

NANCY L. DERRIG
Superintendent of Parks



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor

Department of Public Parks

"Building Pride In Providence"
February 4, 2000

Honorable City Council
Council Office
City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Council Member:

Attached please find a report on the accomplishments of the Parks Department for 1999.

As you know, the Parks Department has a wide range of responsibilities affecting each corner of the City and virtually every citizen.

The men and women of the Parks Department are to be commended for doing such outstanding and appreciated work.

I am proud of them and pleased to present this report.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Derrig".

NANCY L. DERRIG
Superintendent of Parks

IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 17 2000
READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael R. Clement".
CLERK

1999 PROJECTS

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

Neutaconkanut Family Park - Old ballfield converted to new family park that includes a lighted walking track, playground, open green space and a revitalized sledding hill

Memorial Park Irrigation System - System installed to keep Park green

Zoo Entrance Welcome Center Gazebo - New information center at Zoo

Edgewood Boulevard/Roger Williams Park - Design for new cul de sac completed and put out to bid. Construction to begin in March, 2000

Maintenance Building/Roger Williams Park - Design begun for \$350,000 renovation of office spaces, roof and HVAC system. Construction in Summer of 2000

Elephant Pool/Zoo - Design begun on Elephant Pool renovations to improve water conservation. Construction in Fall of 2000

Animal Holding Building/Zoo - Construction begun on new facility near Zoo Education Center

Zoo Education Center/Habitat RI - Construction begun on animal exhibits within Zoo Education Center

Zoo Stables - Design begun on new office spaces - Construction in Summer of 2000

Sophie Danforth Center/Zoo - Design begun on new HVAC system

Daniel Avenue, Laurel Hill, Candace Street, Regent Avenue and Joe Williams Parks - punch lists completed on these jobs

Bell Street/Franciscan Park - Park on Bell Street, on the site of former James Eddy estate, completed, which includes a lighted walking path, benches, bocce court, and landscaping - Dedication in May, 2000

Roger Williams Park Tennis Courts - Annual maintenance completed; coordination of operation; most successful season in terms of number of players and tournaments

Roger Williams Park Boathouse - Renovations to 100 year old historic building; exterior improvements include new roof, new exterior stucco, exterior painting, exterior lighting, gutters, new concrete sidewalks and dock, door renovations, handicap accessibility, drainage modifications; interior improvements include upgraded office lighting, new water filtration system, handicap accessible restroom - Project completion in April, 2000

Roger Williams Park Casino - Design begun for new Bridal Room, new office area, new storage area, and exterior painting and repairs

Richardson Park - Design started for major improvements to include a water park, handball courts, additional basketball goals, an "Art Park" area, and new playground equipment - Construction in summer, 2000

Brown Street Playground - New East Side playground completed with a major play structure, benches, fencing and landscaping

Merino Park - Formerly closed park along the Woonasquatucket River completely renovated to include 2 soccer fields, football field, softball field, lighted basketball court, walking track, playground area, benches and picnic tables and parking

JT Owens Fields - Home of the Elmwood Little League, this complex received a new storage building, turf and backstop improvements, and new playground

Columbia Park - This Washington Park neighborhood park received turf and planning improvements

Donigian Park - Improvements to this Olneyville neighborhood park included a walking track, softball field improvements, brush clearing along the Woonasquatucket River and a new playground

Mattie Smith Playground - New expanded Park in South Providence received all new playground equipment, fencing, picnic tables and benches and trees

Cerbo Square - Improvements to this Silver Lake memorial park included a new gazebo, new wrought iron fencing, lighting and landscaping

Flynn School Annex Playground - New playground installed for kindergarten classes at this South Providence School

Tim O'Neil Fields - New batting cage installed here for the South Providence/Washington Park Little League

Mashapaug Pond Community Boating Center - This new facility in the Reservoir Triangle neighborhood, when completed in May, 2000, will feature canoeing and kayaking

South Sea Island Gallery/Roger Williams Park Museum - Exhibit gallery renovations being performed before major exhibit is installed in the Spring of 2000

Bajnotti Fountain - 100 year old historic fountain will receive restoration and recirculation system in the fall of 2000; preliminary design completed

Metcalf Field Walking Track - This North End neighborhood park will have a new 10' wide lighted walking track in the Spring of 2000

North Burial Ground - Preliminary planning begun on substantial improvements to this 250 year old municipal cemetery. Phase I to begin in Spring of 2000

Adelaide Avenue Parking - Design begun on a neighborhood parking lot to be build in the Summer of 2000

Gladys Potter Park - Meetings held with Wayland neighborhood families to plan new playground equipment to be installed in Spring of 2000

Patterson Park - Preliminary planning begun on playground improvements for this popular East Side park.

Woonasquatucket River Greenway - Working with Planning Department and the Providence Plan to coordinate future bikeway and park improvements through Manton, Hartford, Olneyville and Valley neighborhoods

Old Harbor - Working with Planning Department and Rhode Island Department of Transportation on future park spaces in the area of Downtown involving the RT 195 relocation

India Point Park RT 195 Relocation - Working with Rhode Island Department of Transportation on impact mitigation plans for India Point Park when RT 195 is relocated

New Cities Initiatives - Working with Planning Department on ideas and concepts for park spaces in the three "New Cities" being envisioned for Providence

Memo

To: Nancy L. Derrig

From: James J. Shepard *JJS*

Date: February 1, 2000

Subject: Annual Report 1999

The following is a summary of accomplishments performed by the Charles H. Smith Greenhouses staff in 1999.

Greenhouses:

Overall operation and maintenance of five greenhouses covering a 21,000 sq. ft. area. 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 five greenhouses is used to grow seasonal flowers and plants used for flower shows, floral arrangements, flower beds, and Providence City Hall.

The greenhouses are utilized for the following:

- Weddings (4 – 6 annually)
- Photo shoots (5 annually)
- Garden club meetings (3 clubs annually)
- Home to the Rhode Island Rose Society (approximately 100 members meet monthly).
- URI Master Gardeners Classes (two satellite classes attended by approximately 30 members)

- Special education groups (two schools weekly, approximately 10 students)
- School tours (16 schools of approximately 900 students)

Family Court community service location (average 7 juveniles annually)

Flower Shows:

In-door spring flower show featuring thousands of spring bulbs such as fragrant Easter lilies, tulips, narcissus and hyacinth. (Attendance, approximately 2000)

Christmas flower show featuring thousands of poinsettias, including new varieties such as the "Winter Rose", topiary poinsettias over 30-inches tall, an 8-foot poinsettia tree, and Frosty the Snowman, a 15-foot topiary snowman, singing and talking with the children. (Attendance, approximately 2500)

Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show, Rhode Island Convention Center, forced plantings for entrance garden, delivery and set up, February, 1999.

Garden Areas:

In addition to the greenhouses, there are 13 outside garden areas planted and maintained by greenhouse staff. Maintained in these areas are flowerbeds, ornamental trees, shrubs and surrounding grounds.

- Hartman Garden – hosts two flower displays annually in 22 flowerbeds. Spring bulb display consists of 45,000 to 50,000 spring bulbs, including tulips, hyacinths and narcissus.
- Rose Garden – newly-restored and maintained with the assistance of the Rhode Island Rose Society. Immediately following the renovation of the garden, tours were given to garden clubs, college students and employees of Scharfner Farms.
- Japanese Garden – weekly maintenance includes mowing, trimming and removing of litter from the water and garden. This garden is scheduled for future renovation.
- Casino – foundation plantings and flowerbeds. Maintenance includes trimming yew hedges twice each season, tree trimming, and pruning of rhododendron and azaleas. Spring planting of flowerbeds with annuals, palms and hibiscus trees. Mulching flowerbeds and treatment with herbicides. Fall planting of tulip, hyacinth and daffodil bulbs. Mulching repeated.
- Boathouse – foundation plantings and surrounding ornamental trees and shrubs. (Building under renovation and foundation plantings removed.) Trees and shrubs in center parking area were fertilized and mulched.

- Museum – foundation plantings and surrounding ornamental trees and shrubs. Planted flowerbeds in spring with annuals; tulips, hyacinth and daffodils in fall. The flowerbeds are watered and weeded throughout the season.
- Betsey Williams Cottage – foundation plantings in spring and fall. Spring clean up includes leave removal and weeding throughout the season.
- Elmwood Avenue and Broad Street entrances – flowerbeds were planted with annuals in spring, weeded and watered throughout the season.
- Lion's Memorial Monument – spring cleaning, planted with perennials, tall grasses and mulched. Watered and weeded throughout the season.
- Falconer Statue Island – spring cleaning, divided and replanted perennials. Planted annuals in between the perennials. Mulched, watered and weeded throughout the season.

Greenhouse gardens, courtyard entrance and parking lot areas – the small Japanese Garden, located in front of the greenhouses, was pruned and maintained by the Rhode Island Bonsai Society this year. URI Master Gardeners planted ornamental grasses in the front courtyard area and Hosta plants along the side of greenhouse #4. The parking lot area was mulched and herbicide used to control weeds.

Building Renovations:

- Replaced all exterior doors to the central building with insulated metal doors with handicap hardware.
- Replaced sliding fire door with a three-foot-wide door with side-lit panels.
- Replaced overhead garage door with metal-insulated door and automatic garage door opener.
- Installed three roll-up security doors to create lockable storage areas.
- Installed water filtration on drinking fountains.
- Removed counter, sink and work tables from a former kitchen/workshop area. Cleaned and painted the area to create a functional classroom and meeting room.
- Installed heating mats for “bottom heat” on propagation benches.
- Installed two, thermostatically-controlled intake-cooling vents near the ridge of the plastic house.

- Installed a fertilizer proportioner injection pump and watering system with misting heads and drip irrigation for potted plants, including hanging plants in the plastic house.

Revised: 2-3-00

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK CASINO

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Facilitated the production of at least 133 events in City parks with a total (conservative) estimated attendance of 230,000 people. These ranged from the NBC Gravity Games and First Night Providence to wedding ceremonies, walkathons, video-shoots and neighborhood festivals.

Facilitated the production of an additional 238 events at the Roger Williams Park Casino. These included 118 weddings and private parties, 46 City sponsored events and meetings and 74 fundraisers for community based and other non-profit organizations (371 total events).

Generated approximately \$400,000.00 in revenues, including about \$250,000.00 in use fees and a Champlin Foundation grant of \$150,000.00.

REPORT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT 1999

Blackstone Boulevard:

Completed the contract for Blackstone Boulevard Path Reconstruction

Worked with neighborhood group to continue the development of the Master Plan and the Path reconstruction

Blackstone Park:

Work with neighborhood group to continue Master Plan and erosion control measures

Coordinated the deposition of wood chips and logs removed from Blackstone Boulevard for use as erosion control measures in Blackstone Park

Burnside and Biltmore Parks:

Prepared construction documents and coordinated the restoration of the lawns and installation of lighting in both parks

Burnside Park Fencing:

Prepared construction documents for fencing around Burnside Park

Coordinated construction of fencing

Waterplace Park:

Preparation of construction drawings for a wrought iron gate

Rose Garden:

Coordinated the restoration of the Rose Garden structures and reconstruction of gardens

Japanese Garden Pond:

Coordinated the dredging and installation of a water circulation system

Erosion Control Project:

Coordinated the completion of construction

Payton Street:

Coordinated the completion of construction

Broad Street Entrance Improvements:

Prepared construction documents

Coordinated beginning of construction

Boathouse Drainage:

Designed and prepared construction documents

Coordinated construction

Boathouse/Casino Site Improvements:

Prepared construction documents

Hamlin Street Bridge:

Prepared construction documents for wrought iron gate

Carousel Fence Repair:

Prepared construction drawings for fence repair

Australasia Exhibit at the Roger Williams Park Zoo:

Prepared construction documents for site development of a new exhibit at the Zoo

Advised Zoo staff during construction

Gate 5 Coordination:

Assisted in the siting of an animal storage building inside Gate 5 at the Zoo

Zoo Welcome Center Sign:

Prepared construction documents for a new sign

Zoo Maintenance Facility:

Site feasibility study for the RIPTA site on Montgomery Avenue

Storm Drain Evaluation:

Evaluated the condition of all catch basins in the Park

Prepared a plan for the Public Works Department to systematically clean all basins

Tree Removal Plan:

Worked with John Campanini to prepare a plan for the removal of dead and dangerous trees

Stump Removal Project:

Prepared plans for the removal of old stumps located throughout the park

Phase II Parkwide Planting:

Began construction documents for next phase of park planting projects.; areas include old Carousel site, new Carousel planters, Greenhouse parking area, Anna Mann Gates, Seal Pool area, and Zoo fence line

Garden Groups:

Worked with the RI Rose Society, URI Master Gardeners, RI Tree Council, Federation of Garden Clubs and the RI Wild Plant Society to determine the interest and viability of a horticultural education center at the greenhouses

Casino Island Planting And Other Miscellaneous Yearly Planting Designs

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

New animal births, including snow leopards (0.2), bongo antelope (1.0), and gibbon (currently unsexed).

Acquisition of a bontebok pair (2.0) and a Cuvier's gazelle (0.1)

Our male giraffe had a journal-worthy procedure performed on his broken toe

Significant hires, including Robbie Fearn (Education Curator), Dr. Stephanie James (Veterinarian) and Jennifer Vincent (Human Relations Manager)

Triton, the polar bear baby, transported to Detroit Zoo while Trixie and Norton were successfully reintroduced as per recommendations

USFWS model program of head-start reproduction and release of the American burying beetle

More local landowner support than ever on the annual Papua New Guinea tree kangaroo project

Our much-needed animal diet commissary opened

Our Madagascar area highlighting four species of lemur was fully renovated along with the education interpretation area adjacent to the animal displays

The ground-breaking of the education animal building began

Nearly completed in-house construction of Australasia

Installed a visitor welcome center to help with visitor services at the Admissions area

Opened Conservation Corner to illustrate local ecological partnerships and successes.

Received a Department of Transportation State and Federal grant for tree screening

Awards Received:

One of the top 10 zoos in U.S. - **Travel and Leisure Magazine**

Reader's Choice Award - 2nd best zoo in the North East - **Disney's Family Fun Travel Magazine** (beat out by the Bronx Zoo)

Brass Rings for Best of Show (TV advertisement) and merchandise (T-shirt design) - **IAPPA Conference**

All Star Award for family fun (just fun) and Best Gift for a family (membership) - **RI Monthly Magazine**

RHODE ISLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

Record memberships sold (18,200 active facilities to date)

Record annualized giving from appeals and dedicated donors

Record Zoobilee attendance (2,100)

An endowment program was developed

STREET TREE PROGRAM

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

STREET TREE PLANTING

Providence Neighborhood Planting Program - 399 trees planted in 20 city neighborhoods

Providence Commercial/Resident Matching Grant Program - 26 trees installed at various locations

FORESTRY PARK AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Neighborhood Stump Removal Project - eliminate 289 stumps city wide

Roger Williams Park Tree Removal Program Phase I - eliminate hazard trees

Roger Williams Park Tree Care Project Phase I - prune, mulch 187 park trees

Helen Raleigh Tree Care Endowment Project - prune 513 street trees and 311 park trees located at Dexter Training Ground and North Main Street traffic island

\$50 MILLION CAPITAL BOND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Ward 1 Street Tree Beautification Project - plant, prune, remove trees in Fox Point

Ward 5 Stump Removal Project - eliminate stumps from Ward 5 streets

Ward 7 Street Tree Beautification Project - plant street trees on Pettys Avenue

Ward 10 Street Tree Removal Project - remove 211 dead trees, stumps

Ward 11 Street Tree Beautification Project - plant, prune, remove trees

Ward 12 Street Tree Beautification Project - plant, prune, remove trees

Ward 13 Street Tree Beautification Project - plant trees, remove stumps

Central/Classical High School Complex Tree Improvement Project - prune 250 trees, remove 13 trees on complex

OTHER PROJECTS

Admiral Esek Hopkins Homestead Facility Rehabilitation Project - stabilize exterior roof, clapboard, windows and doors, paint entire facility

**Providence Park Rangers
1000 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI. 02905
“Building Pride in Providence”**

Ms. Nancy Derrig
Superintendent of Parks
1000 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02905

1-27-00

1999 Accomplishments

Dear Ms. Derrig,

I am pleased to submit the following annual report of accomplishments of 1999, for the Providence Park Rangers.

We are now located at our new location, in the Carousel Village. The new location gives us much better access, to all patrons of the park. Patrons of the park now have the opportunity to contact us, if they need of assistance or information. The new location provides a better working environment, in a patron friendly area.

During the year 1999 we have divided the Park Rangers into four units. Park Rangers cover duties throughout the park, Park Police cover the park and select parks in the area of Roger Williams Park. Which, also includes Waterplace Park and the Fleet Skating Center, with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the Superintendent of the Providence Parks Department. The Zoo unit handles all matters within the Zoo, and the bike unit patrols all areas of the Zoo and park.

We have gone through extensive training during 1999. All Rangers are CPR certified, and been through Alcohol Awareness Training. All Rangers (except two) have been through an extensive bike training course, with the Providence Police Department providing the training. All additional training we received this year was at no cost to the city. The only cost incurred was Alcohol Awareness, which was a minimal cost.

New Equipment:

New portable radios, for each Ranger equipped with emergency buttons. Provided by PPD at no cost to the Parks Dept.

New uniforms, provided by the RI Zoological Society, at no cost to Parks Dept. Consisting of green pants, gray shirts, green jackets, black raincoats black boots, and black turtlenecks/black tie. All uniforms are of a better quality, and a longer lasting material.

Newly designed arm patches, and badges, provided by RI Zoological.

New FID numbers, for each Ranger, registered with the PPD. Where previously only one number was used by all the Rangers. If, a problem arose it was difficult to ID the Ranger who handled it.

Bullet-proof vests for all Rangers, provided by RI Zoological.

New photo ID's for all Rangers, provided by PPD, at no cost to Parks Dept.

Vehicles:

The fleet of vehicles have been increased from two broken down vehicles, to a fleet of seven vehicles. Three of the vehicles we now have on the road where slated to be scrapped by the PPD. We received a total of six vehicles from the PPD, of which by switching some parts we were able to make three that run well. All six of the vehicles were graciously donated to use by the Commissioner of Public Safety, through the Dept. of Public Property. The Jeep and GMC that we had were repaired and are in good working condition. We also have two Chevy Lumina's, which were purchased for us by the Parks Dept. All our vehicles have all new graphics and colors, which were done by the PPD, at no cost to the Parks Dept. All vehicles are equipped with police radios, light bars, and PA systems, provided by the PPD, at no cost to the Parks Dept.

Our newly re-furbished fleet of vehicles has restored confidence, morale, and professionalism among the Park Rangers. The new (used) fleet of vehicles has brought an increased respect from patrons of the park. The vehicles have given us easier access to the public, because we are easily identified as Rangers and not PPD.

We have also added four police mountain bikes to our fleet. We have eleven Rangers fully trained by the PPD, for police work using bikes for patrol. The bikes give us access, to areas where a car would not be able to patrol. The bike unit patrols between March and November, weather permitting. We have better access to the interior of the Zoo, all parking lots, and all walking trails throughout the park. By having Rangers patrolling on bikes we have decreased larcenies from autos, indecent exposures on the trails in the park. By our presence on bikes we have nearly eliminated car theft. The bikes give the Rangers a quicker response time during the busy season, when traffic is heavy throughout the park.

Zoo Security:

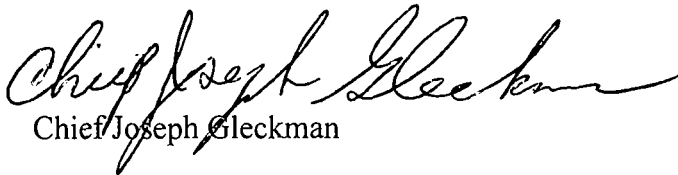
As Chief of the Rangers, I feel that security in the Zoo is a high priority to my department, as well as the Parks Department. I have tightened security in the Zoo and the surrounding areas, during 1999. We cover the Zoo 24hrs a day 7 days a week. We have at least one Ranger on site at all times. During operating hours we have the areas covered by our vehicles, our bike unit (seasonal), and on Rangers foot. The Rangers on duty answer alarms both security and fire. Secure unlocked buildings, and alarm buildings not coded. Secure open or unlocked gates. Provide security in all five parking lots, which serves as a deterrent for break-ins, stolen vehicles, and malicious mischief by juveniles. Provide security to employees arriving and departing, before or after hours. Provide 24hr. security for all buildings, grounds, and animals. Provide a quicker response time for problems or assistance, both by on site presence and cellular phone access (provided by Zoo). We assist security with problems concerning police matters, and cover when they are short of help. We assist in finding lost children, and any problems that arise with groups visiting. We are able to notify and assist keepers of possible problems with the animals. We also have the ability to catch trespassers after hours, with our 24hr. patrols. Because we are equipped with police radios we have the ability to call other Rangers, PPD, or PFD for assistance if needed.

Event Participation:

We participated in three major events in the park, during 1999. We had the Gravity Games, Dominican Festival, and the Emergency Management Exercise. The Park Rangers handled all security, crowd control, and traffic control for these events. PPD had three man details for the Gravity Games, and the Dominican Festival. In previous years, the PPD details were at least twenty men or more. By having the Rangers handle the events, the City of Providence saved a considerable amount of money.

During 1999, criminal activity in the park has diminished dramatically over previous years. Graffiti at the Temple has decreased, larcenies have decreased, and thefts have decreased. Crime in Roger Williams Park was down for 1999. I believe this is due to a more visible presence throughout the park. It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for all park employees, volunteers, animals and patrons. I believe that we have made the park a family safe environment. Parents and children can come here and run, play, and enjoy our wonderful attractions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chief Joseph Gleckman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chief Joseph Gleckman

Museum of Natural History and Planetarium Annual Report 1999

For over a century, the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium has been dedicated to educating and inspiring students and families through our collections. The Museum is the State's premier informal science education center, serving over 50,000 children and adults in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. We maintain a deep and active commitment to our mission to promote understanding of and appreciation for the beauty and diversity of our world and its people. It is through interpreting the experience of our convergent pasts that we will help build a bright, expansive future.

The Museum staff continues to: develop interactive programs that enhance science learning for students and the general public; present professional development opportunities for the education community and museum professionals in the United States and abroad; create innovative exhibitions and planetarium programs; maintain the most current curatorial standards and practices; and engineer creative partnerships at the local and national levels.

In 1999 classroom teachers had an expanded menu of workshops and planetarium shows to enhance the learning of science for their students. These included two new programs that highlighted our partnership with NASA and the International Space Station. Over 19,000 school children participated in our interactive programs last year. After school science/art programs continued to be successful and a new adult education program was implemented. All of these 6-week programs were filled to capacity. Over 150 people participated (adults and children).

Over 800 classroom teachers were involved in workshops to learn more about the teaching and learning of science, culture, technology and archaeology. Graduate level courses in science education were offered at the Museum through Providence College and URI. Undergraduate science education students from Brown University, URI, PC and RIC were introduced to the principles of informal education through classes taught at the museum. Over 140 students participated in these programs.

Our collaborative partners for 1999 grant projects included Providence Public Library and Providence School Department, Girl Scouts, Providence Community Youth Centers, RI State Library Services, NASA, National Science Foundation, Milken Family Foundation. These grant projects focus on family involvement in science learning (especially for girls), National Science and Technology Week training, and using children's literature to teach inquiry-based science.

The first comprehensive conservation and cataloguing of the 50,000 images in the Museum's photoarchives collection was sponsored by a grant from the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities. The images were systematically arranged and archivally packaged, a database was created and a collections guide and procedures manual for archives management were published by our curatorial department. The cleaning, conservation and assessment of the Oceania collection, including our collection of very rare Polynesian barkcloth, was completed in 1999 in preparation for the opening (Spring 2000) of the exhibition "Circle of the Sea." This marks the first time this collection has received concentrated, professional conservation. In addition, the collection has been fully researched, catalogued and appraised and a data management system has been developed. The curatorial staff continues to update data and process all requests related to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act as required by federal law.

Our Three Favorite Projects for 1999

Archaeology Week 1999

For the second year The Museum and Planetarium sponsored RI's celebration of its archaeological heritage with a week of events designed to highlight local and national preservation efforts. *Archaeology Week 1999* was funded in part by a grant from the RI Committee for the Humanities. This celebration featured public events(object identifications, vault tours, hands-on activities for families), public lectures, exhibits, professional development workshops, student workshops and a special Archaeo-Astronomy planetarium program. Over 700 people participated in these programs. The poster produced for Archaeology Week 1998 received a Publications Design Competition award from the New England Museum Association and we have submitted the 1999 poster for both the regional and the national museum design competitions.

Planets in the Park

In September the museum received a grant from the Milken Family Foundation's Festival for Youth Program for our *Planets in the Park* project. This was the first Festival for Youth grant awarded to Rhode Island. *Planets in the Park* is a collaborative community service project to research, design, construct and interpret an outdoor community solar system in Roger Williams Park. Students from Central High School will have the opportunity to directly apply their knowledge of technology, science, mathematics, design and industrial arts as they work with members of the Providence Parks Department to construct a scale model of the solar system along the walking paths in Roger Williams Park.

Star Station One

The Museum was chosen as the RI site for the National Science Foundation grant that supports the education branch of NASA's International Space Station endeavors. Museums and science centers comprise the "informal education system" and are the primary mechanism for implementing *Star Station One*, the public education component for the International Space Station. As the RI representative for this project, the museum has received International Space Station models, mockups and exhibits that are used to enhance our astronomy workshops and Planetarium programs. The education department has created workshops and training for teachers and students, as well as for the general public to update and inform them about the construction of the International Space Station. The museum staff has also developed interpretive and demonstration materials distribution and use in the museum and in the classroom.

**Providence Parks Department
Office of Cultural Affairs**

1999 Season Highlights

Unless otherwise noted all events below were free and open to the public.

- May 14 **Convergence International Arts Festival** was named one of seven worldwide festivals worth a visit by the *Wall Street Journal*. The festival was placed in the company of the **Spoletto Festival, The Lincoln Center Festival, Three Rivers Arts Festival** in Pittsburgh, **The International Arts Fair** in Basel, Switzerland, **The American Theater Festival**, and the **Grosnevor House Art and Antique Fair** in London.
- June 11 - 20 **Convergence International Arts Festival** drew 100,000 people into downtown Providence Parks for ten (10) days of arts and cultural events. Programmed activities and events were free and open to the public allowing access to a wide variety of arts experiences, including a public iron pour, dance performance, numerous music presentations, and a large scale puppet spectacle in downtown Providence. The festival commissioned the work of over fifty (50) local, national, and international artists.
- June 18 -
August 20 **LIFEBEAT'S PICNICS IN THE PARK Concerts** began on June 18 and continued on Friday nights through August 20. This year's concerts were the most successful to date. Drawing between 2,500 - 5,000 people to Waterplace Park each week. The concerts offered the general public a wide variety of high quality musical programming at no cost. The series corporate sponsors were Open Door Music, Target Stores, Citizen's Bank, and Daewoo of West Warwick. A small grant from the RI State Council on the Arts was also awarded for the series. The Providence Journal was the media sponsor. Please see attached comments and statistics.
- July 5 &
July 15 **LIBERTY CONCERTS** celebrated our country's military musical might. On July 5th - one of the hottest days of the year - over 2,000 people came to Waterplace Park to listen to a spectacular performance by the US Air Force Band of Liberty. This concert also kicked off NBC 10 WJAR's 50th Anniversary Week celebration. On July 15th the 94th Army Reserve Band thrilled a crowd of 2,000 in Waterplace Park.
- WJAR
WEEK The Office of Cultural Affairs and CapitolArts Providence teamed up with **NBC 10 WJAR** to produce the station's **50th Anniversary Celebration**. The week long extravaganza included the above Liberty Concert, an oldies show in Fleet Skating Center with an antique car show in Biltmore Park, a blues show in Waterplace, and culminated in a huge Swing night celebration at the Fleet Skating Center with a live broadcast and Waterfire. Saturday evening's spectacular drew over 100,000 people into the City of Providence.
- June 16 -
Aug 18 **Arcade Antics** brought added excitement into the financial district of Providence during the summer months. The Office of Cultural Affairs worked with The Arcade and B101 on this street performer series. The weekly event drew crowds of up to 300.
- June 22 -
Aug 24 **Providence Washington Plaza Lunchtime Concerts along the Riverwalk** were, for the fourth year, sponsored by Providence Washington Insurance Companies. These free lunchtime concerts attracted audience members from community centers, senior centers, daycare centers, and downtown businesses to the Riverwalk. Our audience for these shows was approximately 300 per week.

- June 4 - **Trinity Summer Shakespeare Project** brought the Bard to Waterplace Park.
 July 31 On Saturday nights during June and July students from the Trinity Conservatory performed either Romeo & Juliet or Twelfth Night to crowds ranging from 600 - 1000 people. The Office of Cultural Affairs presented Trinity Summer Shakespeare as part of the 1999 season. Contrary to press reports, the office partially supported the project with funding, public relations, and waived park fees.
- August 6 The **Providence Waterfront Jazz Festival** was presented in Waterplace Park by the Office of Cultural Affairs, CapitolArts Providence and the Providence Black Repertory Company. After a few brief downpours the festival thrilled a crowd of 2,000 die hard fans. This was the first year the Jazz Festival is a stand alone event. Previously the festival was incorporated into the Providence Waterfront Festival. The festival presented prominent national jazz artists, including Dominique Eade, award winning bassist Ben Allison, Miles Davis' protegee - Wallace Roney, and the romantic vocals of Jon Lucien. The festival was sponsored by Foxwoods Casino, Bailey's, and the City of Providence. Media sponsorship was provided by WGBH radio in Boston, The Providence Phoenix and NBC 10 WJAR TV. Admission was \$7.00.
- June - Sept. The **WBRU Concerts in India Point Park** drew 5,000 people per show for ten weeks into the park. The Office of Cultural Affairs worked directly with WBRU, State Representatives, City Councilmen, and the community to assure a positive experience for attendees and residents. A staff member from the Office of Cultural Affairs monitored each concert for audio levels, crowd control and safety issues. It is the judgement of staff members that these concerts were an asset Providence Parks Department summer line up, providing programming for teens and young adults.
- Aug. 25 - **Sandra-Feinstein Gamm Theatre's - Henry V** took over Waterplace Park from Aug.
 Sept 5. 25 - September 5. Once again Shakespeare filled the park. The play was presented by SFGT with funding raised by the theatre. The Office of Cultural Affairs supported this endeavor with reduced permit fees, promotion of the event, and technical assistance.
- September The Office of Cultural Affairs forged a partnership with the **RI Division of Tourism** to create a statewide Convergence International Arts Festival in September 2000. Tourism bureaus throughout the state have agreed to participate by encouraging arts organizations in their regions to become part of the festival.
- November "The Memory of Green" a **sculpture** by Convergence artist, Masaru Bando, is sold to Virginia developer, Rob Freeman for \$50,000. This is the first internet sculpture sale via the Convergence web site. Bob Rizzo worked with the artist and developer in securing the sale of this work.

Park Permits

In addition to producing and presenting the above events the Office of Cultural Affairs also issued park permits, gave technical assistance, and oversaw maintenance of Waterplace and the Riverwalk for the following events:

Providence Intown Churches Association
 Steve Shaw Memorial Road Race
 Christmas in April
 Brown University Alumni Weekend

RI Senior Olympics

Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau - Business After Hours Event

Splendor of Florence

Lite Lunch Concerts in Memorial Park

Waterfire Providence

Northern Entertainment - Filming of *NBC's Providence*

Open Door Records Concerts in Waterplace Park

Gravity Games

Numerous wedding ceremonies

Staff

During 1999 the Office of Cultural Affairs had two full time permanent employees, Bob Rizzo, Director and Lynne McCormack, Program Administrator. Tina Juul, Production Coordinator, is a full time temporary employee who began work in January 1999. At this time she is still a temporary staff person. Alfred Butler, Production Specialist, was temporarily employed for the 1999 season, May - August. All of the above events were coordinated and produced by this staff.

As of January 1, 2000 an additional staff member was added to the Office of Cultural Affairs. Melissa Forrest is now the Special Events Coordinator.

CapitolArts Providence

Formerly the Providence Waterfront Festival Organization, CapitolArts Providence is a 501 (c) 3 organization working directly in conjunction with the Providence Parks Dept., Office of Cultural Affairs in the production of events which bring high quality arts programming to the residents of Providence, Rhode Island, and beyond. Currently the organization has no paid staff. Office of Cultural Affairs staff members volunteer their time on behalf of the organization. During the summer months the time spent volunteering is considerable.

In order to produce the above events, the staff of the Office of Cultural Affairs - working through CapitolArts Providence - raised \$84,500. in corporate sponsorships and government grants. Over \$100,000. of in-kind media sponsorship was also secured from the Providence Journal, NBC10WJAR TV, and the Providence Phoenix.

FORESTRY DIVISION

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

Personnel

The Forestry Division has made great strides increasing its workforce. The following is the current list of Forestry employees:

Urban Forestry Supervisor—1

General Foreman—1

Tree Trimmers—7

Heavy Equipment operator--1

Equipment Operators—3

Laborers—1

*One Tree Trimmer is currently being utilized as a forestry inspector.

**One laborer and an equipment operator are used exclusively on the tree farm. They are not involved in the day to day forestry operations.

Removals

There were 622 trees removed from public property under the direction of the Forestry Staff during 1999. This is a slight decline from 1998. This decline is a direct result of broken equipment and other tasks performed by the division. Most of the work was done in response to citizens' requests for public assistance.

Pruning

Forestry personnel performed maintenance pruning on 712 street trees during 1999. This number is approximately the same as 1998. Most of the work was done in response to citizens' requests for public assistance.

Miscellaneous

Forestry personnel responded to approximately 1180 requests by City residents for public assistance. This is a very high number of requests. A majority of these were of an emergency nature, and consisted of picking up fallen limbs, restaking trees, and pruning broken branches from trees.

Other Duties of the Forestry Division

The Forestry Division spent approximately 35 days putting up and taking down banners throughout the entire City of Providence. We also spent one week putting up and taking down Christmas lights downtown. This is the most time ever spent putting up banners. We were called almost weekly to put up or remove a banner somewhere throughout the city.

This resulted in a decline of 70 removals and 50 trees, which would have been pruned.

Request Received from Council Members

The Forestry Division receives requests from Council Members in the following manner. They are called in directly by Council Members to the Forestry office or the Forestry Division receives the requests from the City Council Office. When the request is completed, the Council Office is always notified that these requests have been completed.

In 1999 all Council request's were completed.

Forestry Request from Mayors Office of Citizens Assistance

The Forestry Division receives requests from this office by either a phone call or a letter from a staff member. When the request is completed, the office receives a copy of the request that was sent in. All requests from this office were completed in 1999.

Summary

The Forestry Division had a very good year during 1999. However, we could have accomplished more if not for the shortage of equipment, and the extraordinary time spent on hanging banners. Hopefully, we can alleviate these problems in the year 2000 and continue to move in a positive direction.