
“THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

December 2024



Picking up litter to help our environment!

On many occasions you have probably seen community events asking if you wanted to participate in a community litter cleanup. A variety of groups do this, and they usually have fun photos either before and after or just a picture of the massive amount of trash taken out of the environment. These events are great for a variety of reasons including:

1. Beauty- Think about how much nicer it is to see a clean beach, a stream, or a forest. They are all delightful sights to take in and litter can be a downer to some incredible natural places.
2. Safety- Sharp objects like broken glass, metal, or nails scattered around places people are walking increases the risk of getting hurt.
3. Helping local wildlife- Animals from the birds in the air to the turtles on the ground are not used to seeing the bright colors of certain types of trash and can mistake it for food leading to digestive problems and at times death. Through picking up the litter, we are helping our feathery, furry, scaly and slimy friends!
4. Removing pollutants – many types of trash take a long time to break down if ever. Things like plastics do not break down as we think of with organic substances (decomposition), but they essentially break down into smaller pieces and can remain in the environment forever.
5. Great exercise and community building- Cleaning up littered areas not only help the local environment, but also plays a great role in bringing people together and outside.

You have probably heard about pollution and its negative long-term impacts. Another way to help is through doing your part to decrease the amount of waste that gets to these environments. Consider the classic phrase, “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle” when possible! The Litter-Free Rhode Island initiative throughout this year has been consistently taking part in community cleanup efforts (<https://litterfree.ri.gov/>).

Is your property in the Special Flood Hazard Area? Do you need flood insurance? What are the rules for building in the floodplain? If you would like to know the answers to these questions or want to learn more about any of these topics, the Town of North Kingstown has information available that may help. Check our website at <http://northkingstown.org/212/Flooding-Flood-Insurance-Information>. You’ll find information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), review evacuation route mapping as well as the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and find out about flood preparedness and protection. The web page includes helpful links to other state and federal resources as well. The town also has copies of FEMA Elevation Certificates on all buildings constructed or substantially improved in the floodplain since 1995. The North Kingstown Free Library also has a repository of flood-related information available. You can call the Planning Department with any floodplain questions at 268-1571.

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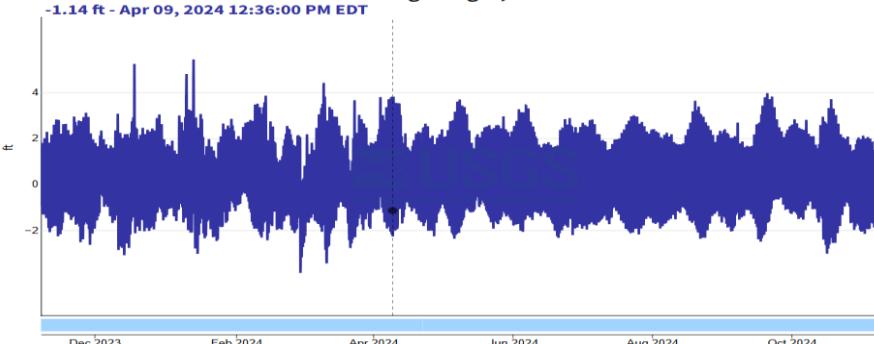
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Wickford Tide Gage North Kingstown, RI - 413413071270400

November 7, 2023 - November 6, 2024

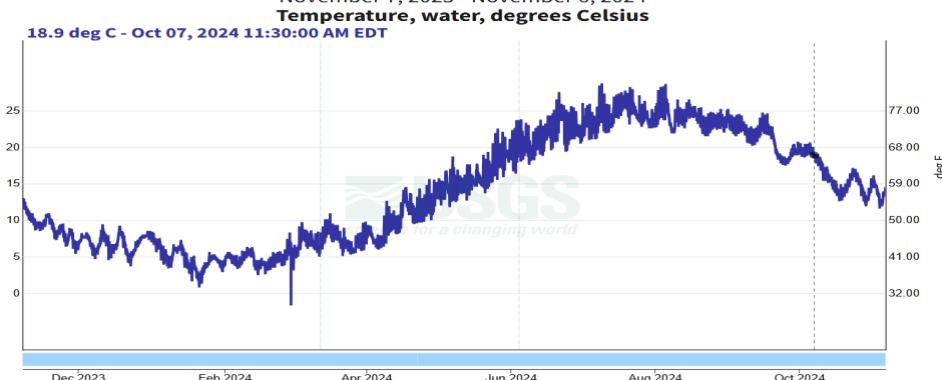
Gage height, feet



Wickford Tide Gage North Kingstown, RI - 413413071270400

November 7, 2023 - November 6, 2024

Temperature, water, degrees Celsius



1 year of the tide gauge in Wickford measuring!



The Wickford Tide Gauge deployed by the USGS (United States Geological Survey) has been operating over an entire year! Recording water level, temperature, and specific conductivity every ten minutes, this device has continuously recorded data which helps in a variety of ways over time. In the water level data (top plot), you can see the time in mid-December of 2023 when the water level was so high that the parking area was submerged which was due to a combination of a storm and high tide. In the temperature data (bottom plot), you can see the seasonality in the data (decreased water temperatures in the winter months and increased water temperatures in the summer months). To look at the detailed water level data, scan the QR code!