

WENDY NILSSON
Superintendent of Parks



BRETT P. SMILEY
Mayor of Providence

To: Tina Mastroianni, City Clerk

Date: April 24, 2023

Re: 2022Parks Department Annual Report

Please find enclosed the 2022 Annual Report from the Department of Parks

Best,

Christyl Melendez
Fiscal Advisor

Cc: Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent of Parks
Brian Byrnes, Deputy Superintendent of Parks

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 04 2023

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Tina Mastroianni CLERK



WE ARE PARKS
2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

YEAR IN REVIEW

In the Parks Department, this was a year of successful collaboration and innovation. Enhanced by partnerships, we managed numerous small and large-scale projects to completion. Highlights include the addition of the Roger Williams Park Gateway Center, RWP Bear Ground, Bailey Baxter Green Schoolyard, the revitalization of Dexter Park, Ascham Street Park playground, Mary Sharpe Park, and four playful art installations. Many more projects are under construction and will be completed in early 2023. Our Neighborhood Parks and Maintenance teams worked together to restore lighting, historic structures, and landscaping and improve curb appeal at many of our parks.

One of the great joys of 2022 was seeing productive relationships develop within and across our teams. These collaborations had a significant positive impact on our operations. We added a systems specialist position and adjusted other positions to enable managers and crews to utilize Asset Essentials for work orders and asset management fully. Our City Center Team provided resources, technical assistance, and support to our managers and crews. Therefore, it yielded some fantastic results. For the first time, we can track and schedule preventive maintenance and recurring work orders to ensure that recent investments in parks are reliably maintained for years to come. Asset Essentials also provides us with the data needed to optimize our daily operations and, when required, provide appropriate training and staff support. We created further efficiencies by fully implementing Gigatrak for inventory control and centralized purchasing. Significant improvements were also made in onboarding new employees.

Each of our venues benefitted from innovative, collaborative, and resourceful managers and teams in the past year. Each saw enhanced programming and attendance, including over 400 visitors to North Burial Ground for programs and events, the return of Fairy Garden Days, and record attendance at the Museum of Natural History and the Providence Rink. The Natural History Museum and the North Burial Ground co-hosted the popular Moonlit Walks. We reinstated the after-school meals program and expanded our Urban Wildlife Partnership, Playcorps, and Fitness-in-the-Parks to meet increased demand. One of the most successful events of the year was the Michael Van Leeuwen Bridge Wicked Walk, which included many fabulous partner organizations and was attended by over 3,000 people. The RI Philharmonic Pops saw similarly elevated attendance numbers. A key component of their success was a multi-department and multi-partner collaboration to organize and host these events that gets better every year.

In closing out 2022, we would like to thank the Board of Park Commissioners, Mayor Jorge O. Elorza, the Providence City Council, our colleagues in City Hall, and our community partners for the support, collaboration, and resources that helped us realize our mission. As Mayor Jorge O. Elorza's tenure ends, we want to express our gratitude for the support our Department has received this year and over the past eight years that has allowed us to improve our operations and create spaces that positively impact the quality of life in every Providence neighborhood. We look forward to working under the leadership of Mayor Brett Smiley and his new administration to complete some fundamental projects that will continue to build a sustainable future for our city that includes the best parks and open spaces for years to come.

We are proud. We are Parks!

Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent



The Parks' Superintendent, Wendy Nilsson, at the Grand Opening of the Roger Williams Park Gateway Center.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Roger Williams Park Bear Ground.

Mission

Providence Parks are a vital component of our healthy, inclusive and thriving community. Through our Parks Department we aim to provide city residents with inspiring outdoor spaces that dramatically impact the quality of life within each neighborhood. It is our belief that all residents should have access to a public park that is safe, brings community together and encourages our youth to play, learn and explore. By working in collaboration with local friends-groups, we will work to support the needs of each neighborhood and provide programming that is reflective of the children, adults and staff who use these spaces daily.

Goals

- Develop parks, public spaces, and programs that engage and inspire
- Develop brand-recognition for quality services
- Continue to build the city's tree canopy
- Establish a national reputation for best practices and the creative use of resources
- Be renowned for our responsiveness to community needs and interests
- Continue building a team of dedicated, talented, and committed employees who are proud to make Providence parks exceptional
- Increase biodiversity and ecological habitat as an integral part of parks design

Priorities

- Create safe, healthy, welcoming spaces that meet the needs of Providence's distinct and diverse neighborhoods
- Provide enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities by developing innovative, sustainable, and responsive parks, facilities, amenities and programs
- Develop facilities and programs appropriate for multiple generations of residents including those interested in traditional sports and those interested in alternative forms of recreation
- Connect children and families to nature and strengthen communities through our shared spaces that inspire
- Ensure safety and sustainability of all park features through preventive and planned maintenance as well as asset and inventory tracking systems

OPERATIONS

The Parks Department currently maintains 120 outdoor spaces. These include traditional parks, athletic fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, conservation areas, walking/running tracks and trails, non-traditional recreation areas (skateboard features, bike tracks, parkour), dog parks, cemeteries, an ice rink, and the flagship Roger Williams Park.

We continued with the 7th year of our "Parks Academy" training initiative. Courses included Certified Playground Safety Inspections for 11 managers and supervisors. 10 crewmembers attended Workforce Safety Training, and our Roger Williams Park and Botanical Center crews received additional training in stormwater feature maintenance. All managers and crews participated in a variety of trainings to optimize the tools for managing and monitoring work, assets, and inventory.

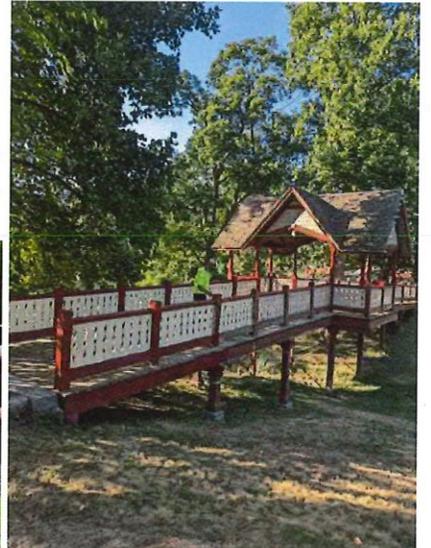


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Maintenance

The Maintenance division is responsible for the care of all the department's assets, which includes buildings, playgrounds, irrigation systems, fountains, fencing, electrical/lighting, graffiti removal, splash pads, and much more. The Department's mechanics maintain a fleet of over 40 vehicles and keep it ready for whatever New England's weather may bring, be it hurricanes, heavy rain, or snow.

Some of the key projects completed in 2022 include: preparing RWP for its 150th Anniversary, painting of the Iron Footbridge, and showing "love" to the Lover's Retreat Bridge with a new, red cedar roof and a fresh coat of paint. Most of the railings and fences also received new coats of paint. Approximately 1600 feet of fencing along Elmwood Avenue, including the Anna Man gates, have been repaired and painted. Our heavy equipment operators prepared the "Old Bear Pen" area for the new Bear Ground Playground by demolishing the concrete foundation and "bear pens". The heavy equipment operators also assisted in the installation of new underground piping for lights at Hopkins Square. In addition to continuing the historic bench restoration project, this team also restored all benches in Garibaldi Square with sustainable lpe wood.



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Neighborhood Parks Services

Neighborhood Park Services (NPS) performs crucial daily maintenance and upkeep of all Providence Parks and public spaces, including Roger Williams Park, ensuring that all our parks look great every day.

Excluding special events, NPS crews have emptied over 118,600 trash barrels, spread 1200 yards of playground safety mulch, over 100 yards of pine bark mulch, over 25 tons of fresh infield mix on Little League and Softball fields, extended turf aeration in smaller neighborhood parks, and seeded almost 1800 pounds of grass seed throughout the parks.

By mulching leaves across our City Parks, (instead of bagging and hauling them away), NPS significantly reduced Parks' carbon footprint and helped save \$25,000 in hauling and dumping fees.

In a continuing effort to improve efficacy and efficiency, NPS provided training to its employees on Asset Essentials software, which enables NPS to prioritize, assign, track and manage the broad range of maintenance services that we provide.

Snow Operations cleared snow in streets of Wards 8 and 9, Roger Williams Park, North Burial Ground, and sidewalks and walkways in downtown and neighborhood parks.



Mulch-In-Place of leaves in practice



Forestry

The Forestry division maintained more than 27,400 street trees, every City park tree, and other public trees for safety and health in 2022. These trees greatly benefit the city, its residents, and the environment. The street trees alone sequestered 3,543,378 lbs. of CO₂, the equivalent of 313 homes' energy use for one year¹. These trees also collected more than 28,184,979 gallons of stormwater, helping to reduce flooding. The shade from street trees in Providence saved residents 1,642,577 kWh for a value of \$1,085,324, a direct reduction in costs for cooling and heating their homes. The trees also kept pollutants from the environment, reduced the city's heat, provided habitat for vertebrates and invertebrates, and produced oxygen.

Continuing the partnership with Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP), Forestry trained 86 PVD Community Tree Keepers who pruned and maintained young City trees. Forestry managed over 2,000 service requests from Providence residents, including pruning, dead tree removals, and clearing Providence's roads and sidewalks of debris. Forestry also transported the holiday trees displayed at City Hall and the Ice Rink.



815 total trees planted by Forestry:
555 trees planted by PVD Neighborhood Planting Program
260 additional trees planted by other means (City Council, RWP, grants, volunteers)
86 PVD Community Tree Keepers trained in 2021
242 Community Tree Keepers trained since 2016
2,225 total trees pruned, including:
441 street trees pruned by City staff
1,682 street trees pruned via block pruning
102 park trees pruned

¹<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

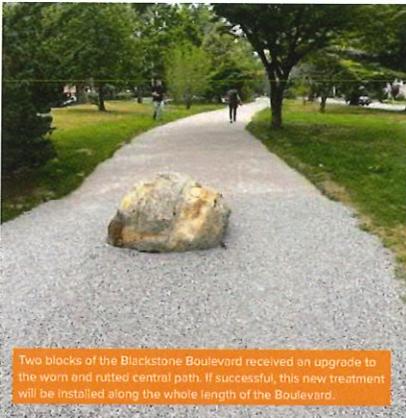


PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks' Design Team continued to perform at a high level on all phases of design including community engagement and visioning, master planning, design development, construction documents and on-site project management. Every Parks Department designed improvement included creative measures towards sustainability, innovation and ease of maintenance.

This year, all members of the design team became Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI), helping ensure that all of our playgrounds meet safety standards.

The design team has also been instrumental in developing new, or improving existing CAD standards and graphics, including park signage throughout our Parks system.



Two blocks of the Blackstone Boulevard received an upgrade to the worn and rutted central path. If successful, this new treatment will be installed along the whole length of the Boulevard.

38 major projects completed totaling \$10,050,000



Ribbon Cutting at Bailey Baxter Green Schoolyard.

Design and Project Management

Playgrounds

Major Park
Bailey Baxter Green Schoolyard
Ascham Street Park phase 3
Roger Williams Park – Bear Ground

Ballfields & Courts

Davis Park – My Home Court
Prete-Metcalf ball field drainage
Donigian futsal field major repairs
James Ahearn futsal field addition and irrigation
Mt. Pleasant Fields and concession stand
J.T. Owens new scoreboards

Sustainable Circulation and Gathering Spaces

Blackstone Boulevard
Dexter Training Ground pathways and benches
Mary E. Sharpe Park Pratt Street park expansion, amenities, and landscaping
Locust Grove Cemetery entrance, signage, lighting and fencing
Roger Williams Park Botanical Center Rose Meadow Path, Dia-Log, goat run and pergola

New Fencing, Benches and Brickwork

Richardson Park fencing
Arthur and Ruby Lawrence Park fencing
Gladys Potter Park entryway
Garibaldi Square benches

Lighting, Cameras and Electrical

New security lights at Roger Williams Park Casino, Floral Ave, Botanical Center, and Todd Morsilli Courts
Decorative lighting at Hopkins Square, Scalabrini Piazza and Memorial Park
New security cameras at Roger Williams Park Gateway, RWP Casino, RWP Botanical Center, and North Burial Ground

New Signage

Cranston Street Park Gateway
Mary E. Sharpe Park Gateway
Michael S. Van Leesten Pedestrian Bridge
Roger Williams Park Broad Street Gateway
Waterparks Safety Guidelines
Botanical Center Parking

Stormwater Innovations

Roger Williams Park tree trenches
Roger Williams Park plantings at Cunliff Lake

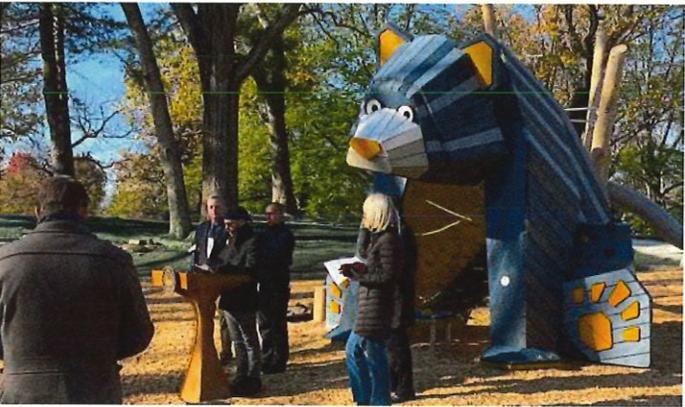
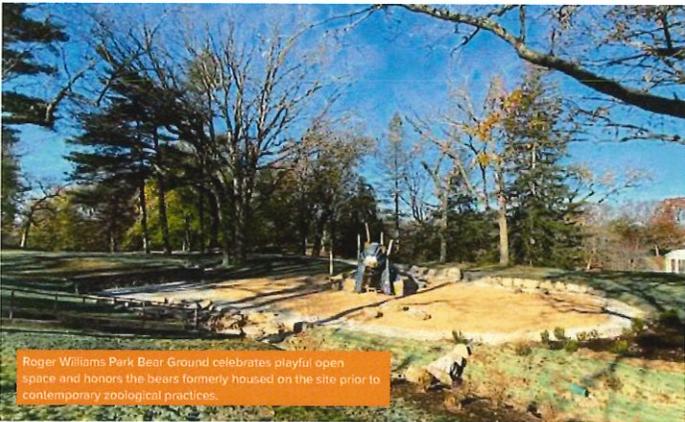
Building Upgrades

Roger Williams Park Botanical Center
Sound system upgrades
Epoxy flooring upgrade
Boiler replacement
Vesda Box replacements
Roger Williams Park Boathouse boiler replacement
BankNewport City Center Rink HVAC upgrades
North Burial Ground HVAC upgrades
Roger Williams Park Mounted Command HVAC

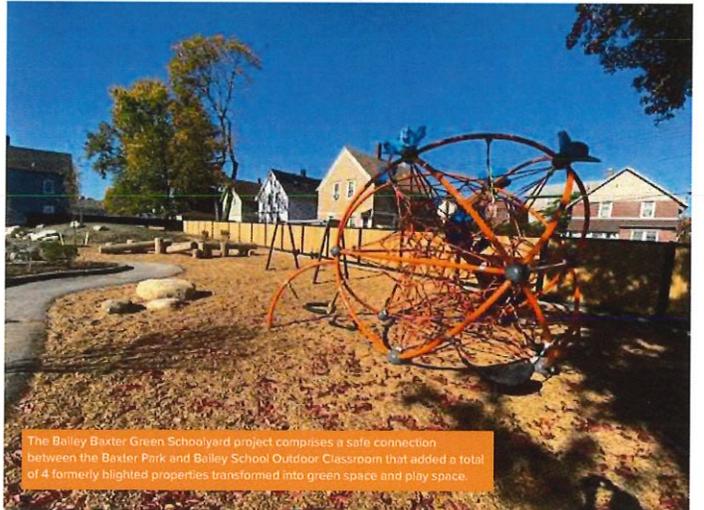


The Design Team Trio utilizing a drone to capture aerial imagery of the Japanese Garden at Roger Williams Park.

Roger Williams Park – Bear Ground



Bailey Baxter Green Schoolyard

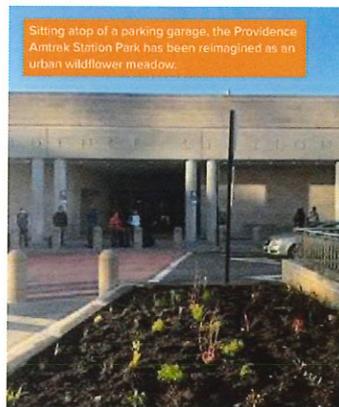


Roger Williams Park – Broad Street Gateway Center

The Roger Williams Park Gateway Center transformed vacant, blighted land on Broad Street into a gateway for the Park and event space for the community and surrounding neighborhoods. Led by the Providence Redevelopment Agency (PRA) and the Providence Parks Department in close partnership with the City of Providence's Department of Planning and Development and Rhode Island Housing, the Gateway Center has made Roger Williams Park's Broad Street entrance into a tourism and community destination. The Gateway Center is home to a welcoming visitor's center, restrooms, picnic tables, and play areas. The exterior features colorful fins that represent colors found within the neighborhood.



Providence Amtrak Station Park



Sitting atop a parking garage, the Providence Amtrak Station Park has been reimagined as an urban wildflower meadow.



In collaboration with USF&WF, we planted 7,000 ecotypic native plants, 11,500 bulbs and dozens of species of wildflower and grass seed.



Holiday Cheer

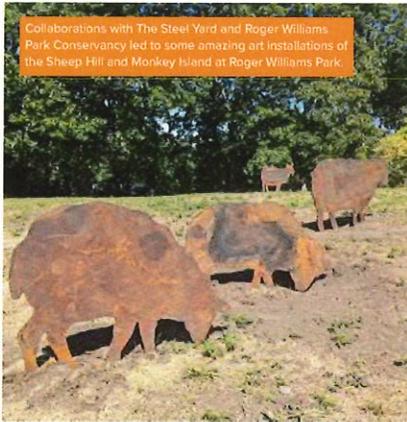
Thank you to all our community partners who contributed to this year's magnificent displays.

In addition to the 15 Parks teams, we had great displays by Mounted Command, the Boating Concession, Roger Williams Park Conservancy, and the Rhode Island Zoological Society.

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK



Collaborations with The Steel Yard and Roger Williams Park Conservancy led to some amazing art installations of the Sheep Hill and Monkey Island at Roger Williams Park.



We completed several major capital improvement projects in Roger Williams Park, as noted in the Design section. Many of these projects were in partnership and with matching funding provided by the Roger Williams Park Conservancy. These projects included the Bear Ground, Monkey Island, Sheep Hill and the Botanical Center Rose Meadow Path.

We were thrilled to work with community partners to host the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra's "Pops in the Park" for the fifth year, as well as the Annual Rain Harvest Festival. Additionally, we added Walk with a Doc and Adopt-a-pup trots to the line-up of great Fitness in the Parks events that also included Zumba and Tai Chi. The Roger Williams Park Conservancy partnered with us on a number of these events and continued with their Firstwork Series as well as a number of other family-friendly events.

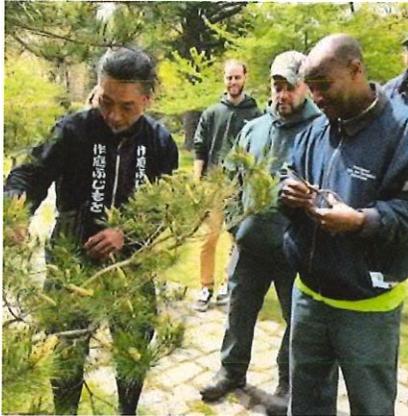
A master gardener from Japan, Karatsu Fujimoto, helped develop and install support braces to the Betsy Williams Sycamore and provided pruning lessons in the Japanese Garden.



Roger Williams Park – Botanical Center

This year, the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center hosted 42,312 visitors. The Center also increased membership by 52%, and conducted numerous shops, tours and field trips, all with the mission of connecting people to nature.

The Center focused to include more art and offered interactive art exhibits from both local and national artists as well as performances by TEN31 and the Providence Ballet. The Center hosted exhibitions in partnership with the Tomaquag Museum, RISD, Providence College and Southside Cultural Arts Center. The Center was also honored to exhibit at the VIP Newport Flower Show. An educator was hired, enabling the Center to increase educational programs. Programming broadened to focus on toddlers and young adults and programming increased. The Center made investments in its employees, including professional development, employee appreciation meetings and a retreat. Overall, visitor revenue was boosted by 80%.



The Director of the Botanical Center in front of the display at the Newport Flower Show.



The Botanical Center by Numbers:

- 52% increase in memberships
- 22 nature-based workshops
- 6 art exhibitions and performances
- 1 workshop on Japanese pruning with Master Gardener, Karatsu Fujimoto, from Japan
- 1 workshop on Jumping Worms with Dr. Josef Gorres of UVM
- 9 inhouse trainings and employee appreciation meetings and events
- 1 two-acre meadow with 1000 plants
- 33% increase in volunteer participation at the Center
- 43% overall increase and corps of volunteers by 33%
- 3500 volunteer hours in programs such as the Food Donation Project, The Flavor Lab, Perennial gardens, Rose gardens, Japanese gardens, propagation, events, the Goat Ambassadors and other projects
- 1 annual Marshmallow Roast & Movie night for volunteer appreciation
- 4 new volunteer trainings and 2 education programs
- 11 trees planted with partners in the Japanese Garden

Center Investments/Achievements:

- Installed a meadow path and pergola, including a new goat enclosure, and Dia-Log exhibit with partners
- Installed a new sound system with new speakers in each greenhouse with the ability to program music via Spotify and Sonos applications
- Increased visitor revenue by 80%
- Created 4 new public programs for families and 2 new goat programs for visitors and private tours
- Established new partnership with Green Re-Entry Training
- Installed 3 self-guided tours and iPads
- Doubled social media followers to 8,000 on Facebook and 2,100 on Instagram
- Created a children's play space indoors and began installation of a children's garden outdoors

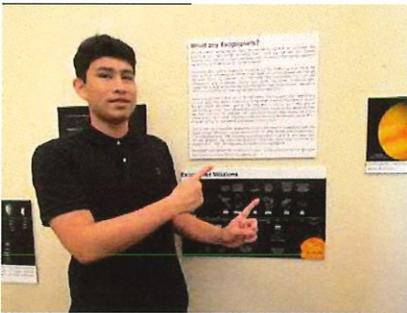
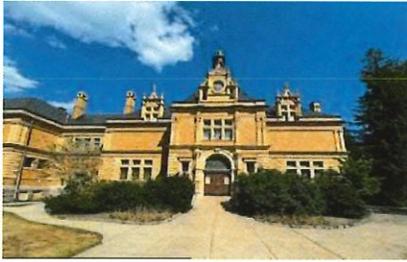


Museum of Natural History and Planetarium

The Museum of Natural History and Planetarium continues to grow as a local and regional learning and discovery destination for all. We welcomed a record 37,500 visitors to the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium including school children and special program attendees. We are especially excited about our innovative field trip programs, that include planetarium shows and hands-on workshops, for schools, homeschool families, camps, scouts, community groups, and student mentorships.

The Museum:

- Customized free programs for 1,000 Providence students and 15 teachers.
- Provided on-site Providence Recreation Center programming to 120 participants.
- Supported 100 Providence students, through a NASA grant, to participate in observing plants in space on the International Space Station, at the Museum and in their classrooms.
- Expanded walking tour offerings in Roger Williams Park and at North Burial Ground
- Welcomed back visitors to the Betsey Williams Cottage.
- Offered new family programming at the Roger Williams Park Gateway Center.
- Created Museum-on-the-Go kits for Providence Parks Summer Programming; bringing the Museum Collections to the community.
- Installed two new exhibits (one of which was funded by NASA Rhode Island Space Grant Consortium) and produced a new planetarium show.
- Offered a variety of community programming working with Tomaquag Museum, Providence Stormwater Innovation Center, local artists, colleges and Roger Williams Park Conservancy.
- Awarded a Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission grant to improve Museum accessibility.
- Expanded Museum Lifelong Learners Programming including art classes at the Museum and new lectures.



PROGRAMMING

2022 was a year of transition as we opened up the parks to programming and partnerships that foster the health and wellness of our citizens. As always, we provide safe, high-quality opportunities for engagement in nature for a variety of ages and abilities.

The downtown parks team launched "In the Parks Programming Series," which took place at some or all of the downtown parks, including the Michael S. Van Leesten Memorial Bridge, Burnside Park, and The Providence Rink at BankNewport City Center and featured Art in the Parks, Stories in the Parks, Learn in the Parks, Perform in the Parks, Movement in the Parks and Walk in the Parks.



Volunteers & Community Engagement:

Over **80** community meetings held or attended. Hosted **10+** volunteer projects with over **500** volunteers.



City Center & Downtown Parks

The Parks Programming Series, which took place at downtown parks including the Michael S. Van Leesten Memorial Bridge, Burnside Park, and The Providence Rink at BankNewport City Center (BNCC), featured:

Art in the Parks

- Adventure Arts with Beth Silvia featuring themed crafts, imaginative play and storytelling
- Printmaking Supply Swap & Art Demonstrations presented by PVD Printmakers
- Pop-up Art ITP Crafts Make-A-Monster & Upcycled Animal

Stories in the Parks

- Storytime & Book Party Giveaways in collaboration with *Books Are Wings*, created an opportunity for anyone to pick up a new book and take it home with them

Learn in the Parks

- The Mobile Museum in partnership with the Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History and Planetarium provided educational opportunities related to oceanography, paleontology, dendrology, geology and ecology
- Chess in the Park with RI4CTV at the Michael S. Van Leesten Bridge provided opportunities to play a casual game, learn to play, and tell your story to be featured on RI4CTV's YouTube channel

Perform in the Parks

- Performances at the Michael S. Van Leesten Bridge by Head Trick Theatre Company, *The Assembly Women*
- Music Club programming series with Beth Silvia featuring instrument making, song singing, and games at The Providence Rink at BNCC
- Movies at The Rink featuring Jurassic Park (May), Bones Brigade & The Devil's Toy (Aug.), In The Heights (Sept.), & Hocus Pocus (Oct.) at The Providence Rink at BNCC

Movement in the Parks at The Providence Rink at BNCC

- Roller Disco weekly
- Open Air Saturday Public Roller Skating
- Super Fun Activities Club
- Recreation Center Roller Skating
- Roller Hockey League
- Promotion of Fitness in the Parks Programming at various parks

Walk in the Parks

- Interactive Story Maps on the ArcGIS Website the for the following:
 - Downtown Monument & Memorial Walk for Memorial Day (2022)
 - Urban Nature Walk in partnership with the Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (currently in progress)
- Skate Your City Providence Skate Park Guide
- Summer Fitness in the Parks Classes Map (2022)
- Fitness & Parkour Courses of Providence Parks Map

Fitness in the Parks

The philosophy behind our Fitness in the Parks (FITP) programming is to create free, outdoor fitness opportunities for all ages and abilities, all year around. "Outside Every Day" is a mantra we strongly believe leads to a healthier self and a great way to enjoy the diversity of our greenspaces during all four seasons. In addition, we have partnered with indoor park facilities to provide continuity in fitness for those who prefer to exercise inside during the colder months. As of November 2022, we will be offering many of our spring and summer fitness classes inside the brand-new Roger Williams Park Gateway.

To date, we provide free fitness equipment in 12 of our City parks for citizens to use whenever convenient. We also offered a diverse menu of organized group classes.



Stacked Structured Programming with PlayCorps and Community Partners included:

- Books on the Square for lunchtime story hour
- Brown Women's Soccer Team for skills and drills
- Betty Boop Hula Hoop for classes and hoop making
- Roger Williams Park Zoo mobile for meeting critters large and small
- Walk with a Cop for lunchtime walks and talks with local law enforcement

PlayCorps at the Parks facilitated some creative processes:

- Arts and crafts from found and recycled materials (fairy houses were popular this year)
- Obstacle courses, musical instruments and forts
- Self-portraits made from leaves, sticks, grass and pebbles
- Story telling based on real or imaginary park adventures

Fitness in the Parks (FITP) Programming offered diverse menu of organized group classes:

- Yoga at Roger Williams and India Point Park
- Boot camp on the Michael S. Van Leesten Pedestrian Bridge
- Wildlife walks with the Urban Wildlife Education Center
- Zumba at the Temple to Music
- Tai Chi on the grounds of the Japanese Garden
- Walk with a Doc at various parks throughout the city
- Free kayak tours at the Downtown Boat Launch



Food & Play Access

PlayCorps

Our PlayCorps program employed 27 staff members working at 10 parks each day. As in past years, this staff facilitated free, unstructured play with materials available in the parks as well as those provided by the PlayCorps. In addition, this year we stacked structured programming within the hours of PlayCorps so that park visitors could partake in both.

Summer Meals

The PlayCorps staff were also trained to serve summer meals, to create a seamless connection between social and food-service interactions between our staff and the youth. This proved to be a beneficial practice as we saw an increase in the number of free meals served at parks with PlayCorps staff present.

Moving forward, we anticipate that the numbers of park engagement will reach pre-pandemic levels. We anticipate that our best practices of stacking programming with unstructured activities and partnering PlayCorps with summer meal service will continue to draw families to our City parks as a location where mind and body are nurtured safely—reducing stress and naturally boosting our immunities all while enjoying beautiful, stimulating outdoor spaces.



59,000 Summer meals served



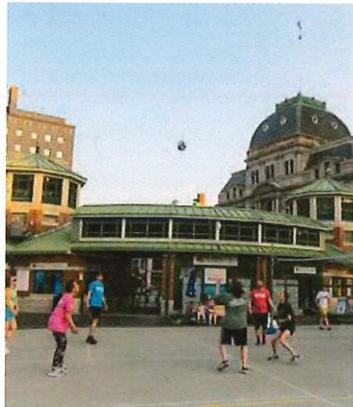
BankNewport City Center Rink



The Providence Rink at BankNewport City Center had an exceptional year and produced some of most exciting programming in downtown.

Winter season admission tickets totaled just shy of 40,000 and many more visited the park in the colder months. The Providence Rink hosted 94 birthday parties, sold 681 units of merchandise and hosted two ice skating performances by professional skaters.

During the spring, summer and fall the rink is transformed into a outdoor roller disco. Patrons skated to music by some of the best local DJs. This included 40 live performances and over 5000 skating admissions on Thursday and Friday nights. The Rink added First Saturday roller skating to the menu with a decade-themed event. We also marked our fourth year partnering with the Super Fun Activities Club to offer Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night adult sports leagues.



The Providence Rink at BankNewport City Center by the numbers:

Winter – Ice Skating

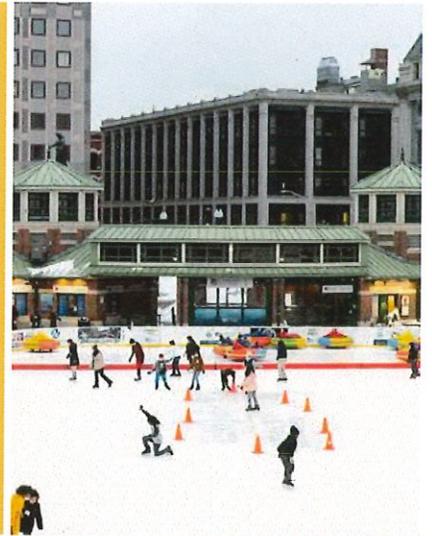
- 39,812 admissions
- 37,563 skate rentals
- 2,610 group sales
- 94 birthday parties
- 56 season passes
- 681 units of merchandise sold
- 5,541 bumper car tickets

Spring, Summer and Fall – Roller Skating

- 4,087 tickets
- 3,308 rentals
- 223 units of merchandise sold
- 57 season passes
- 10+ recreation center groups visits

Spring, Summer and Fall – Movies at the Park

- 157 paid seats (additionally provided free general admission)



Providence Urban Wildlife Partnership

In 2022, the Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership was recognized as one of the top Urban Partnerships nationwide, landing in the Tier 1 designation. Out of the 20 evaluated, the Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership was the only Tier 1 program on the East Coast. We continue to connect children and their families to nature using city parks and neighborhood walks as outdoor learning areas. These connections are made through in-school programming with Providence students throughout the year, afterschool programs at schools and recreation centers, and through public events and programs hosted in partnership with RI organizations throughout the state. We hosted multiple on-site trainings focusing on environmental education and urban ecology, particularly with teachers in Providence, as well as used Providence parks as a learning hubs and models for teachers from all over the state. Throughout the summer, we hosted a series of family-focused fishing events, introducing Providence families to the hobby of fishing through steppingstones of engagement: starting with fishing in Providence City parks and culminating with an offshore fishing trip in Narragansett. Through our partnership with the Hispanic Access Foundation, we were able to host STEAM-focused programming to youth visitors in our city parks, allowing for immersive, hands-on, exploration experiences that strengthen connections between our park visitors and the natural world.

14 schools took walking field trips to local parks, along with **12** free bird walks and **1** free bird banding program hosted in partnership with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island at **12** parks throughout the city. There were over **120** participants who spotted **60+** species of birds.



North Burial Ground

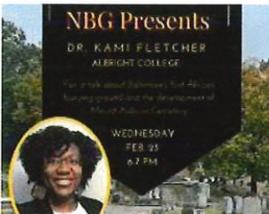
The mission of North Burial Ground (NBG) is to memorialize the deceased, comfort the living, and serve as a historical destination for the community.

NBG's burial practice continues to be robust. Though we have completed about 10 fewer interments than last year at this time, we increased our new land sold, both as-need and pre-need. To date, we have made 123 new land sales. In contrast, we sold 129 new pieces of land in total for 2021. We continue to primarily serve Providence residents (over 50% of new land sales) and residents in other towns in Providence County.

This year we started the process to purchase a cloud-based cemetery management system, which will streamline our operations, allow constituents to search for relatives without office assistance.

The following programs are a few of our best attended events. We love being able to develop community partnerships, so seeing our best programs come from some of our new partnerships is really special:

- *Moonlight Walks*
- *NBG Presents*
- *Sunday 1899*
- *Archibald & Angell Market and the Mausoleum Hill Sessions*
- *The North Burial Ground "Ghost" Tour*
- *Día de los Muertos*



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North Burial Ground by the numbers:

Cemetery Operations

- **195** interments, averaging about **15** interments per month
 - **21** cremations, **5** of which were inurnments in our new columbaria garden
- **122** lots sold overall
 - **24** lots purchased "pre-need," meaning families are choosing North Burial Ground during their end-of-life planning before a loss
 - **68** of these new land sales, were by citizens of Providence
 - **46** live in other municipalities in Providence County
 - **2** in South County
 - **8** reside in Massachusetts
- **89** headstone foundations set
- **1700** customer service interactions
 - **150** genealogy requests facilitated via email
 - **7** visitors daily average of people coming in to ask for grave locations

- **\$458,627** in gross revenue from the sale of land, burial services (opening and closing graves), and setting headstone foundations from 1 January-1 November 2022

- **56** single graves available in "South of Front" our most recently opened section

Community Engagement

- **1** NBG feature in Providence Journal Columnist Amy Russo joined NBG director Annalisa for a tour of the cemetery
- **1** wedding held at Locust Grove Cemetery
- **17** partnerships with community organizations
- **\$4,000** in gross revenue from ticketed programs and merchandise sales
- **25** unique programs focusing on North Burial Ground as a cultural and historical space, including:
 - **450** participants in all October programming
 - **162** viewers of the NBG Presents Virtual Lecture Series
 - **130** attendees of the Dia de los Muertos celebration



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FUND DEVELOPMENT & REVENUE

Fiscal Management

AWARDS

- \$400,000** RIDEM Outdoor Recreation Grant – RWP Boardwalk & Fishing Boating Pier
- \$500,000** Congressman Langevin's Community Directed Spending – Neutaconkanut Park Playground Improvements
- \$470,000** Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank – Mashapaug Watershed Stormwater Controls
- NASA Rhode Island Space Grant** – Museum Space Exhibits & Planetarium Show
- \$88,500** Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission – Natural History Museum Building Restoration
- \$6,000** Brown University Turf management equipment grant
- \$130,000** Partners on Providence Foundation from Rhode Island Commerce Association for WaterPlace decorative lighting project
- \$50,000** My Home Court match for Davis Park
- \$50,000** Helen Walker Raleigh Trust grant for Block Pruning Program match
- \$55,000** USFWS Grant for Urban Wildlife Partnership through P3

EVENTS & PERMITS

- 78** total events at Roger Williams Park Casino **\$73,600.49** net revenue
- 245** fees waived for Small Park Permits **\$73,600.49** net revenue
- 84** Special Events Permits **\$46,700** net revenue
- 98** events at the RWP Botanical Center **\$214,022** net revenue

The Fiscal Office develops, maintains and tracks the Parks Department Budget, which totals \$15,533,859 in Operating Expenses. The office also manages payroll and Parks hiring with the assistance of the Payroll Personnel Assistant and Clerk.

This year we focused on revamping our requisition, purchase order and payment processes. These processes were restructured so that the fiscal office handles the requesting, tracking and payment of all Parks Department money, while working closely with Neighborhood Parks Services to manage their particularly large budget.

We also streamlined our hiring process by posting and tracking all vacancies and new work opportunities. These updated systems allow division directors to focus on their functions, and create a stronger relationship between the Fiscal Advisor's office and our divisions.

In the coming year, we're looking forward to further improving the efficacy and efficiency of our functions, including the parks event planning processes, as well as expanding our blanket contracts to make it easier for division to obtain the parts, services and materials they need to keep our parks looking and performing great!

Fiscal Management by the numbers:

14 Parks/Zoo positions posted resulting in 18 vacancies filled

485 requisitions processed over 4 general fund divisions out of 13 revolving fund divisions

\$1,193,323 procured for the General Fund

LOOKING AHEAD

The Parks Department enters 2023 with a dedicated, energized, talented and innovative team. We are stalwart in our commitment to provide excellent service and outstanding public spaces. We look forward to completing some projects that will forever change how our parks are used and loved. The second Green Schoolyard at Mary Fogarty School and Harriet and Sayles Park will be the largest investment in a Providence play space, ever. Along with the completion of Jacqueline Clements Park, Jennifer Rivera Park, JT Owens playground, and Richardson Street Park, all of the parks in the South End will be ready for some serious play! The new Neutaconkanut ADA Accessible playground, completion of Donigian playground, and Viscoloso playground will mean the same for the West End. Similarly, the completion of General Street playground and waterpark and a re-imagined Corliss Park will impact the North End's playful offerings. The East Side will benefit from some projects that have been long in the works, including major improvements at Brassil Park, Lippitt Park, Prospect Terrace, Billy Taylor Park, and India Point Park. We are also very excited about the new shade sail for The Providence Rink at BankNewport City Center, and big changes to Waterplace Park that include fun lighting and a permanent stage. The Roger Williams Park renaissance will continue with the revitalization of the Mounted Command facility, decorative lighting and new event space for the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium, repairs to the Casino's back porch, and phase two of the restoration of the Bandstand. The new Botanical Center event tent will allow for expanded programs and events. We are also looking forward to expanding programs and welcoming visitors from near and far at the new Gateway Center.

We are confident that all the new training, technical assistance, data collection, systems, partnerships, and innovations that we have invested in, will ensure that 2023 is a great year for all who work in, relax in, play in, or explore our parks! We are excited to work with Mayor Brett Smiley and his administrative team, as well as some new Park Commissioners and City Councilors. The new year will surely bring opportunities and challenges and we will make the best of these to create and maintain spectacular parks, venues, and programs.



The Roger Williams Park Mounted Command.



**PROVIDENCE
PARKS**
play · relax · explore



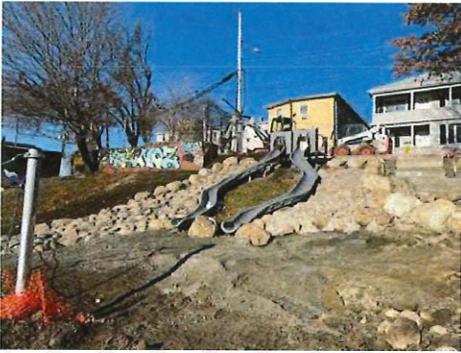
2022



2022



ABELARDO "ABE" HERNANDEZ
PLAQUE AND MONUMENT



ASCHAM STREET PARK

2022



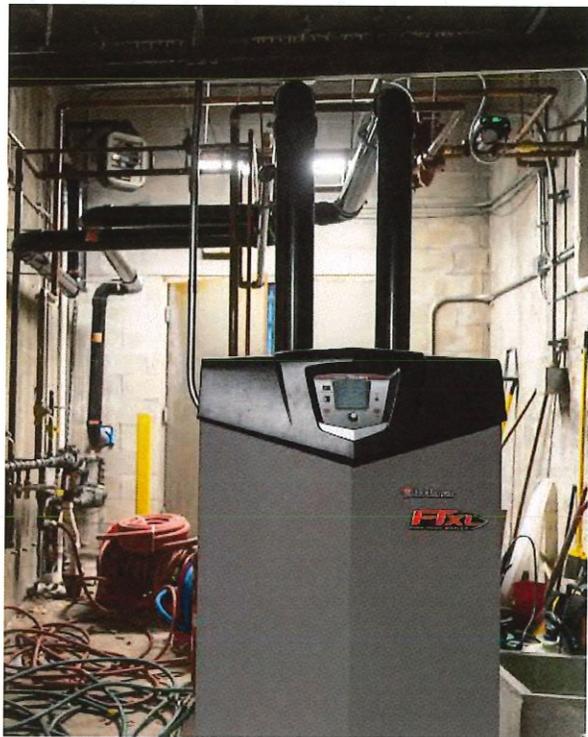
**BAILEY BAXTER GREEN
SCHOOLYARD**

2022



BLACKSTONE PHASE 2

2022



CITY CENTER

2022



CITY CENTER

2022



MY HOMECOURT 2022



PUBLIC LAUNCH: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH!

My HomeCourt, Providence College Galleries, Providence Parks, and Mayor Jorge Elorza invite you to join us for the ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of the newly renovated

**DAVIS PARK COURT
WITH MURAL BY LOIS HARADA**



Images: "Delish'it" Let's Play," Lois Harada's court design for My HomeCourt 2022 at Davis Park, Providence.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
DAVIS PARK, PROVIDENCE**

- 4:00pm** Welcome and open court time
- 4:30pm** Official remarks & ribbon cutting
- 5:00pm** Open court time
- 5:30pm** Performance by Undertow Brass Band

Thank you to our supporters!

Lead funding and organizational support provided by MHC, PCB, Providence Parks, and The Robins de Beaumont Foundation. Additional support provided by The Planagan Family Fund, and Friends of Four Basketball.

Additional support provided in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through the Rhode Island Culture, Humanities, and Arts Recovery Grant (R-CHARG) program. This program was made possible thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts, via funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

[@my_homecourt](#) [@pcgalleries](#) [myhomecourt.org](#) [pcgalleries.providence.edu](#)

DAVIS PARK

2022



DEXTER TRAINING
GROUND

2022



GARIBALDI SQUARE

2022



JOSEPH P. HASSETT PARK

2022



JACKIE CLEMENTS PARK

2022



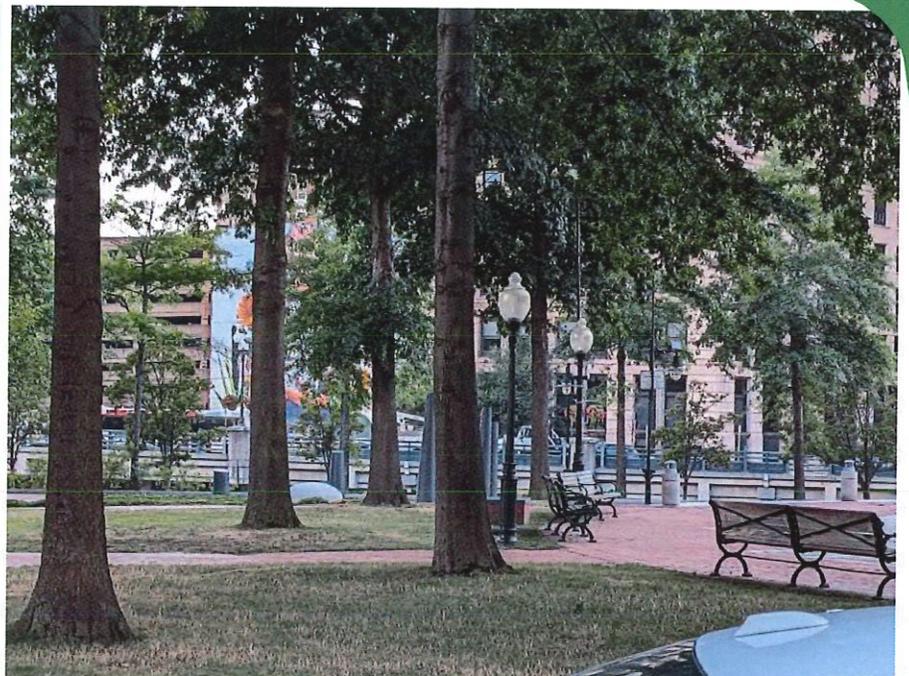
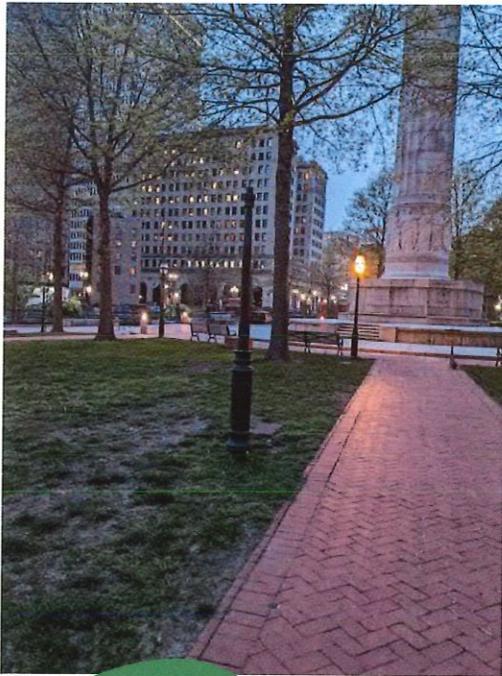
LOCUST GROVE CEMETARY

2022



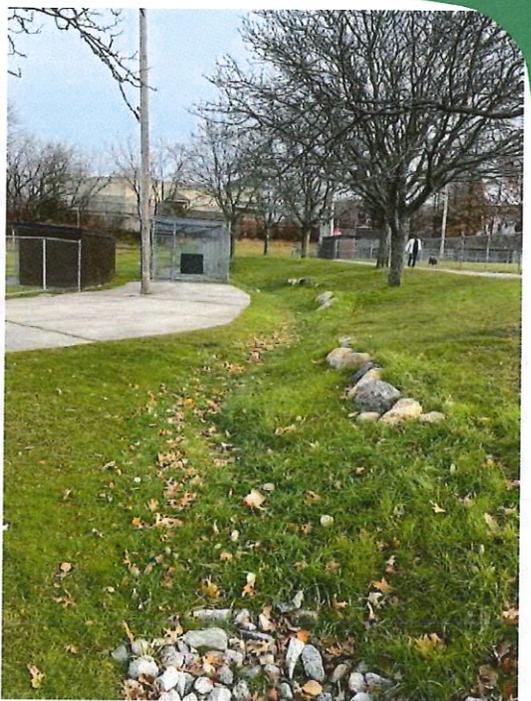
MARY SHARPE PARK

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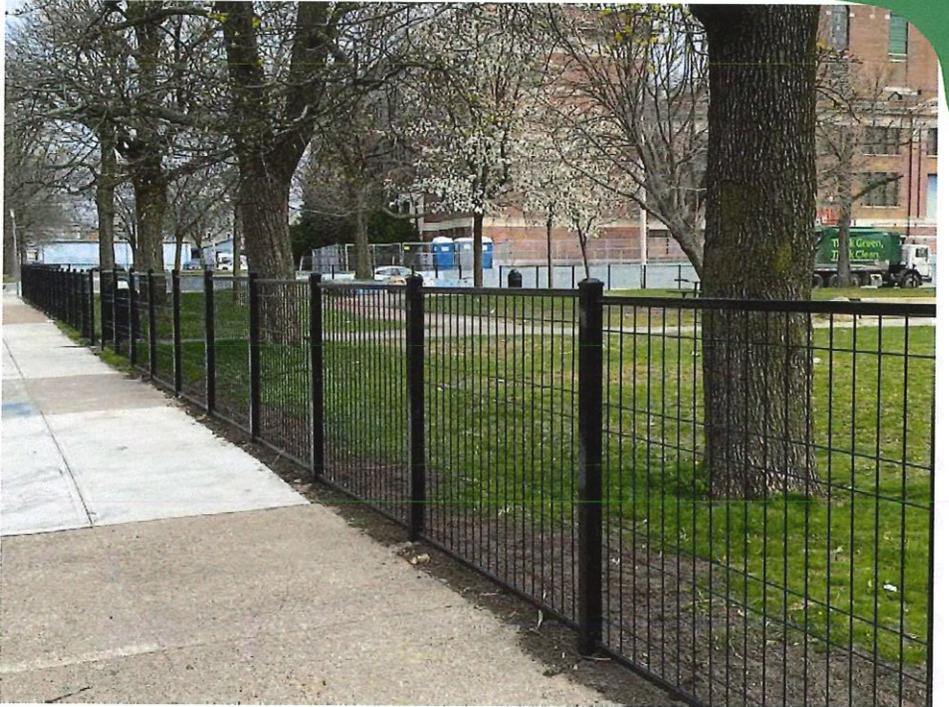
MEMORIAL PARK
LIGHTING PROJECT

2022



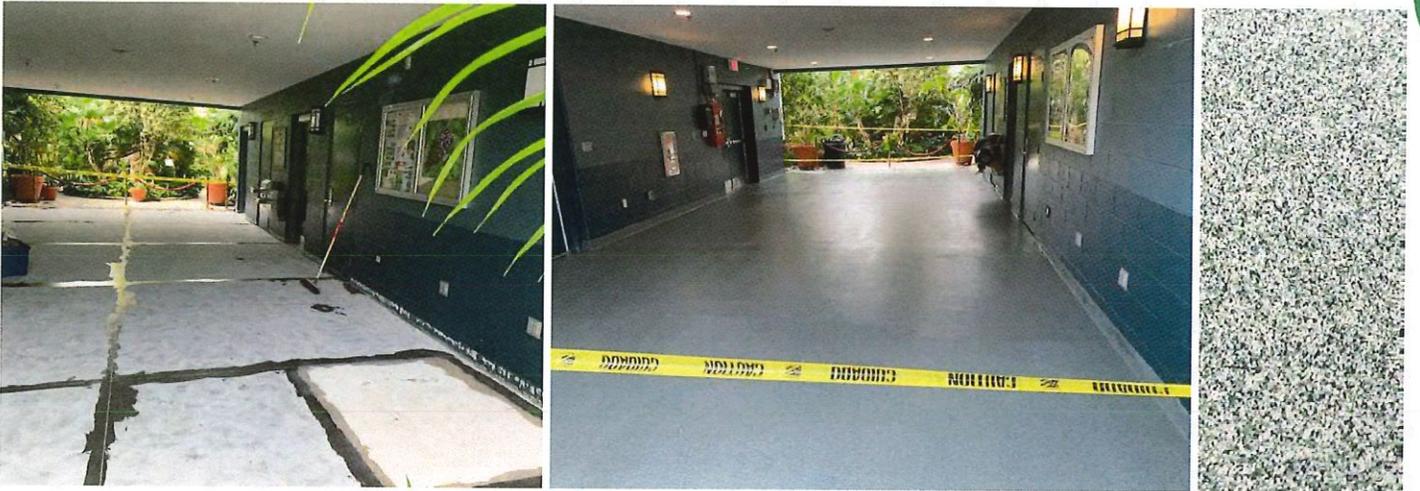
PRETE METCALF DRAINAGE
SOLUTION AND FIELD

2022



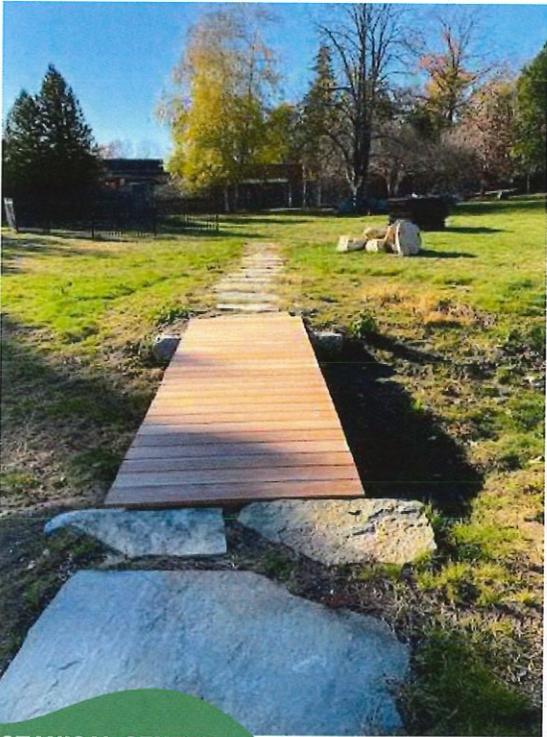
RICHARDSON PARK

2022



RWP BOTANICAL CENTER
FLOORING

2022



RWP BOTANICAL CENTER
GOAT GROUND

2022



RWP BOTANICAL CENTER
PERGOLA

2022



RWP BOTANICAL CENTER
ROSE MEADOW PATH

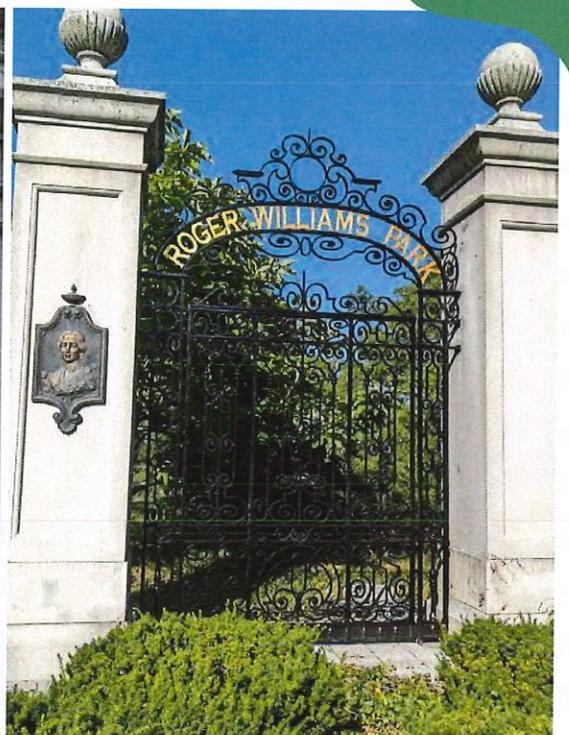
2022



RWP BEAR GROUNDS



RWP CASINO HVAC
FENCE ENCLOSURE

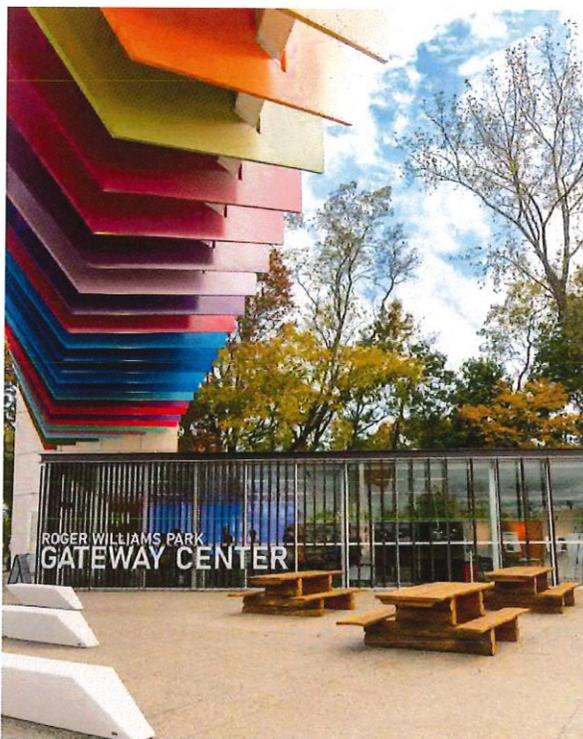


RWP ELMWOOD AVE
FENCE AND GATES

2022

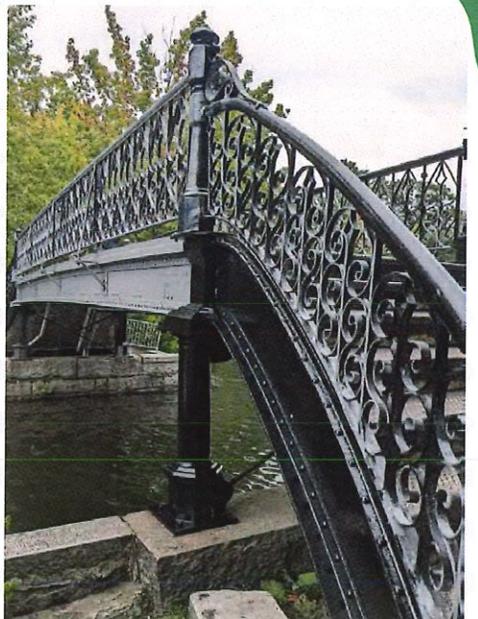


RWP FIBER CABLE AND
WIFI INSTALLATION



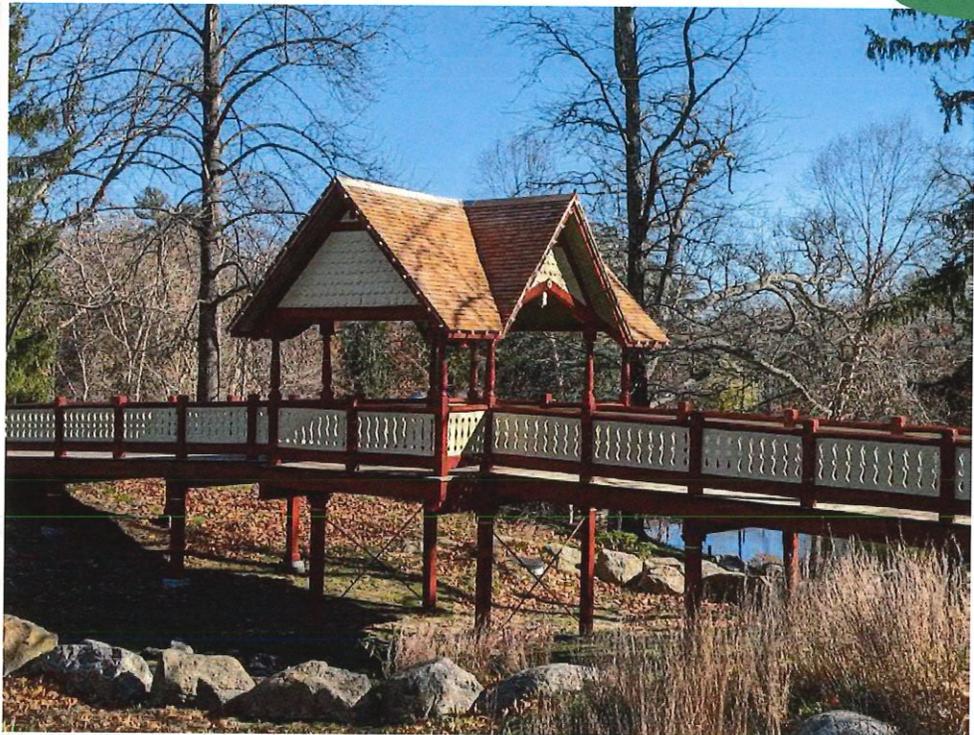
RWP GATEWAY CENTER

2022



RWP IRON BRIDGE

2022



RWP LOVERS RETREAT

2022



RWP MONKEY ISLAND

2022



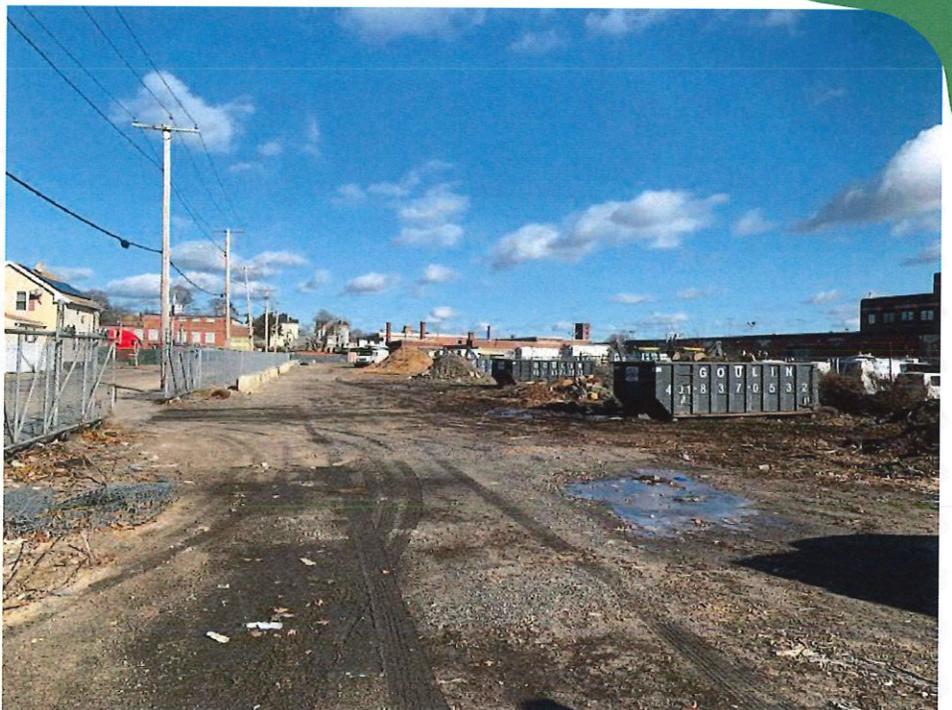
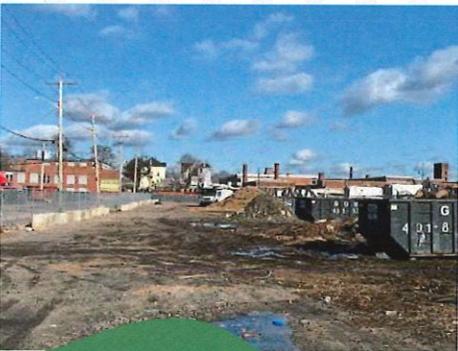
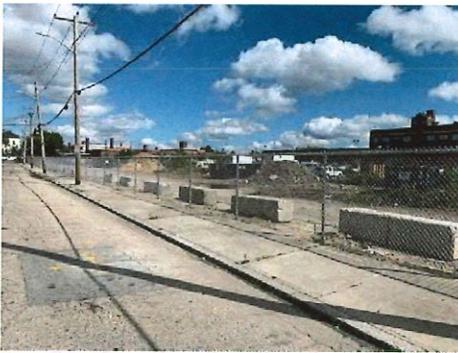
RWP MOUNTED COMMAND

2022



RWP SHEEP HILL

2022



SALEM STREET
WOOD DEPOT