

NANCY L. DERRIG
Superintendent of Parks



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor

Department of Public Parks

"Building Pride In Providence"

**TO: THE HONORABLE VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
CITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
CITY CLERK**

FROM: NANCY L. DERRIG, SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS *Nancy*

DATE: JULY 8, 2002

It is a pleasure to submit to you the 2001 Annual Report for the Providence Parks Department.

I think you'll find that 2001 was a busy and successful year for the Parks Department. The report also provides you with a good understanding of the scope of responsibilities that we have in the Parks Department.

I want to thank you for your support of the Parks Department. Successful parks are all about good partnerships and that is why we have a wonderful park system in Providence. I want to also take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible job that the Parks Department staff does each and every day to make our park system successful. We are lucky to have dedicated employees.

If you have any questions about the report, please feel free to call me.

IN CITY COUNCIL
AUG 1 2002

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Michael R. Clement CLERK

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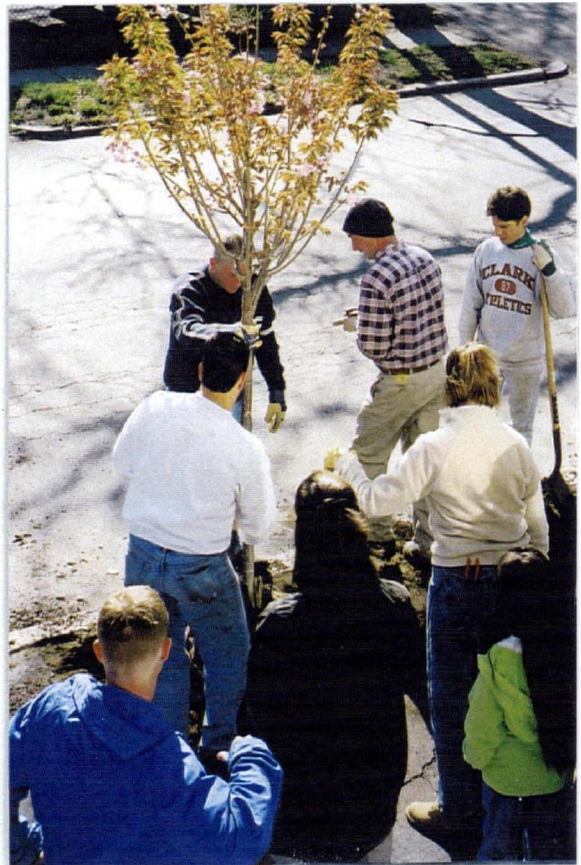
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Providence Parks Department 2001 Annual Report

Improving Parks



Building Community



Department of Public Parks

"Building Pride In Providence"

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Providence Parks Department 2001 Annual Report

Submitted to

**Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr.
Providence City Council
City Clerk
Board of Park Commissioners**

Submitted by

**Nancy L. Derrig
Superintendent of Parks**

June, 2002

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Neighborhood Parks 1.0

1.1 NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FACILITIES

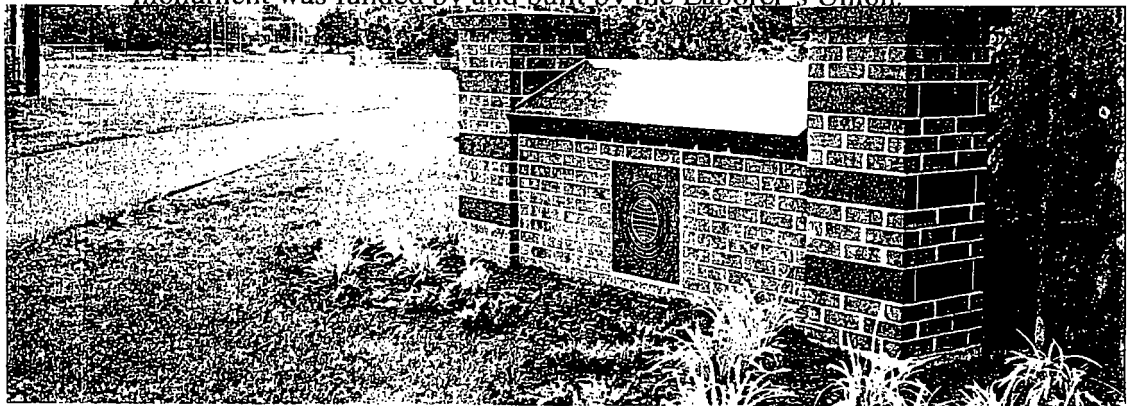
Three new park facilities were brought on line in the year 2001 in the Providence parks system. In the Lower South Providence neighborhood, the *Al Carrington Water Park*, funded by Councilman Luis Aponte, was completed last year. This park, located on Prairie Avenue behind Roger Williams Middle School, provides a cooling respite for during the hot summer months. The site also features a year round playground and open space.

Another water park was also developed at Fagnoli Park on Smith Street in the Elmhurst neighborhood in 2001. The *Fagnoli Water Park*, funded by Councilmen Butler and Mancini, was built on a former tennis court. It represents the 5th water park in the Providence park system.



Elmhurst youngsters cool off at the new Fagnoli Water Park

Also officially dedicated in September 2001 was the Arther E. Coia Walking Track at the Prete-Metcalf ball field complex in the North End. The track was funded by Park Department budget funds and by Councilwoman Carol Romano; the Coia memorial monument was funded by and built by the Laborer's Union.



The Arther E. Coia Memorial Walking Track in the North End

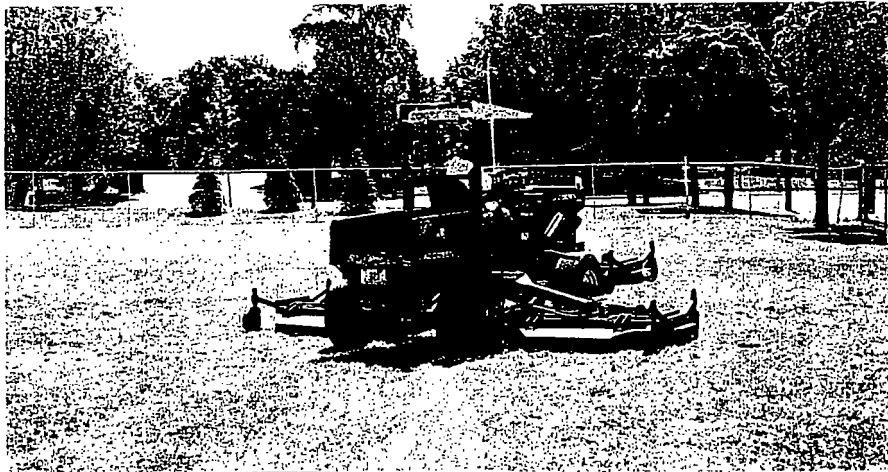
1.2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Unlike the 1999-2000 period in which 50 neighborhood parks were renovated under the City's Bond Program, last year was a relatively quiet year in terms of park improvements. Highlights from last year included playground renovations at *Morris Avenue Playground* on the East Side, irrigation improvements at the *JT Owens Fields* in the Reservoir Triangle neighborhood, and new fencing at the *Gano Street Little League Field* in Fox Point.

1.3 MAINTENANCE

More than half of the Parks Department resources—staffing and budget—are used for park maintenance. And 80% of Parks Department maintenance resources are spent on maintaining neighborhood and downtown parks. Even with this level of effort, the maintenance effort could be greater given the number and diversity of parks in the Providence system.

The Parks Department is responsible for 15 more parks currently than it was in 1990. The Grounds Maintenance Division, under the direction of Joe Salem, has been able to keep up with the additional demand with virtually the same number of employees that were on the payroll in 1990. In addition to the increased number of park spaces to maintain is the growing complexity and diversity of these park spaces. Lighting, irrigation, and decorative fencing, for example, are present now in several neighborhood parks.



Joe Williams Field, one of 50 ballfields maintained by Park staff

Neighborhood park maintenance consists generally of the following: grass cutting, emptying of trash barrels, picking up litter and trash, sweeping up broken glass, removing leaves,

maintaining ball fields, and maintaining or repairing equipment, lighting, and park facilities. During the peak park season—May to October—the bulk of the effort focuses on grass and trash.

During this past year, grass-cutting frequency remained at the same level as the previous year. Contributing to our grass cutting efforts is the Senior Temps program which runs from June to September and provides a senior, appointed by City Council members, to pick up trash on a daily basis in selected parks. The relationship between litter and grass is a simple one—the less trash in a park, the more easily we can cut the grass and move on to the next park. The Senior Temps program is a very cost-effective way to improve maintenance in neighborhood parks and should be considered for expansion.



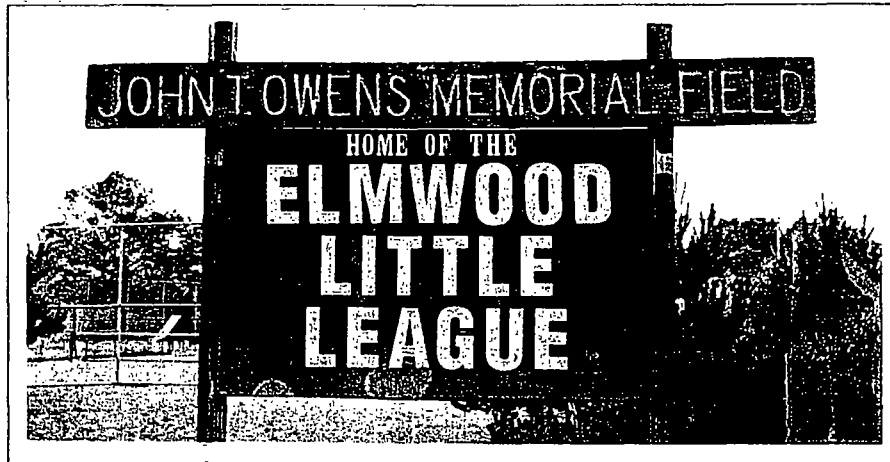
One of the Senior Temps keeping Fargnoli Park clean

1.4 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROGRAMS

The bulk of neighborhood park and recreation programming falls under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department. However, the Parks Department facilitates many neighborhood programs run by private groups, and the activities listed below were accomplished in 2001:

- **Little Leagues**—The Parks Department's Bob Rastelli worked closely with all eight little league organizations in 2001 to make the year one of the most successful ever for little league programs. Our assistance included field maintenance, trash removal, light repairs, and fence repairs. The leagues assisted were East Side-Fox Point, North End-Wanskuck, Elmhurst, Mt. Pleasant, Silver Lake-Olneyville, Elmwood,

Federal Hill, and South Providence-Washington Park. These efforts benefited almost 3,000 youngsters.



- **Other Athletic Leagues**—The Department also assisted such organizations as the West End Intruders, the Mount Hope Cowboys, Capitol Youth Soccer, and numerous softball and soccer organizations on field maintenance in 2001 to ensure successful athletic programs.
- **Tennis**—In conjunction with the Recreation Department, the Parks Department conducted tennis instruction in 2000 for the first time ever on neighborhood tennis courts. Besides Roger Williams Park courts, tennis camps were conducted at Hope HS courts, Central HS courts, and John Hope Settlement House courts. After school tennis instruction continued in the Fall at six community centers. A total of 1,200 youth participated in the program. The Department was successful in getting funds from the United States Tennis Association to fund these programs again in 2001.
- **Canoeing and Kayaking**—Providence is one of the few cities in the country with a public canoe and kayak program at both Mashapaug Pond. This is great way for families and for youngsters of all ages to enjoy the outdoors.



The Mashapaug Pond Boating Facility

- **Sailing**—The Providence Parks Department has leased land to Community Boating of Providence at India Point Park to enable families in Providence to learn how to sail. Approximately 300 youngsters from community centers and Boys and Girls clubs in the City enjoyed sailing off of India Point in 2001.
- **Neighborhood Events and Festivals**—In 2001 the Department issued 72 permits for neighborhood-based group events in neighborhood parks. Groups, such as the Smith Hill Community Center, the Mt. Pleasant Crime Watch, the Cape Verdean Committee, the Elmwood Foundation, the West Broadway Neighborhood Association, the Hmong Unity Association, the Fox Point Citizens Association, the College Hill Neighborhood Association, St. Pius School, St. Anne's Church, the 4th Street Baptist Church, the Bell St. Chapel, and the Urban League held events in Providence neighborhood parks last year. Many of these groups received special support services from the Parks Department in the form of electrical assistance, staging, or special trash removal services.

1.5 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PLANNING

New parks and major park improvements don't occur overnight. They may take months to plan and design; or in some cases even many years. In the past year, Department staffers worked on several *short term park planning efforts*. The projects shown in Exhibit 1-1 will take place in 2002 and received planning and/or design efforts in 2001:

The Parks Department also worked on several *long-term planning efforts* with a number of City and State agencies that will eventually bear fruit in the form of new parks or park improvements in Providence neighborhoods. These projects include:

- ***Gorham Site/New Shoreline Park***
- ***Woonasquatucket Greenway/New BikePath*** and New Parks at former Riverside Mills and Lincoln Lace sites
- RT 195 Relocation/***India Point Park*** Improvements
- RT 195 Relocation/***Old Harbor Plan***

***NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS SCHEDULED TO BE
IMPROVED IN 2002 THAT RECEIVED PLANNING/DESIGN
IN 2001***

WARD 1—INDIA POINT PLAYGROUND
WARD 1—CAROLYN BRASSIL PLAYGROUND
WARD 1—GANO STREET BASKETBALL COURTS

WARD 2—SESSIONS STREET PLAYGROUND
WARD 2—BLACKSTONE PARK

WARD 3—NEW PLEASANT STREET PARK
WARD 3—BILLY TAYLOR PARK BASKETBALL COURTS

WARD 4—PRETE-METCALF BASEBALL FIELDS

WARD 7—SCALABRINI PIAZZA

WARD 8—ARDOENE BALLFIELD RESTROOM FACILITY
WARD 8—RESERVOIR AVENUE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND
WARD 8—BUCKLIN STREET BASKETBALL COURTS

WARD 9—SACKETT ST. PLAYGROUND/WATERPARK

WARD 11—NEW JACQUELINE CLEMENT MEM. PARK
WARD 11—ALPHONSO STREET PLAYGROUND

WARD 12—NEW THOMAS TWITCHELL GREENWAY
WARD 12—BOYLE SQUARE
WARD 12—DAVIS PARK BALLFIELD

WARD 14—CORLISS PARK

WARD 15—WEBSTER AVENUE SCHOOL
WARD 15—NEW RIVERSIDE MILLS PARK/GREENWAY

Downtown Parks 2.0

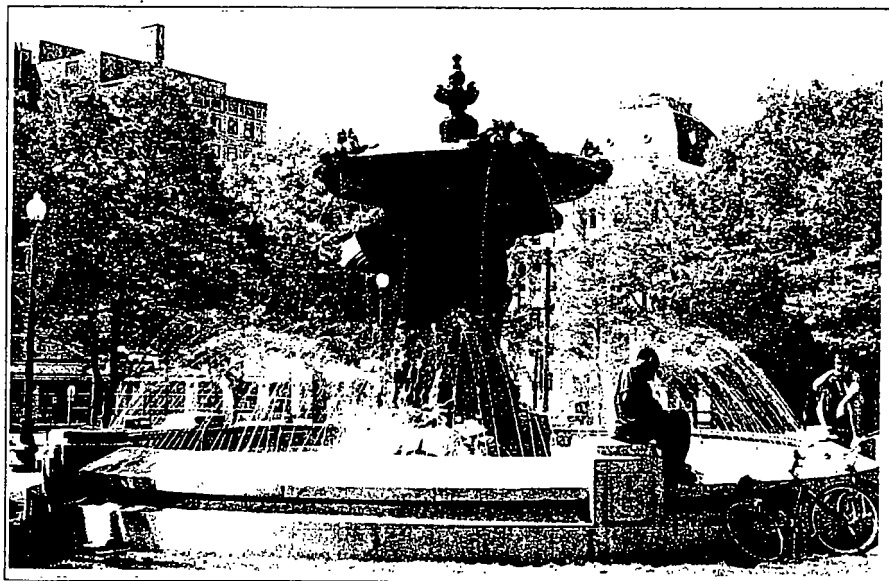
2.1 DOWNTOWN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Most people are aware of the significant facelift that has occurred in the Downtown along the rivers. The transformation that has taken place is the result of significant Federal and State funds leveraged by transportation projects for Providence. In addition to the familiar Waterplace Park , Memorial Park, and the Providence Riverwalk, the downtown park system also includes several other parks, such as Burnside Park, Biltmore Park, Kennedy Plaza (center island), and Abbot Park.

Construction was completed in 2001 on shoreline improvements along the eastern shore of the Providence River south of the Crawford Street Bridge. These improvements are being managed by the State and will continue the overall river improvements all the way to Wickenden Street. This is the first phase of the “Old Harbor” project that is associated with the RT 195 relocation effort. The new park will be under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department beginning in September, 2002.

Another significant project was largely completed in 2001—the re-construction of Kennedy Plaza by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). Once the improvements are completed in September 2002, Kennedy Plaza will be leased to RIPTA for operation and maintenance.

Finally, the long awaited renovation of the Bajnotti Fountain in Burnside Park was substantially completed in 2001 and will be re-dedicated in 2002.



The recently restored Bajnotti Fountain in Burnside Park

2.2 DOWNTOWN PARK MAINTENANCE

The new park spaces created at Waterplace Park, Memorial Park, and along the Providence Riverwalk are maintenance intensive. The number of programs and special events in these parks, such as Waterfire, create a visitor use of several hundred thousand people a year. The Parks Department in 2001 continued to use one person assigned to these new park spaces in order to keep up with the maintenance needs. In addition, a number of the abutting property owners along the Providence Riverwalk, such as the Rhode Island School of Design, have committed to helping with the maintenance.

2.3 DOWNTOWN PARK PROGRAMMING

The Parks Department, through its Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), under the direction of Bob Rizzo, is responsible for programming the new park spaces that have been created along the downtown waterways. 2001 was a banner year for programming, as the Office of Cultural Affairs celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Waterplace Park, the Riverwalk, and other downtown park spaces were programmed with a myriad of arts activities and events, most of which were free and open to the public. OCA-produced events attracted about 175,000 people in 2001. In addition, the NBC Gravity Games and the Waterfire events—both of which are largely held on park spaces—attracted another 800,000 people.

Parks Department downtown programming efforts included:

Waterplace Park

Activities at Waterplace Park in 2001 included:

- ***“LiVE at Waterplace Park”***. This ten-week music series brought national and international acts to Providence, free to



the public, on Friday evenings at 7 PM during the summer. This series reflected the many cultures of Providence's neighborhoods. Featured music included Nigerian drumming, Celtic, American jazz, Cuban Latin jazz, Nashville country and folk, Creole and Zydeco, and the U.S. Air Force Band.

- ***Providence Jazz and Blues Festival.*** Produced in partnership with the Providence Black Repertory Company, this 9th annual celebration, held in July of last year, showcased many greats, including: Chicago blues legend, Jimmy Johnson, New York vocalist Philip Hamilton, Rhode Island's own Psychic Horns, and California percussionist Babatunde Lea.
- ***Trinity Summer Shakespeare*** and Other Organizations. The Department partnered with Trinity to bring outdoor Shakespeare to Waterplace Park.
- ***Park Permits.*** Through the park permit program, we also allowed many other non-profit organizations to hold events at Waterplace Park, including Waterfire, the Million Mom March, Walk for Hope, Emancipation Days, and the Steve Shaw Road Race gathering.

Convergence International Arts Festival

Convergence 2001 was held in September over a three-week period and encompassed statewide activities this year. Created 14 years ago by Parks Department director of cultural affairs, Bob Rizzo, Convergence has grown from a one-day festival into an internationally recognized, multi-week event celebrating the visual and performing arts. In Providence last year, the Department installed 30 large-scale sculpture projects by artists from around the world.



Roger Williams Park 3.0

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Roger Williams Park is the largest park in the Providence park system encompassing 435 acres including 105 acres of ponds. It is Providence's major park, but it is also a neighborhood park for the Elmwood, Lower South Providence, and Washington Park neighborhoods. The Park is also on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a daily challenge to accommodate 3 million visitors a year and to not compromise the historic character of the Park. In 2001 Providence hosted the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Parks Department hosted two major tours in Roger Williams Park.

3.2 CAROUSEL VILLAGE

Carousel Village is a major attraction in the Park, particularly for Providence and neighborhood residents around Roger Williams Park. It features the following attractions:

- Carousel rides
- Hasbro Playground
- Carousel Café concession stand
- Pony rides
- Picnic areas
- Pony rides

In 2001, the Parks Department and local toy maker, Hasbro, collaborated on the construction of a new accessible playground in Carousel Village. This new playground has become a new "destination" for Providence residents and their children.



3.3 THE CASINO

Built in 1896, the Casino is one of the Park's most famous and most popular examples of successful historic preservation. The Casino is more than just an elegant place for wedding receptions. Under the direction of David LaPorte, the Casino is one of the prime venues in Providence and in Rhode Island for non-profit group events, public meetings, and public programming. Revenues generated by rentals are used to maintain the building, and, after 20 years of intense public use, major renovations were started in 2001. Exterior renovations included replacement of rotting wood façade and porch features and chimney re-pointing. Exterior painting also began in 2001 and is being completed in 2002. Also in 2001, renovations were completed to the basement offices of the Casino.

In 2001, the Casino hosted 296 events and generated approximately \$232,000 in revenue. The number of events is remarkable, and provides some sense of the wear and tear on the building. The Casino is an elegant community-gathering place for Providence-based community groups, offering a special place to celebrate or to hold a fundraiser. Many city groups rented the facility at reduced or non profit rates in 2001 and these groups included:

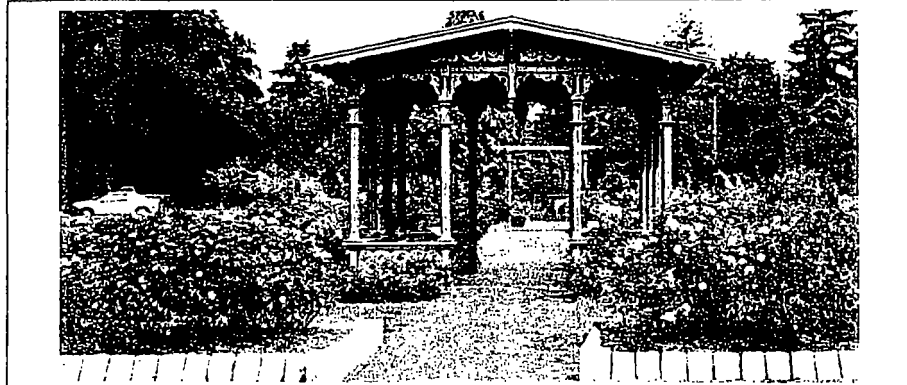
A Sample of Providence Groups Using the Casino in 2001

--Providence Rescue Mission	--Family Services
--Hispanic Cultural Council	--Boys & Girls Club
--Elmwood Foundation	--Codac
--Providence Headstart	--UCAP
--School One	--Wellspring School
--St. Michael's	--San Miguel School
--Groundwork Providence	--Genésis Center
--Met School	--Capitol Region RSVP

3.4 THE GREENHOUSE CENTER

The Greenhouse Center includes 5 greenhouses covering 21,000 sq. ft., a tree farm, and the Hartman Garden. The greenhouses are open to the public throughout the year with seasonal flower displays, tropical, and semi-tropical plants from around the world. One of the greenhouses is used to grow seasonal flowers and plants that are used for flower shows, flowerbeds in the Park, and for City Hall. Plants from the Greenhouses are regularly loaned for Providence school events, for City Hall events, and for park buildings as needed.

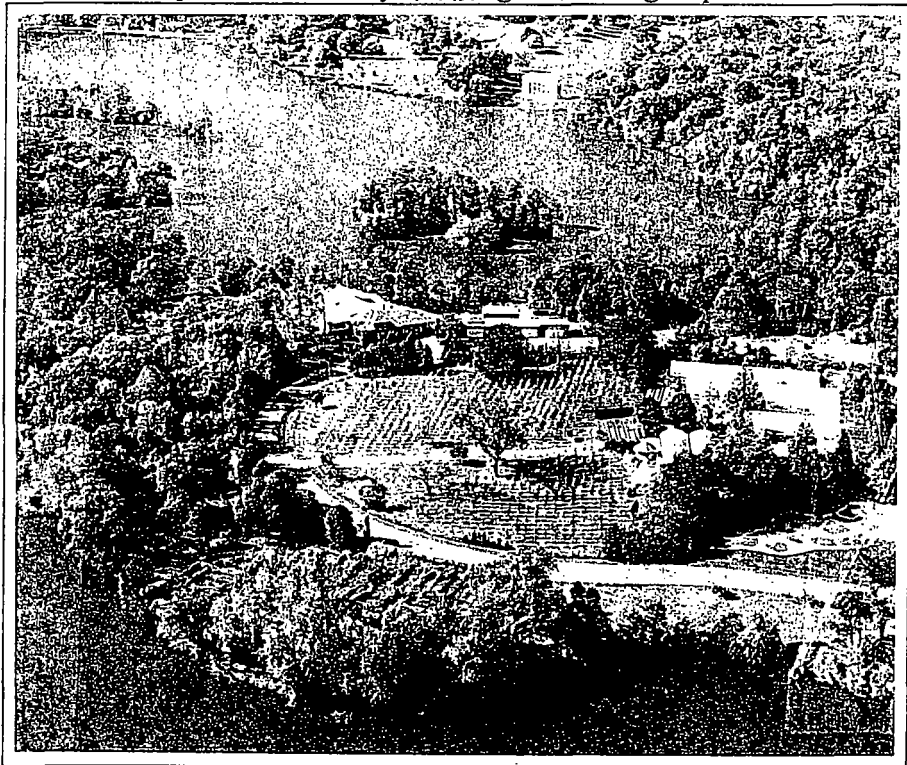
The Greenhouse staff also is responsible for maintaining the formal gardens in the Park and the planting beds around Park buildings.



The Roger Williams Park Rose Garden

Over 2,500 people attended this year's Spring Flower Show and more than 3,500 visitors came to the Christmas Flower Show. During the year, 12 Providence schools toured the greenhouses.

A major amount of planning effort in the past year by the Greenhouse staff and the Boathouse staff was devoted to a proposed new Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens. Dozens of meetings and planning sessions were held with garden groups and neighborhood organizations. Preliminary concept plans have now been developed to show City and neighborhood groups.

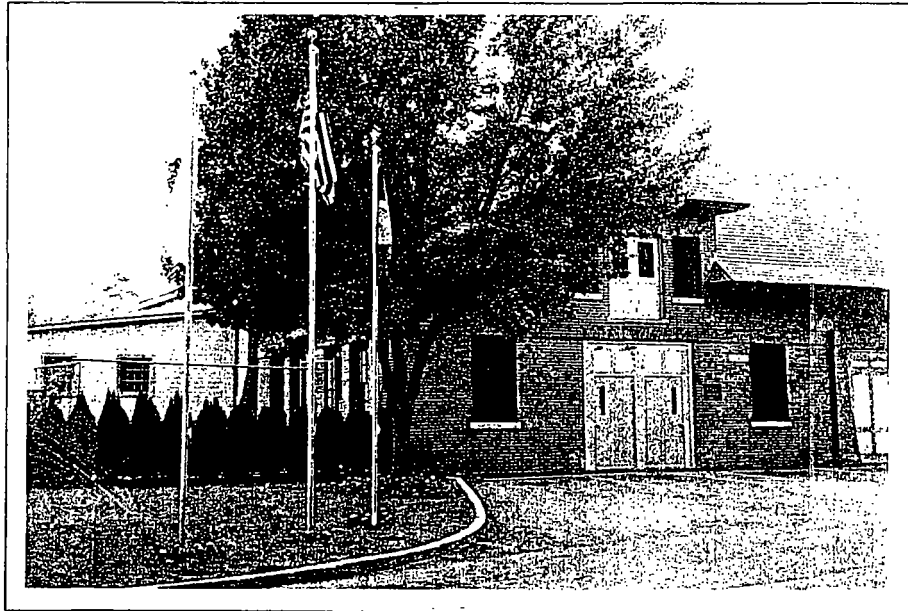


Proposed site for the Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens

3.5 THE ROGER WILLIAMS PARK LANDSCAPE

Roger Williams Park is more than just a collection of venues—the Carousel, the Zoo, the Museum, etc. It is first and foremost a beautiful landscape that visitors can enjoy by taking a walk or by sitting down to a picnic. A relatively small maintenance crew of 10 people is responsible for day-to-day maintenance of 335 acres of parkland and 105 acres of water. Routine tasks include grass cutting, picking up litter, emptying over 200 trash barrels, plowing 10 miles of roads, street sweeping, and pruning.

The Roger Williams Park maintenance building, which also serves as the Providence park system maintenance facility, was renovated in 2001. New offices were developed, roofing replaced, HVAC systems replaced, and the building painted. Upon completion, the building was named in memory of the late Joseph Virgilio, former President of Local 1033.



The Joseph Virgilio Grounds Maintenance Building

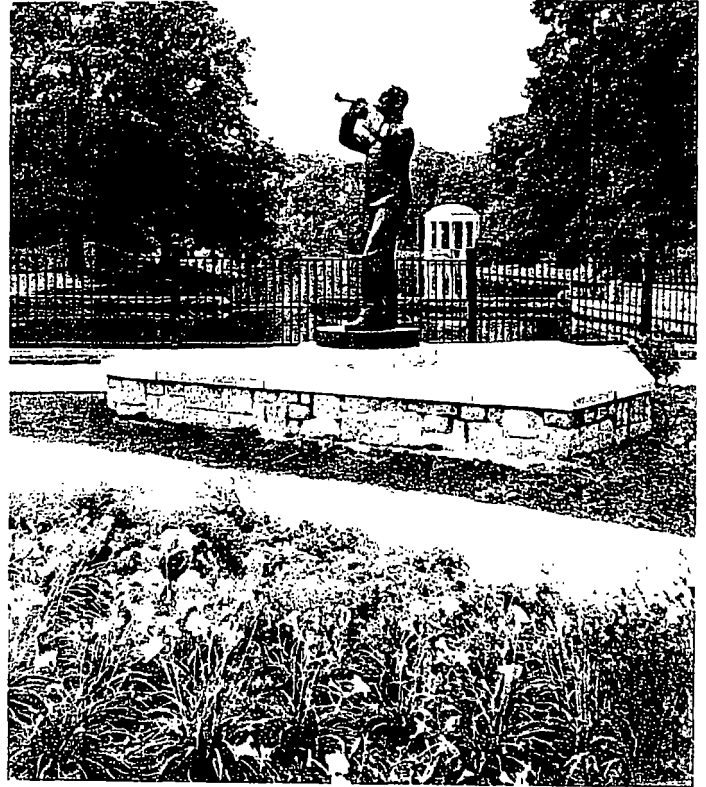
This past year, a number of small projects were completed, most notably new deciduous and evergreen tree planting throughout the Park (approximately 150 trees), removal of dead trees, and mulching and treatment of the 100-year old large beech trees near Elmwood Avenue which are currently under stress.

A major effort completed in 2001 was the restoration of all 50 gravestones in Williams Family Cemetery located between the Casino and Elmwood Avenue. A Connecticut based stone conservationist was hired through a grant from the Champlin Foundations to perform the work which included piecing together

several marble stones that had been vandalized over the last 30 years.

Finally, the Bowen R. Church statue was moved to a new location overlooking the former Seal Pond with the Bandstand in the view behind the statue.

**The newly re-located
Bowen R. Church statue**



3.6 THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND PLANETARIUM

For over a century, the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium has been educating and inspiring students and families through its exhibitions and collections. The Museum is Rhode Island's only premier informal science education center, serving over 30,000 children and adults from Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts.



Almost 20,000 visitors enjoyed planetarium shows in the state's only public planetarium. During the National Trust for Historic Preservation tours of the Park in October, 2001 the Museum was a featured tour site.

Education Activities



The Museum's Education Department had a solid year in 2001:

- Provided 11 different school age workshops—including, Fantastic Fireball, Getting Your Signals Crossed in Space, Feet Bill and Beaks, and Seeds and Seed Travel;
- Five planetarium programs were offered including the new show: 3-2-1 Blast Off;
- 10,000 students attended workshops and planetarium shows;
- 2,000 community based youth group visitors attended programs;
- 210 local teachers participated in professional development workshops at the Museum;
- Partnerships with such groups and institutions as the National Science Foundation, NASA, Boeing, and Brown continued.

Curatorial Activities

Museum curators are responsible for the conservation, cataloguing, and research for the Museum's 250,000 objects and artifacts. In addition, the Museum serves as a major resource for other museums

and universities in the area and the public-at-large in terms of conservation techniques.

The Museum is in the process of repatriating artifacts and cultural materials to the Wampanoag and Narragansett Tribes. The National Park Service is involved in this effort which has caused a dispute between the two tribes as to ownership of some of the artifacts. A notice of intent appeared in the Federal Register in 2001 which sparked the dispute.

Exhibits

In addition to long standing exhibits in the Museum that deal with the Museum's Oceania collection and Native American collection, the Museum mounted several short term exhibits last year:

- *Savage Ancient Seas*—which features skeletons of spectacular sea creatures that existed 70 million years ago, such as giant turtles and marine lizards.
- *Microscopes: The Hidden Art of High Technology*
- *Outdoor Sculpture of Rhode Island*

3.7 PARK RANGERS

The Park Ranger force was originally created in the late 1970's to address security problems at the Zoo. As the Park has grown in popularity in the last 15 years, the Park Ranger force has grown accordingly to provide security throughout the Park. The force now totals 16 rangers. With 3.0 million visitors a year, 22 street entrances open 365 days a year to neighborhood and city traffic, extraordinary buildings, and major special events—providing security in the Park is difficult.



In the past year, the Park Rangers, under Chief Joseph Gleckman, accomplished the following:

- Increased Ranger coverage during the 7 AM-3 PM shift, the busiest activity period for the park.
- Increased bike patrols during the warm weather months to increase Ranger response time.
- Improved mobile communications with the Providence Police Department.
- Moved into a permanent headquarters in the Grounds Maintenance complex.
- Provided security coverage to neighborhood parks in the vicinity of Roger Williams Park.
- Coordinated another very successful security system for the Dominican Festival at the Park.

A lingering, and major issue, facing the Park Rangers is motor vehicle speed by visitors and commuter traffic in the Park. Park Rangers and park planners installed 3 experimental speed bumps in the Park near the Carousel, near the Boathouse, and near the Museum. The effectiveness of these speed bumps will be monitored to see if more are warranted in the Park.

3.8 OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS

While the Casino, Zoo, and the Museum are featured locations for a number of major community events each year, the Park itself—the landscape—is a favorite venue for the Providence and Rhode Island community to hold special events. For example major events held in the Park last year included the Dominican Festival, the NBC Gravity Games, the Nigerian Youth Festival, and the RI Indian Council Annual Pow-Wow.

The Park has a special reputation for assisting community groups to raise funds for their organization through walk-a-thons and road races. In 2001, some of the groups that raised funds totaling over \$1,200,000 in events at the Park include:

- American Diabetes Association
- Alzheimers Association
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Big Brothers
- March of Dimes
- Parkinson Disease
- Cystic Fibrosis

- American Cancer Society
- National Kidney Foundation
- Animal Rescue League
- Sickle Cell Anemia

3.9 MORSILLI TENNIS COURTS

The ten clay tennis courts at Roger Williams Park are the only public clay tennis courts in New England. A small fee is charged to ensure that none of the operating costs during the season are part of the City budget. The only City costs each year for the courts are the expenses each spring for getting the courts ready for play—re-grading, installing new clay, and re-striping.

In 2001 several tournaments were held at the Courts, under the direction of Beth Petrone, the largest being the RI Closed State Championship in June, the USTA/Morsilli Tournament in July, the Metropolitan Tournament in July, and the RI Fall Classic Tournament in September.

The 2001 season saw the continued expansion of the former “Court Buddies” program into the Tennis 1-2-3 Program at both Roger Williams Park and at neighborhood courts. Free clinics and six-week instruction were offered to Providence neighborhood youth as a result of a United States Tennis Association grant won by the Parks Department and the Recreation Department. Approximately 1,200 kids participated last year in the programs at Roger Williams Park and at the neighborhood courts.

3.10 THE ZOO

The Zoo has progressed in the last ten years to be one of Rhode Island’s leading tourist attractions, as well as a favorite place to visit by Providence residents. Approximately 640,000 visitors enjoyed Zoo attractions this past year; 2001 attendance was down from 2000 year attendance of 720,000 when there was a special Dinosaur Exhibit. As a point of comparison, in 1987, the first year that an admissions fee was charged for the Zoo, attendance was about 260,000.

While the Zoo’s popularity is growing, particularly from all corners of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, the Zoo continues to be a Rhode Island institution. More importantly, the Zoo is the pride of Providence, operated with Providence dollars by Providence workers, and beloved by Providence residents. Over

90,000 Zoo visitors this past year were from Providence. And 7,000 of those visitors were from 60 schools in Providence. In 2001, the Zoo generated approximately \$200,000 in revenues through the Admissions Surcharge Program that was turned over to the City Finance Department for use in the General Fund.

A major focus in 2001 was a re-accreditation program administered every three years by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA). The entire staff spent several months, in addition to regular duties, preparing for this evaluation. The Zoo passed the accreditation inspection we are happy to report.

Two major events propelled the Zoo into the public eye this past year: *Oh Baby!*, the special event in April to introduce the new polar bear cub Kobe; and the “**Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular**”, held in October which attracted 80,209 visitors.



Exhibits & Renovations

Because of the intensive amount of time spent on preparing for the AAZPA accreditation process, no major new exhibits were planned for 2001. The unveiling of the new polar bear cub Kobe in April 2001 served as the major “new Zoo experience” for the year for Zoo visitors. A number of small renovations were completed:

- Completed Moon Bear waterfall in the Marco Polo exhibit;
- Opened a new Education Animal Holding Building for animals used in the Zoomobile programs at schools;
- Planted 294 trees between the Zoo and RT 95 to help screen the Zoo (funded by a RIDOT grant);
- Replaced all public guardrail barriers at giraffe and elephant viewing areas to be in compliance with ADA viewing;

Significant Births

Just about everyone in Rhode Island knows that a baby polar bear was born at the Zoo in November, 2000 the Zoo has also achieved success in breeding many other species. This achievement is a testimony to the great care given to our animals by our Zookeepers and by our veterinarian staff headed by Dr. Janet Martin.

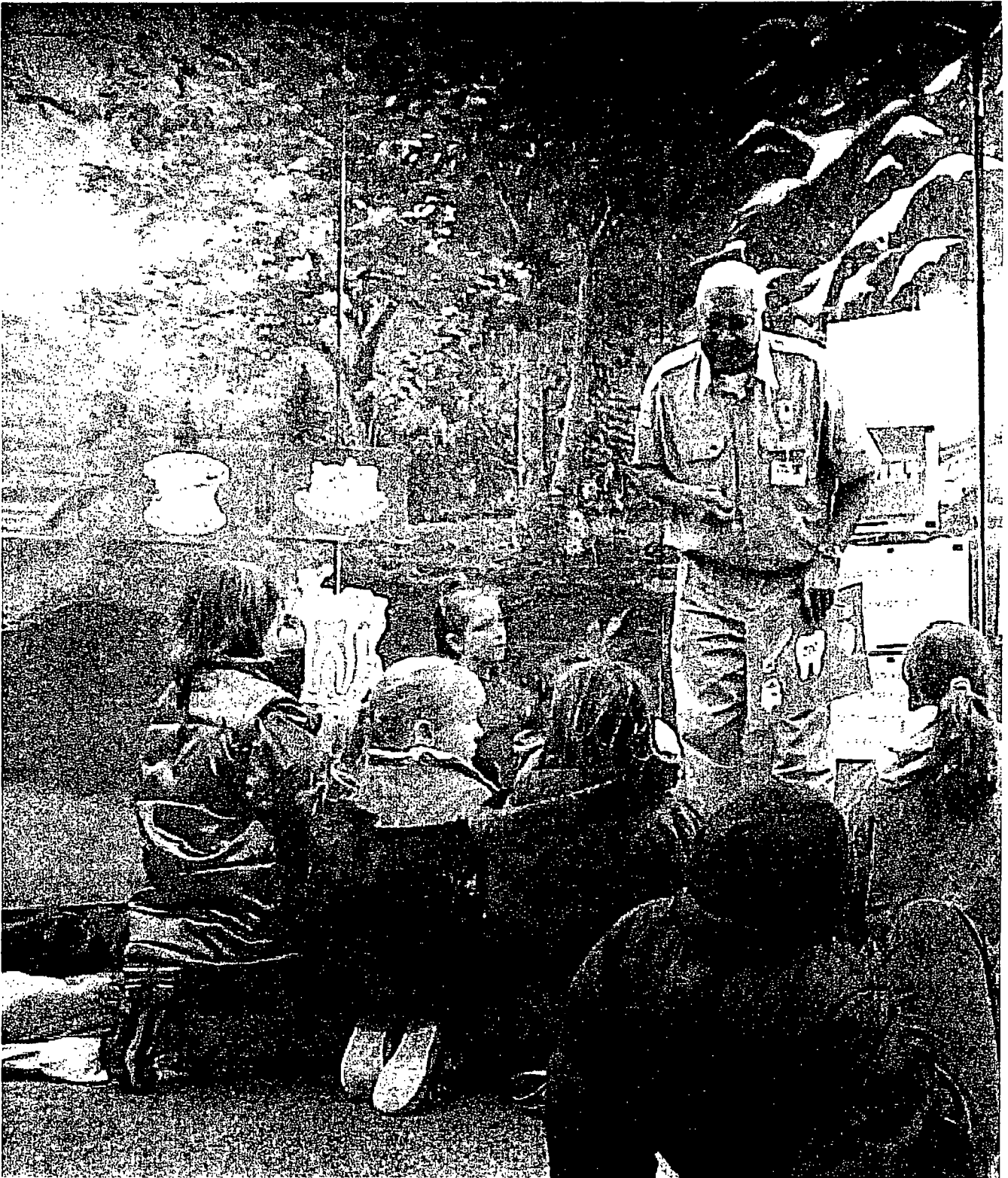
Significant Zoo births this year:

- Cotton-topped tamarin twins
- White cheeked gibbon
- Caviar’s gazelle male

Education

The Zoo’s mission encompasses more than just family recreation. It has a commitment to education and to species conservation. The Zoo provides education programs under the direction of Robbie Fearn, for school kids, teachers—both on-site and off-site. Some of the major education accomplishments in the past year were the following:

- Expanded award-winning ZooPower Program to include summer months.
- Extensive new graphics were added to Zoo exhibits
- Added 30 more docent volunteers to expand Zoo education.
- Continued partnership with the Broad Street Elementary school and Roger Williams Middle School providing literacy, health and science education.



“Mr. Ed” Hooks, a favorite Docent of generations, peddles his wares. One of numerous children learning programs the Zoo offers to the community.

- Produced video and books about our polar bears to mark the birth of new baby polar bear Kobe
- Reached 10,000 participants in schools and community centers with the Zoomobile program.
- Held the Conservation Lecture Series attracting 1000 people.

Zoo Education Program Participants 2001

Zoo Camp—784
 Preschool—1,988
 Afterschool—471
 Overnight program—1,386
 Family programs—403
 Lectures—243
 On-site special school tours—1,328
 Providence School “Animals Inside & Out”
 Program—1,012
 Teacher training—34
 Zoomobile school visits—7,106
 Zoomobile eldercare visits—300
 Zoomobile neighborhood festivals—56,050
 ZooPower—800 afterschool students
 Scout programs—287

Total Zoo Education Program Participants: 72,192

Conservation

Under the supervision of Zoo staff person, Dr. Lisa Dabek, the Roger William Park Zoo continued in 2001 to do its role in the Zoo world in species conservation. In particular, the Zoo is an international leader in developing a program of species protection for the tree kangaroo population in Papua New Guinea (PNG). In 2001 a press conference was held in Providence to announce that the Roger Williams Park Zoo had established a Wildlife Management Area totaling 50,000 acres in the Huon Peninsula of Papua New Guinea.

Another Zoo initiative that has received national attention is the project to re-introduce the burying beetle into the environment. We successfully released 160 captive-bred beetles from Roger Williams Park Zoo this past year on Nantucket Island.

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3.11 PLANNING

While 2001 was not as active a year in the Park for major construction projects as in past years, a considerable amount of time and energy was devoted to planning for future projects. Some of the major initiatives that will bear fruit in future years that received planning attention in 2001 were the following:

- Planning continued for more *tree planting* in the Park
- A initial conceptual layout for an *off-road bikeway* in Roger Williams Park was developed.
- Design documents for the *Japanese Garden* restoration were 50% completed
- Planning continued for the new *Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens*
- A draft new ten-year *Zoo Master Plan* to guide future development and renovations in the Zoo was completed.
- Construction drawings were completed and negotiations finalized to have the RI Department of Transportation pave a worn out 1 mile section of roadway on *FC Greene Blvd.* near the Cranston side of the Park. This section of roadway has been a major problem for several years. The re-paving will take place in the Fall of 2002.

Special Park Facilities 4.0

4.1 TRIGGS GOLF COURSE

The Triggs Memorial Golf Course continues to be improved by the private operator, FCG Associates, who leases it from the Parks Department. Its reputation as one of the top municipal golf courses in the country is growing. See Exhibit 4-1. Park staffer John Izzo manages the lease for the Parks Department. The lease revenues, approximately \$285,000 this past year are used for neighborhood park improvements. Also under the lease arrangement, Providence residents and senior citizens play at Triggs for reduced rates.

In the past year, the following improvements were completed:

- Installation of 3,000 feet of new asphalt cart paths;
- Reconstruction of several bunkers;
- Replacement of 50% of the Clubhouse Roof
- Improvements to several tee areas
- Continued installation of new irrigation systems.



Major improvements are scheduled for 2002-2003, including a new first class pro-shop (see Exhibit 4-2), a new maintenance garage, and a new practice range.

Triggs also hosted several golf events in 2001, including the RI Publinx Championship. The golf course also hosted several charity fundraising tournaments, such as the Mayor's Scholarship Tournament.

Approximately 55,000 rounds of golf were played at Triggs in 2001. This is an astounding number. As Triggs improvements have attracted more golfers, what is particularly satisfying is that the fastest growing segments of players at Triggs are women and under-18 players.

BOSTON GLOBE, APRIL 2, 2001

Course of the week

Municipal gem amid rough

By Paul Harber
GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — Triggs Memorial Golf Course is not only one of the oldest public courses in Rhode Island, it is also one of the best in the classic definition of its purpose.

Municipal golf courses — not to be confused with private country clubs or upscale for-profit facilities — were originally built to give the majority of folks, those unable to join private clubs, the opportunity to play the game.

When Triggs was built in 1932, the majority of courses in the United States were private clubs. While there were nearly 5,000 private clubs in 1932, there were only 500 municipally owned courses and another 700 daily fee clubs.

Today, there are more than 16,000 courses. The number of private facilities remains under 5,000 while there are more than 2,500 municipal courses and 9,000 daily fee operations.

More golfers are introduced to the game at Triggs than any other course in Rhode Island. In the early years, laborers, factory workers, and public employees teed it up and enjoyed the same pleasures that were exclusive to investment bankers and mill owners.

This thrilled Donald Ross, the great architect and designer of Triggs Memorial. About the time he built this jewel, he wrote "the development of municipal golfers is the outstanding feature of the game in America today. It is the greatest step ever taken to make it the game of the people as it should be."

Ross would have been proud to see our foursome stroll down his fairways this week. In a grouping shaped by happenstance was an Italian woman named Ann, recently retired from the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles; Peter, a Gen-Xer and part-owner of a Federal Hill eatery; and Chuck, an African-American who recently took up the game. A former wide receiver at the University of Rhode Island, Chuck works as a personal trainer at a local fitness center.

Such diversity wasn't exclusive to our foursome. We observed other groups that varied in age and ethnicity.

As for the course, nothing more need be said beyond it was designed by Ross, the greatest course architect ever.

Conditions? When we teed it up Monday, carts were not allowed, which was a good sign. The FCG and Associates management company that operates the facility puts maintenance ahead of revenue, unlike too many for-profit daily fee courses.

Many of the fairways were soaked, which can only be cured with some dry weather. Using carts would have destroyed the turf. If anything, the wet landing areas made the 6,522-yard track play longer. While the turf was far from perfect, it survived the brutal winter and early spring.

The greens? It was apparent the aeration holes from last fall didn't have a chance to heal before winter set in. However, they putted well. One of our playing partners, Peter, said that during prime season, Triggs may have the best

public greens in New England.

For this early in the season, they rolled well and were devious with typically subtle breaks incorporated by Ross.

You don't have to be a student of Ross to realize this is his design. The bunkering and mounding around the putting surfaces are wonderful. Miss a shot in the wrong place and getting up and down will be a challenge.

Ann, who said she has been a member of the inner club for at least a hundred years, said the management company has done a remarkable job restoring the course. When she first joined, there were no forward tees for women. Her comments were surprising because most inner club members are a course's harshest critics. The Rhode Island Golf Association was so enamored with the restoration effort that it awarded Triggs last year's State Amateur, which is usually played at a private club.

As far as layout, Triggs is as good as the best private courses.

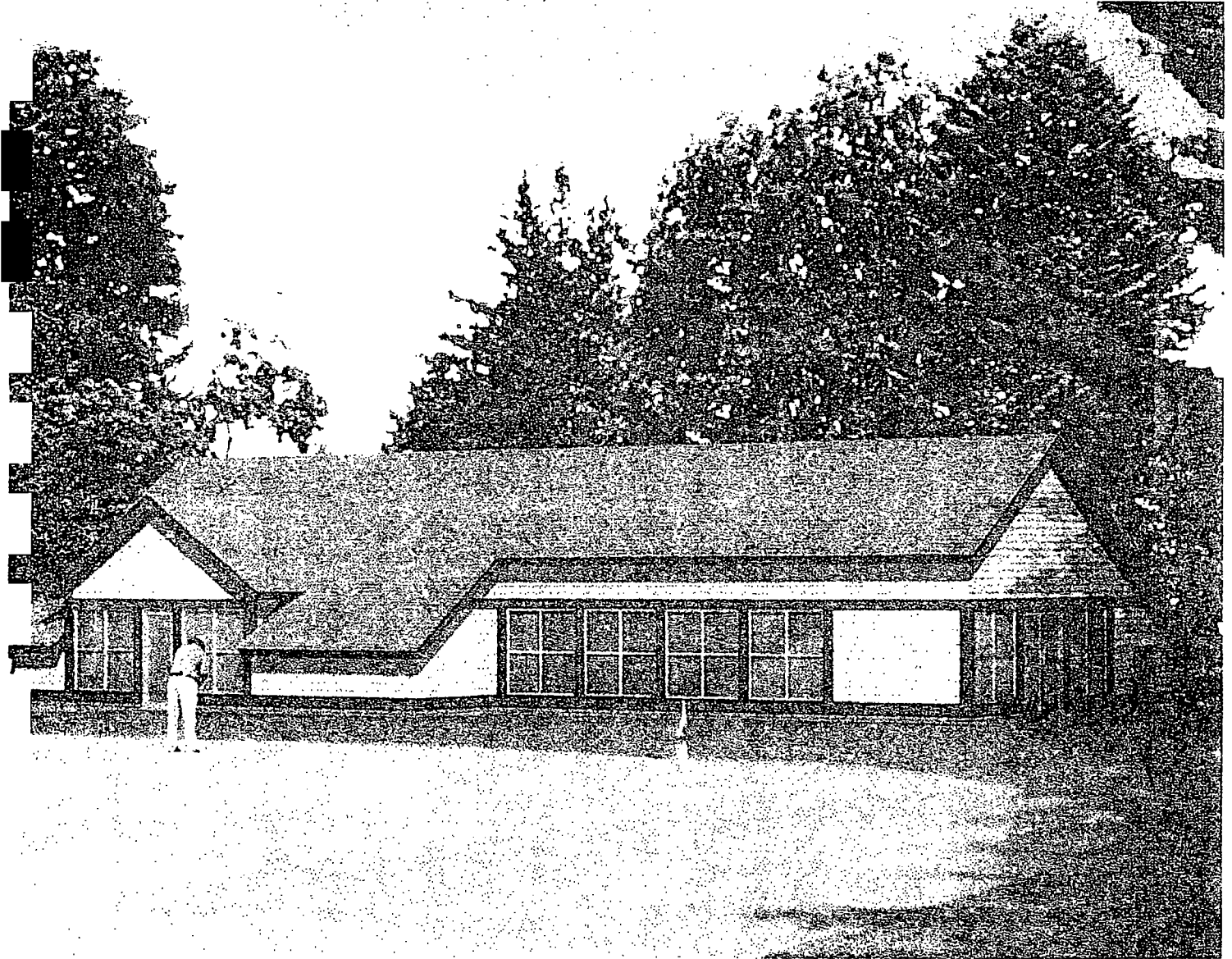
Ross made good use of the rolling topography, providing an assortment of uphill and downhill shots. His par 3s, as always, are impressive. The fourth is 185 yards uphill, and the green offers a panoramic view of the Providence skyline. The 14th is a terrific downhill to a pushed-up green surrounded by sand and mounds.

Those who are only comfortable with the pristine conditions of private courses might not like the worn tees and fairways.

But they are worn because they are used and enjoyed. And isn't that the purpose of a golf course?

EXHIBIT 4-2

PROPOSED NEW TRIGGS PRO SHOP



4.2 FLEET SKATING CENTER



This past year was the third complete year of operation for the Fleet Skating Center. This exciting facility is still in the process of developing the right mix of programs and events to bring people to the site during the warmer seasons of the year. During the ice season, approximately 40,000 users enjoyed the facility and the Parks Department is happy with the continued popularity of the facility during this time of the year.

During the past skating season, a new management team, headed by Heather Rae Brown, was brought on board. More family events for the summer and fall months are being planned, such as family flicks on *WaterFire* nights, and food events which are always popular in Providence.



The Skating Center is finally beginning to hit its financial goals, and it has been a tremendous success in renewing visitor confidence and in downtown. It has become a signature facility for the City and a new destination for Providence school field trips.

4.3 ESEK HOPKINS HOUSE

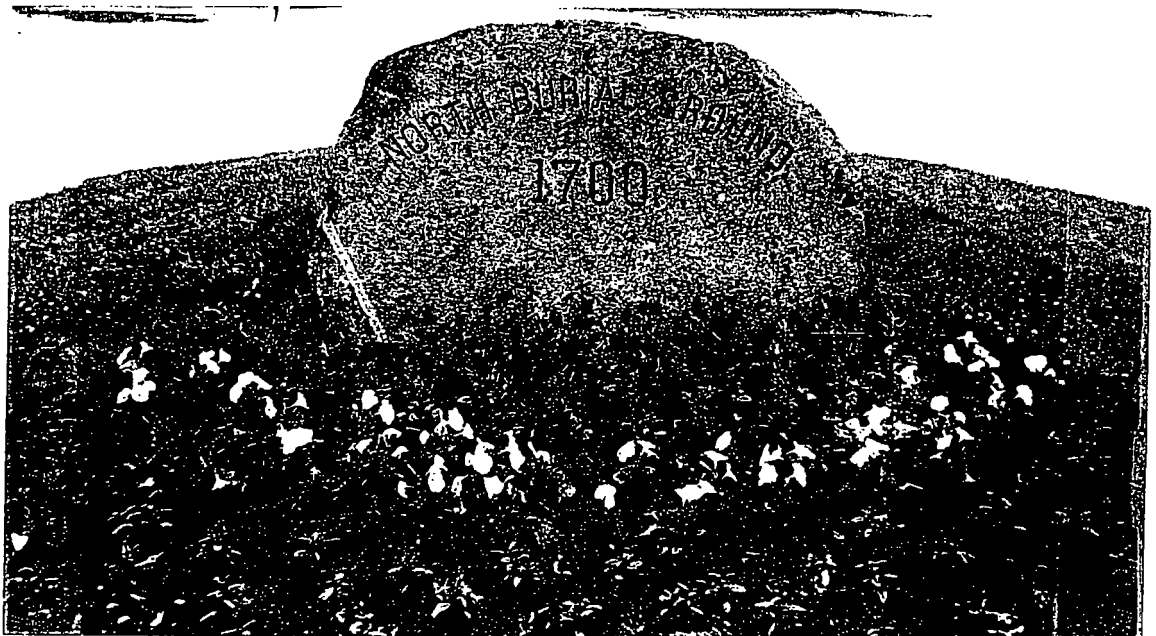
The Esek Hopkins House, located on Admiral Street, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over the last several years, the Parks Department has been making improvements to the exterior of the house. A Parks Department employee leases the house to provide on-going security presence at the site.

While no major renovations took place in 2001, our goal in the coming year is to continue to work on the site landscaping, particularly improving the Admiral Street fencing.

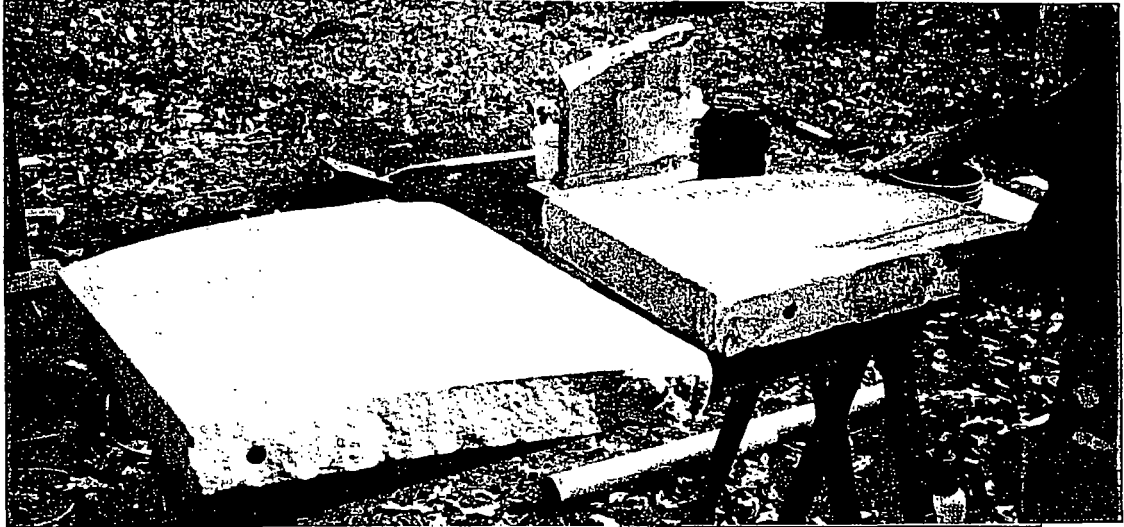
Long-term use of the house is still being considered. Two options that remain open are 1.) Lease the house to a private business, such as a law office or realtor and generate funds to keep up with the maintenance of the house; 2.) Raise major capital to renovate the house and to establish an endowment to operate a small museum at the house.

4.4 NORTH BURIAL GROUND

North Burial Ground (NBG) encompasses 109 acres. The cemetery is 250 years old and contains over 100,000 grave sites. The cemetery contains almost 15 miles of roads, a gate house/office building, and a garage. The North Burial Ground crew, under the direction of new director Tom D'Amore who took over in 2001, is also responsible for providing burial service at the Locust Grove Cemetery on Elmwood Avenue. In the past year, there were 226 burials in NBG and 4 at Locust Grove.



Over a period of several decades, several hundred gravestones have been vandalized, succumbed to weather, or have been accidentally knocked down by machinery. In the past year, the Parks Department continued a long-term gravestone restoration project to address this problem. Fifty-five stones were repaired to determine what level of effort is required, what costs are involved, and what skills are involved in gravestone repair at the cemetery. In 2002, about 125 stones are slated for repair.



Gravestone repair at the North Burial Ground

Day-to-day maintenance at the cemetery improved in 2001 with Tom D'Amore at the helm. In 2002 even more improvements will become evident as long overdue dead tree removals are accomplished, new tree planting is completed, and drainage problems are resolved.



Grass cutting operations at the North Burial Ground are time-consuming because of the historic layout of gravestones and the fragile nature of the gravestones.

Trees 5.0

5.1 FORESTRY OPERATIONS

There are over 26,000 street trees in Providence. The Forestry Division of the Parks Department, under the direction of Lou Bobola, is responsible for removing dead trees, stump removal, and tree trimming for the street tree population. It is a difficult job and often dangerous. Work must be done in all weather conditions, often in close proximity to electrical wires, sometimes at heights of 50 feet. We are fortunate to have some of the best tree trimmers in the state currently working for the Forestry Division and, thus, escaped major injuries in the past year.

Here are the summary statistics for Forestry in 2001

FORESTRY DIVISION STATISTICS, 2001*

Tree Removals—616

Tree Prunings—989

Stump Removals—484

Miscellaneous Citizen Requests Solved—1,325

Banners Installed—196

* In addition to Forestry Division personnel, a private contractor using city funds was responsible for some tree removals and tree prunings and all of the stump removals.

The backlog of requests for Forestry assistance at the end of 2001 was approximately the following: Tree Removals—125 (down from 208 at the end of the 2000 year); Tree Trims—168. The wards, not surprisingly, with the biggest backlogs are those with the most street trees: Wards 2,3,5 and 14. These wards account for approximately 65% of the backlog.

While the backlog of requests for tree removals is only about 125 trees, the reality is that the number of street trees in Providence that are dead or close to dying is really on the order of 300-350. Norway maples planted in the 1960's are dying off at an astonishing rate at the present time.

5.2 TREE PLANTINGS

A total of 588 trees were planted on 89 streets in 2001 through three major tree planting programs administered in the Parks Department by John Campanini. The majority of tree plantings were done through the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program. Other

Providence Parks Department Forestry Division in Action



efforts were done through the Community Development Block Grant Program in the Jewelry District, Downcity, Oakland Avenue, and Lucy Street.



Neighborhood tree planting effort on Gano Street

