/supplier, contractor, or consulting firm who is actively engaged in the field of public works and has not previously been an APWA national association member is eligible for the First-Time Member Special Offer. If you have any questions, please contact the National membership team at 800-848-2792 or [memberservices@apwa.net](mailto:memberservices@apwa.net).

**Thank you TEC!**



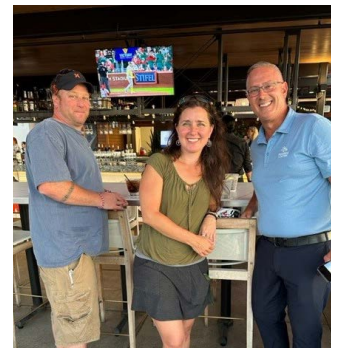
Special thanks to TEC for organizing the Chapter Chatter for the past five years. Future newsletters will be managed by VHB. We appreciate both firms' efforts in keeping our Chapter informed and engaged!

Please submit story ideas, articles, or topics of interest to:  
**Amanda Bazinet, Editor-in-Chief, [abazinet@vhb.com](mailto:abazinet@vhb.com)**



# 2023 PWX Chapter Dinner

August 29, 2023





# NEAPWA Awards Reception

*The New England Chapter has a long history of award winning individuals, projects, and firms. Following the APWA PWX Award and Recognition Ceremony held at the San Diego Convention Center, the Chapter hosted its annual Awards Reception at the Marriot Marquis San Diego Marina on August 28, 2023.*

*2023 was another very successful year for the New England Chapter, earning eight national awards, including the Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence. The Awards Reception was held in the picturesque South Patio, surrounded by palm trees and overlooking the San Diego marina. This beautiful location was the perfect place to celebrate our Chapter's award winners and toast to a successful year representing Public Works professionals*



## Stormy Awards

The 2023 New England Chapter Summer Conference was pleased to host the 2022 Stormy Awards at the Seacrest Resort in Falmouth, MA. The Stormy Awards are the result of the cooperative effort of the New England Chapter, the New England Water Works Association, and the New England Water Environment Association, which established the New England Stormwater Collaborative. The annual Stormy Awards represent the best ideas for the "feet-on-the-street" folks to apply at the local level. Congratulations to the winners!

*Town of Arlington – “Small but mighty: Catch basin retrofits as cost-effective green infrastructure”*

*Co-Awardees: Mystic River Watershed Association – “Regional Stormwater Management in Greater Boston’s Mystic River Watershed” and Town of Natick, MA – “Charles River Flood Model: Inspiring Regional Collaboration”*

*City of New Bedford – “Automating Sewer Overflow Notifications and Identifying Anomalies with a Digital Twin”*



## Clay Major Receives Professional Manager of the Year Award in Facilities and Grounds

Submitted by the Town of South Windsor



*Clay Major, Town of South Windsor  
Director of Facilities*

This August 28th, 2023 in San Diego, California, the American Public Works Association presented the Town of South Windsor Director of Facilities Clayton (Clay) Major with their Professional Manager of the Year Award in Facilities and Grounds. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding achievements in the area of facilities and grounds management within the public works field, and to inspire excellence, leadership and dedication to the public good. This recognition is on a national level in consideration of nearly 20,000 communities throughout the United States.

Mr. Major's experiences encompass not only local government administration, but the private sector as well with a career in facilities management that has spanned over three decades. During this time, Clay developed a unique perspective and insight of the building maintenance and management industry. This familiarity and level of expertise allowed him to make indelible impacts on the public works community.

An exemplification of these impacts to the Building Maintenance community is Clay's initiative creating a statewide Facility Listserve exchange program where local leaders in the industry can collaborate on a variety of issues and share solutions. Another template of success Clay created was hosting industry roundtables where many timely issues are discussed in a collaborative arena, resulting in solutions that may not have been found without the creative space of a round table.

Some local impacts resulting from Mr. Major's work include leveraging technology to create a safer, simpler work place for employees and residents alike. This has included installing card readers in all the Town buildings to create 'keyless' door system and leveraging relationships with local utility suppliers and partnering in unique ways to keep the cost of energy consumption down. Most recently, with the lighting upgrades and HVAC improvements underway, he is not only saving local tax payers money, but improving the environment as a whole for all employees and residents.

In addition to these initiatives, Clay has also been an integral piece in an array of programs; be it physically transferring whole departments of the Town between buildings, responding to the COVID emergency with physical elements Town-wide to keep residents and employees safe alike, or providing support during seasonal emergency storm responses.

This recognition of excellence from APWA is a testament to Mr. Major's professionalism and commitment to excellence and progress in the public works building maintenance industry. A consummate professional, Clay is a well-respected team member, excellent father, and friend to many. Please share in our congratulations to Clay. South Windsor is fortunate to have you on our team!





## PACE Award

The New England Chapter is proud to have received the PACE award at this year's Public Works Expo, which recognizes APWA chapters for contributions made to positively impact their membership, profession, and community.

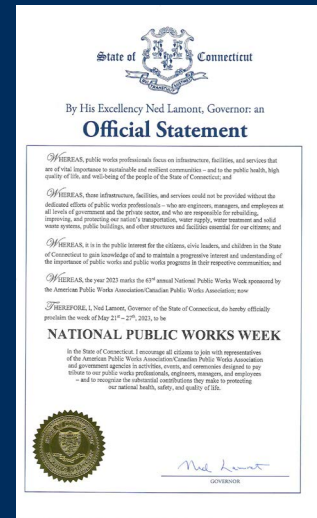
This is the New England Chapter's 23rd time winning the PACE award! Our nomination package boasted impressive membership growth, engagement with Young Professionals, well-attended and informative Chapter events and educational sessions, and promotion of the Public Works profession within the New England region.

Congratulations to all of the Chapter's members on this impressive award. This award is the direct result of your continued involvement and advocacy!

## National Public Works Week CT Proclamation

*Every year, National Public Works Week gets bigger and better. The number of participating municipalities continues to grow, which means the number of citizens who are exposed to the value of public works grows.*

*This spring, Governor Ned Lamont signed an official proclamation declaring May 21 through May 27, 2023, National Public Works Week in Connecticut. The proclamation encourages Connecticut's residents "to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees – to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life."*

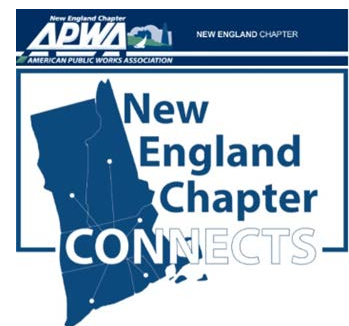


## 2024 Chapter Connects Schedule

The New England "Chapter Connects" is a series of virtual sessions focused on providing education and opportunities for our public works members who better our communities. Be sure that your email address is up to date with the national APWA organization so that you receive New England Chapter email notifications when the sessions are announced.

We have established a calendar of dates for the 2024 series. Stay tuned for information about topics and presenters!

- March 28th
- April 25th
- May 23rd
- September 26th
- October 24th
- November 14th



# Spring Conference

Submitted by Molly Otero

The annual Spring Conference took place on April 19th at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, CT. The conference had a total of 170 registered attendees who were able to participate in various educational sessions, training programs, exhibits, and networking opportunities throughout the day.

The conference was kicked off with opening remarks from Mayor Michael P. Walsh from East Hartford, CT, who welcomed attendees and highlighted the importance of the public works industry in the community. The day concluded with lunch and our keynote speaker, Dr. Eric Jackson, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Transportation Institute at UConn. He spoke about automation in transportation and where the industry is headed.

The educational sessions covered a wide range of topics, including fully electric municipal equipment, municipal winter maintenance route

optimization, solutions to problematic wastewater pump stations, green snow pro, climate change vulnerability assessments for asset management, and the public works leadership hot topics jam session. Attendees were able to participate in training programs and earn professional development hours, which are crucial for advancing their careers in the public works industry.

The conference also featured exhibits from various vendors and suppliers, providing attendees with the opportunity to learn about the latest technologies and products in the public works industry.

Overall, the annual New England American Public Works Spring Conference was a great success, providing attendees with valuable educational and networking opportunities, and highlighting the important role that public works plays in our communities.

The Fill a Truck event successfully collected over \$250 in cash and 195 pounds of food to benefit the Connecticut Foodshare. The program relies on donations to provide food assistance to families in need and the success of the drive highlights the importance of supporting local organizations.

Thank you to all that attended. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Spring Conference!



# Summer Conference

Submitted by Christine King

The Chapter was pleased to hold its annual Summer Conference from June 21-23, 2023 at the Sea Crest Beach Resort in Falmouth, MA. Over the three-day event we hosted approximately 150 attendees who represented state agencies, municipalities, consulting firms, contractors, and vendors throughout New England.

This annual event is a great opportunity for attendees to network, socialize, and attend educational sessions on a variety of topics including resilience and sustainability, technology, funding, and innovative solutions to public works challenges. All attendees were eligible to receive CEU's for their participation. Concluding our technical sessions, the New England Stormwater Collaborative awarded the recipients of this year's Stormy Awards, who were given the opportunity to present their

award-winning ideas and engage in discussion with event attendees.

Additionally, the annual Awards Dinner was held and several New England Chapter members received awards for their dedication and service. Those recipients included:

- Young Leader Award: Michael Sprague, Town of Bedford, MA
- Contributor Of the Year: indus
- Outstanding Achievement in Public Works: Tom Modzelewski, Town of Ellington, CT
- Special Achievement Award: Bruce Trombley, Town of Milton, VT
- Meritorious Service Award: Vermont Local Roads
- Distinguished Service Award: Jaqui Connors, NEAPWA Treasurer

## Save the Date!

*We are excited to return to the Sea Crest Beach Resort for the 2024 Summer Conference!*

*Our program will take place Wednesday June 12th through Friday June 14th. This event brings together Public Works colleagues throughout New England and offers Continuing Education Units, discussions on many relevant and current topics, and several other special activities and networking opportunities.*

*Be sure that your email address is up to date with APWA so that you receive registration information when it is available this spring!*



# NH Public Works Mutual Aid Response



New Hampshire Public Works crews showed up in July 2023 to help clean up storm and flood damage in towns across the state. Ed Thayer, the Director of Public Works in the Town of Washington, discussed the work in July's news report with WMUR-TV. Read more from the report by scanning the QR code below!



Credits: WMUR-TV

# NEAPWA Administrative Assistant Professional Workshop

Submitted by Jacqueline Connors

This year we held another successful NEAPWA Administrative Assistant Professional Workshop at the Community Center in Lexington, MA. Thank you to Mary Flanders Aicardi, Human Resources Practice Leader from the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, who presented a program that was specifically geared to the 45 attendees from MA, NH, and CT.

Lexington Public Works Director Dave Pinsonneault, NEAPWA Chapter President John Bechard, and APWA Region I Director Rich Benevento welcomed the group and expressed their gratitude for the critical roles they play in the operation of every day public works.

Thank you to the Committee for a great venue, fabulous food, and to Mary for a really terrific program.



# 2024 NEAPWA Chapter Events

DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION	CITY/STATE
Jan 17	EC Board Meeting	Zoom	
Feb 21	EC Board Meeting	Zoom	
March 20	EC Board Meeting	Zoom	
April 8	Spring Conf/EC Board Meeting	New England Air Museum	Windsor Locks, CT
April 24	Admin Professional Workshop	TBD	
May 8	NEAPWA/VT Munic Equip Show	Barre City Auditorium Complex	Barre, VT
May 15	EC Board Meeting	Zoom	
May 19-25	National Public Works Week		
May 22	NPWW Luncheon	Granite Links Golf Club	Quincy, MA
June 12-14	Summer Conference	Seacoast Beach Hotel	North Falmouth, MA
June 14	EC Board Meeting	Seacrest Beach Hotel	North Falmouth, MA
July (Day TBD)	Bombara EC Board Meeting	TBD	
Aug 21	EC Board Meeting	Zoom	
Sept 8-11	Public Works Expo (PWX)	Georgia World Congress Center	Atlanta, GA
Sept 10	EC Board Meeting	TBD	Atlanta, GA
Sept 10	NEAPWA Chapter Dinner	TBD	Atlanta, GA
Oct 16	Fall/Snow & Ice/EC Board Meeting	TBD	
Nov 20	EC Board Meeting	Zoom	
Dec 7	EC Holiday Board Meeting	TBD	CT Venue

## NorthWest Lunch and Learn

Submitted by Molly Otero

The NorthWest Lunch and Learn event held in November was a dynamic gathering featuring insightful presentations and engaging discussions. Our distinguished guest speakers, representing indus and GPI, shared their expertise on crucial topics. The first speaker delved into the innovative realm of Paver-Placed Asphalt Recycling, shedding light on its significance in the industry. The second speaker explored the rapidly evolving landscape of technology and how businesses can keep up with these advancements. Furthermore, the event included a stimulating round table discussion led by Chris Bouchard, encouraging attendees to actively participate and exchange ideas.

The NorthWest Lunch and Learn event served as a platform for knowledge sharing, fostering meaningful connections and inspiring attendees to stay at the forefront of their respective fields.





# BETA Announces Senior Management Promotions



*Mark Gershman, PE*

BETA Group, Inc. (BETA) is excited to announce that Mark Gershman, PE, has been appointed to the position of President. Mark has been with BETA since 2007 and has served in a variety of positions over the past 16 years. Whether in the roles of principal-in-charge or project manager, client contact for several of our major clients, or most recently as Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mark has been tremendously effective and has been a significant asset to the firm. He has proven to be respected for his professional expertise, client service, and ability to work with management and our entire staff to promote the continued success of BETA.



*Rick Stinson*

BETA is also thrilled to announce Rick Stinson’s transition to the role of Client Service Manager at BETA. With his extensive background in municipal management and public works, Rick brings a wealth of experience to the table. Having served in various leadership positions in Wakefield and Danvers, he has a proven track record of overseeing complex projects, managing budgets, and ensuring efficient operations. Rick’s knowledge and leadership will undoubtedly be a valuable asset for clients seeking innovative and effective infrastructure solutions.



[beta-inc.com](http://beta-inc.com)

# EP Welcomes Senior Leaders

Environmental Partners’ leadership continues to grow as we welcome Ian W. Mead, PE, BCEE, and Francis J. Marinaccio, PE! Ian and Frank join our team of professionals expanding our water and transportation expertise through New England and beyond.

Ian joins our Principal Leadership team, bringing over 25 years of experience providing various services across many types of projects, including water, wastewater, stormwater, pipelines, site/civil projects, building systems, asset management and GIS, coastal structures, energy, and transportation. He has worked with clients to develop, fund, and implement capital programs, including condition assessment, risk and asset management, as well as design and construction of water supply and wastewater collection system improvements.

As a Senior Project Manager in Transportation, Frank leads EP’s Transportation efforts in the State of Rhode Island. Frank has over 14 years of diverse transportation and traffic experience, spanning both the public and private sectors, encompassing active transportation design with a strong focus on creating accessible pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit infrastructure.

*Welcome Ian and Frank!*



*Ian Mead, PE, BCEE*



*Frank Marinaccio, PE*



[envpartners.com](http://envpartners.com)

# Fuss & O'Neill Secures Funding through MVP Program



PINE STREET TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MOBILITY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, PAWTUCKET, RI



GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN SPENCER, MA



WEST RIVER GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN NEW HAVEN, CT

Fuss & O'Neill is proud to partner with municipalities to provide forward-thinking, client-focused engineering and environmental consulting services. Resilience in design provides long-term benefits, and ways to cost-effectively incorporate climate resilience and adaptation are considered on every project. Our goal is to help clients protect their investments by making them more resilient to existing and future climate change impacts.

We support resilience across all our services and disciplines. This includes designing flood control solutions at the neighborhood to watershed scale and flood protection for existing buildings and utilities and implementing green infrastructure in urban neighborhoods to reduce flooding and heat impacts. We also help clients achieve decarbonization goals while increasing reliability and reducing cost by developing alternative and renewable energy sources and supporting the transition to electrification of building and fleet operations.

Our public works projects increasingly incorporate hybrid designs that cost-effectively improve project resilience. Hybrid design utilizes blends approaches, such as incorporating nature-based solutions into traditional gray infrastructure. Applied and designed appropriately, nature-based solutions can add value as they are often better able to adjust to changing conditions, add co-benefits like heat mitigation and habitat, and can reduce capital and maintenance costs while making infrastructure more resilient.



fando.com

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## Rivers, Dams, and Flooding – Resiliency is not just a coastal problem.

Pare Corporation maintains a large staff of geotechnical, hydrologic/hydraulic, and structural engineers, as well as construction engineers and resident observers, with extensive knowledge and hands-on experience in dam engineering and riverine flooding. Pare's expertise and experience allows them to address the full range of a community's water-related concerns: dam safety inspections, analysis, and repair; hydraulic and hydrologic analyses (H&H) for river modeling; dam break analyses and inundation mapping; and emergency response planning.

Recently, Pare completed two Massachusetts MVP-funded water resiliency action plans (WRAPs) – one for the Bloody Brook in Methuen, and a second for the Manchaug Village flooding issues in Sutton. These WRAPs contrast planning methodologies between an urbanized 2-square-mile watershed with a history of frequent and high-impact flooding within Environmental Justice areas in Methuen and Lawrence versus an undeveloped 26-square-mile watershed with a flooding history that poses risks to aging infrastructure (dams, roads, buildings). The plans also provide a framework for identifying and advancing infrastructure replacement projects through existing infrastructure funding programs.



parecorp.com



## TEC Welcomes New Team Members!

In 2023, the TEC team experienced over 30% growth and reached a new milestone of 75 people. We attribute this growth to our culture of teamwork, flexibility, and innovation. We are pleased to announce the following new team members:



**Jared Duval, PE** joined TEC in July as Worcester Regional Director. Formerly Director of Public Works in Oxford and Senior Engineer in Brookline, Jared has over ten years of engineering experience. Jared’s diverse municipal experience will provide insight into the unique challenges our clients face in delivering their projects, as well as practical solutions to rise above those challenges.



In October, we welcomed **Christine King** as Chief Marketing Officer. Christine brings over 20 years of marketing experience, including over ten years in the A&E industry. As CMO, she will provide leadership of TEC’s marketing initiatives to drive new business and recruit more talented engineers, as well as support corporate strategic initiatives.



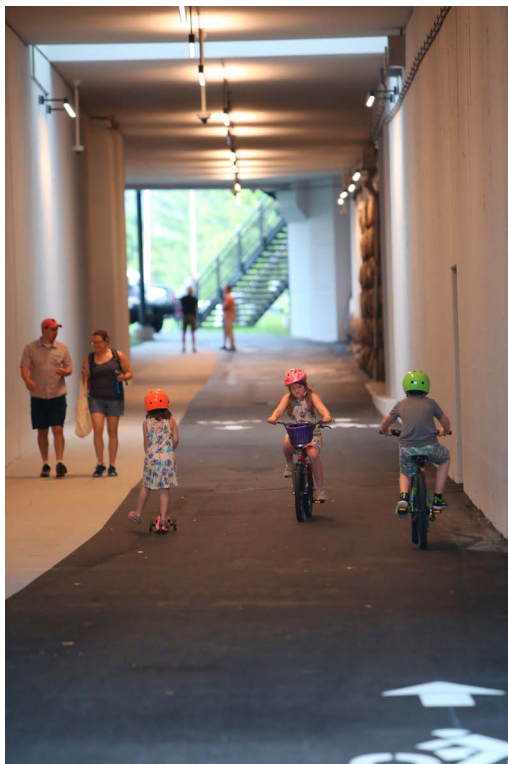
**Dave Isabelle, PE** also joined the TEC team in October. As Managing Director of TEC’s Public Infrastructure Division, Dave is responsible for the continued growth and operations of our Public Infrastructure teams. He brings nearly 30 years of industry experience and has a strong background in overseeing corporate operations.



TheEngineeringCorp.com

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## VHB Keeps Communities Moving!



VHB’s multidisciplinary transportation professionals are leading the movement to develop mobility solutions that keep communities moving across all modes of transportation—providing options that are technologically advanced, reliable, and safe. VHB develops sustainable transportation projects that push the creative envelope, using innovative policies and designs that appeal to a broad audience of all ages and abilities. By providing sustainable mobility opportunities via multimodal facilities, VHB is helping communities realize the safety, economic, placemaking, and social benefits that these street transformations are having on the quality of life for their residents and visitors.

VHB is passionate about making meaningful contributions to the world through the work that we do. We’re proud, yet humbled, to have been doing such work for more than 40 years.

We’re a team—2,000 strong—eager to deliver value by embracing our clients’ goals, anticipating challenges, building lasting partnerships, and always providing a smooth ride.



vhb.com

# Weston & Sampson Becomes a 100% ESOP company!



Weston & Sampson is happy to announce that we have officially become a 100% Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) company. This means our employees will now own all the shares of Weston & Sampson stock, further solidifying our staff as owners of the firm and ensuring that we will remain a generational company.

Weston & Sampson has been enormously proud to be an employee-owned organization. Founded in 1899 by Robert Spurr Weston and joined by George Sampson in 1916 to form the Weston & Sampson partnership, we were incorporated as Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. in 1976.

Weston & Sampson serves our New England based clients from eleven office/shop locations. As an employee-owned firm, we offer our clients dedicated, personalized service from a team deeply invested in client satisfaction, ensuring innovative, cost-effective solutions and a lasting partnership rooted in shared success.



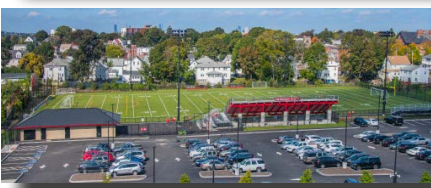
westonandsampson.com

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## Woodard & Curran

As an integrated science, engineering, design-build, and operations company specializing in water and environmental projects, Woodard & Curran partners with public clients to create multi-beneficial projects that benefit the communities in which we work, live, and play. One example of how we do this is incorporating stormwater management and flood mitigation measures into parks and recreation facilities projects. Our experts help facilitate cross-departmental

collaboration between municipal stormwater or floodplain managers and public works department to identify these projects, tap into state and federal funding opportunities, and design projects that improve public parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and other recreational amenities for residents, while also reducing stormwater runoff, improving water quality, and increasing community resiliency. Some project examples include new athletic facilities for a Massachusetts school that incorporated design details to reduce flood frequency or resolving combined sewer overflow by installing storage tanks adjacent to a popular bayside trail in Maine and restoring recreational fields to minimize future flooding in the process. You can read more about these projects in a Parks & Recreation Business Magazine article by Thomas P. Shay, PE, of Woodard & Curran, published in November 2023: [bit.ly/47g1KLZ](https://bit.ly/47g1KLZ) or by visiting our website.



woodardcurran.com