

NANCY L. DERRIG
Superintendent of Parks



DAVID N. CICILLINE
Mayor

Department of Public Parks

"Building Pride In Providence"

MEMORANDUM

TO: MICHAEL CLEMENT, CITY CLERK
FROM: NANCY L. DERRIG, SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS
DATE: MARCH 25, 2003

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

Enclosed for your reference is a copy of the Providence Parks Department 2002 Annual Report. Please distribute the remaining copies to the City Council, with the exception of Councilman Segal, who has already been given his copy.



Providence Parks Department 2002 Annual Report



IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 3 2003

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECORDED.

Michael R. Almonte
CITY CLERK



Department of Public Parks

"Building Pride In Providence"

March 24, 2003

Dear Colleague:

I am proud to present the 2002 Annual Report of the Providence Parks Department. It has been a year filled with significant achievements and excellent improvements for our neighborhood parks throughout the city.

Our staff has tackled these assignments with energy and honesty, winning the appreciation of youngsters and citizens alike.

Waterplace Park and Roger Williams Park both have continued to be among the most popular of the State's attractions, and this June 3 we will break ground for the Botanical Gardens, which promises to be our most ambitious project yet.

In the coming year, we will continue to try to meet the needs of individual park users and continue to be an asset to the City.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Derrig".

NANCY L. DERRIG
Superintendent of Parks

Table of Contents

1/Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Park Improvements.....	2
Neighborhood Park Planning Efforts.....	3
Neighborhood Park Maintenance.....	4
Neighborhood Park Programs.....	7

2/Downtown Parks

Downtown Park Improvements.....	10
Downtown Park Maintenance.....	11
Downtown Park Programming.....	12

3/Roger Williams Park

Introduction.....	17
Carousel Village & Boathouse Boat Rides.....	17
The Casino.....	18
Outdoor Special Events.....	19
The Museum of Natural History & Planetarium.....	20
Todd Morsilli Memorial Tennis Courts.....	23
Greenhouses/Botanical Gardens.....	23
Roger Williams Park Zoo.....	26
Park Rangers.....	32

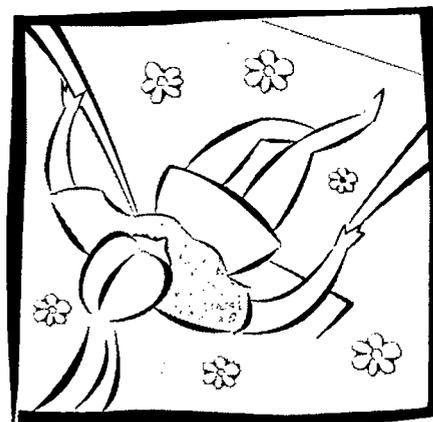
4/Special Citywide Park Facilities

Triggs Memorial Golf Course.....	34
North Burial Ground.....	35
Fleet Skating Center.....	36

5/Forestry

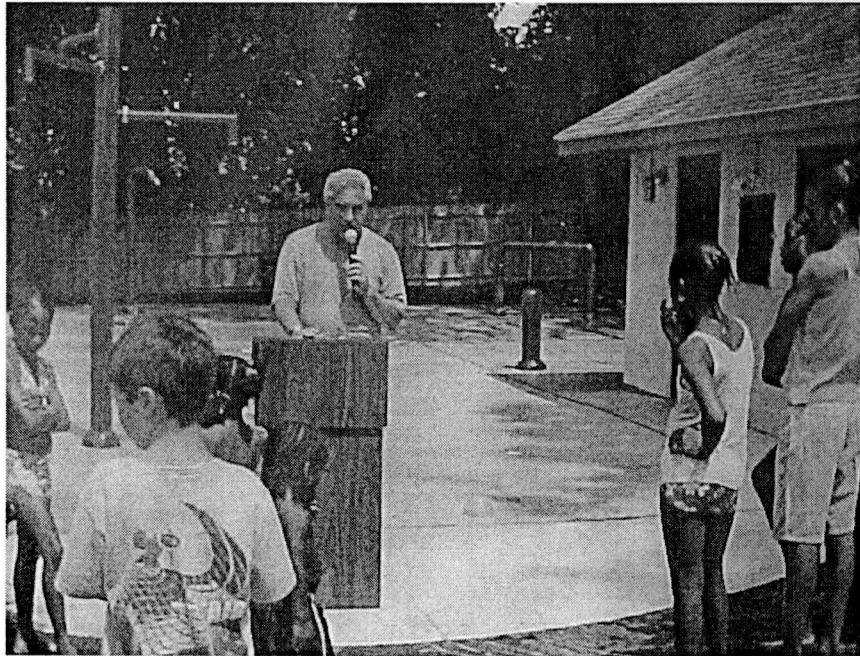
Forestry Operations.....	38
Tree Planting.....	39

1/Neighborhood Parks



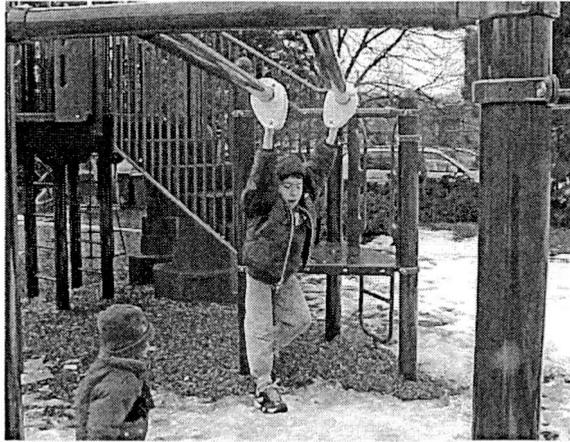
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks Department continues to upgrade neighborhood park facilities throughout the city. Since 1998, 65 of 98 neighborhood park spaces have received major improvements. In 2002, a new park was added to the park system—*Pleasant Street Park* located in the Mount Hope neighborhood. Funded by Ward 3 bond money allocated by Councilman Kevin Jackson, this new park features a water park, a playground, picnic tables, and benches.



Councilman Kevin Jackson opening the new Pleasant Street Park

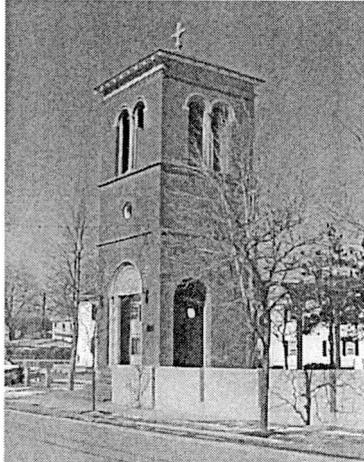
Several other city council members also funded park improvements in their wards with bond money. The popular basketball courts at *Bucklin Park* were re-paved and re-stripped with funds from Councilman Ronald Allen's Ward 8 bond money. The *John Britto* basketball courts at *Gano Street Park* were also upgraded using funds from former Councilman Robert Clarkin's Ward 1 bond allocation. New dugouts and a batting cage were added at the *Prete-Metcalf Fields*, home of the North End-Wanskuck Little League, using funds from Councilwoman Carol Romano's Ward 4 Bond allocation.



One of the heavily used East Side playgrounds, the *Sessions Street Playground*, received new and expanded playground equipment. Councilwoman Rita Williams

allocated Ward 2 bond funds for this project.

New flagpoles were also installed at *Zavota Square* at Smith Street and Enfield Avenue in 2002 funded from Ward 5 bond funds allocated by Councilman Patrick Butler.



One of the more unusual neighborhood renovation projects in 2002 was the *Scalabrini Piazza* project in Silver Lake funded by Community Development Block Grant funds and Councilman John Igliazzi's Ward 7 bond funds. This is the original site of St. Bartholomew's Church from 1907-1979. In the early 1980's a park was developed on the former church site that kept the old bell tower. The

most recent renovation involved renovating the bell tower and its bell (including an automatic bell ringer system), installing new plants and grass, and installing new lighting.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PLANNING EFFORTS

A number of park improvement projects that will come to fruition in 2003 were planned and designed in 2002 requiring considerable time and effort from the Parks Department staff with neighborhood groups and city council persons. These projects are shown in the accompanying table.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS TO BE
IMPROVED IN 2003 THAT
RECEIVED PLANNING &
DESIGN WORK IN 2002**

WARD PARK

1	India Point Playground
1	Brassil Memorial Park
2	Blackstone Park
3	Billy Taylor Park
4	Hopkins Square
8	Reservoir Ave. School Plyg.
9	Sackett Street Park
11	Alphonso Street Park
11	J. Clement Memorial Park
11	Jennifer Rivera Mem. Park
12	Boyle Square
12	Davis Park Ballfield
12	T. Twichell Greenway
15	Riverside Mills

Park staff also worked extensively in 2002 with the Planning Department on long range planning efforts involving: the *RT 195 relocation* in Downtown and Fox Point; *Mashapaug Pond* shoreline in the Reservoir neighborhood; and the *Woonasquatucket Greenway* project that runs through several neighborhoods. All of these planning efforts include new parks or renovations to existing parks.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK MAINTENANCE

The Grounds Maintenance Division of the Parks Department is responsible for the maintenance of **98 neighborhood parks** (not included in this number is Roger Williams Park and North Burial Ground which are special citywide facilities). The neighborhood park system is expanding and becoming more complex to maintain. The 98 neighborhood park spaces range from small neighborhood squares to multi-purpose parks, like Bucklin Park, Neutaconkanut Park, and Gano Street Park.



Included in the neighborhood park system are 55 playgrounds, 27 baseball fields, 22 softball fields, 9 soccer fields, 1 football field, 6 water parks, 37 basketball courts, 2 handball courts, and 1 canoe and kayak facility.

The most pressing athletic field maintenance issue in the Park Department in 2002 continued to be the condition of soccer fields. For a variety of reasons, the number of soccer fields in Providence available for non-school play has decreased from 14 in 1986 to 8 in 2002. In addition, soccer leagues are scheduled during all three turf growing seasons. This has resulted in over play and very poor turf conditions on virtually all of the current soccer fields. More soccer fields are needed to allow renovation of current soccer fields.

Neighborhood park maintenance at most parks includes grass cutting, emptying of trash barrels, picking up litter and trash, sweeping broken glass, and removing leaves. Ball fields also receive special grooming, sprinkler maintenance, and light repair. There are 32 buildings in the neighborhood parks that require a variety of electrical, plumbing, and carpentry repairs.

The Parks Department also maintains a variety of infrastructure within the 98 neighborhood parks, such as several miles of fencing and 800 light fixtures.



On the down side, maintenance of the neighborhood parks in 2002 was hindered by an excessive number of 90-degree days—23 during the grass cutting season. Grass cutting frequency fell behind in most parks during June and July due to the release of workers during 90-degree weather.

On the positive side, the Senior Temps program expanded slightly in 2002. Senior Temps pick up litter, June-September, in assigned parks 2 hours/day, days/week and help the Parks Department keep neighborhood parks clean.

Typically, going into the winter season, about 60-70% of the neighborhood parks have all of their leaves removed by Parks maintenance staff. In November, 2002 a personnel dispute involving the Parks Department, the Internal Auditor's Office, and Local 1033 over out-of-classification pay for laborers working as equipment operators significantly affected neighborhood park maintenance. Going into the spring of 2003, only about 20% of the neighborhood parks are free of leaves.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROGRAMS

While the majority of neighborhood park programming is done by the Recreation Department, the Parks Department is involved in neighborhood parks programs in several ways:

- **Youth Leagues**—The Parks Department provides grass cutting fence and light repairs, trash pickup, and building repairs to all of the Little Leagues in the city: East Side-Fox Point, North End-Wanskuck, Elmhurst, Mt. Pleasant, Silver Lake-Olneyville, Elmwood, Federal Hill, and South Providence-Washington Park. In addition, other athletic leagues received similar services in 2002, including the West End Intruders youth football team, the Mount Hope Cowboys teams, and Capitol Youth Soccer.
- **Canoeing & Environmental Education** —In 2002 the Parks Department once again offered canoeing and environmental education programs at the Mashapaug Pond Boating Center. The programs ran in July and August and were operated by Groundwork Providence. Almost 500 youth, ages 8-12, participated from the following centers and schools:

*Participating Groups
in the 2002
Mashapaug Pond Canoe Program*

--BISHOP MCVINNEY DAY CARE CENTER
--CAPITOL CITY COMMUNITY CENTER
--COMMUNITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
--COMMUNITIES FOR PEOPLE
--FEDERAL HILL HOUSE
--FOX POINT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
--GROUNDWORK PROVIDENCE GREEN TEAMS
--JOSLIN COMMUNITY CENTER
--SACKETT STREET RECREATION CENTER
--SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP
--SILVER LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
--THE URBAN LEAGUE
--VINCENT BROWN RECREATION CENTER
--WANSKUCK BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
--WEST END COMMUNITY CENTER
--WEST END RECREATION CENTER
--THE WOMEN'S CENTER

Youth received canoe instruction, water safety instruction, operated community gardens, and learned about the Mashapaug Pond natural environment.

- **Sailing**—The Providence Parks Department has a long term lease at India Point Park with Community Boating of Providence to enable Providence families to learn how to sail. Approximately, 25 youngsters from community centers and Boys & Girls clubs in the city enjoyed sailing off of India Point Park in 2002.
- **Neighborhood Events and Festivals**—In 2002 the Parks Department issued 111 park permits for neighborhood-based group events in neighborhood parks. Groups included: the Mt. Pleasant Crime Watch Committee, the Cape Verdean Committee, The Fox Point Citizens Association, the West Broadway Neighborhood Association, St. Ann's Church, the Bolivian Festival, the Puerto Rican Festival, the College Hill Neighborhood Association, the Summit Neighborhood Association, and the Mount Hope Neighborhood Association. Many of these groups received some type of assistance, in terms of electrical connections, staging, or extra barrels, from the Parks Department.
- **4th of July Celebration at India Point Park**—The Parks Department collaborated with the Providence Tourism



Council in 2002 to present a spectacular 4th of July celebration at India Point Park. The event was attended by approximately 15,000 Providence residents.

*Photo courtesy of Providence
Tourism Council*

2/ Downtown Parks



DOWNTOWN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

A number of significant Downtown park improvements underway since 2001 were completed in 2002.

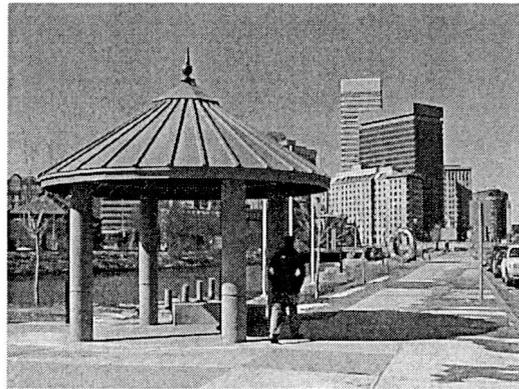
- **Kennedy Plaza**—Re-construction of Kennedy Plaza by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) was officially completed in September 2002. The public spaces in the median area have been improved with new shelters, benches, trash receptacles, and lighting. In addition, the *Soldiers and Sailors Monument* was re-located closer to City Hall.
- **Bajnotti Fountain**—After several years of planning, fundraising, design, and engineering, the 100-year old Bajnotti Fountain restoration project was completed in 2002. Over 200 people attended a dedication ceremony in Burnside Park in October, 2002.

The recent \$300,000 renovation effort was largely funded by private grants and donations. The work provided a modern fountain system to be in compliance with today's plumbing codes and conserved the bronze sculpture feature of the fountain. The sculpture conservation encompassed three main activities: cleaning, re-patination, and waxing.



- **Burnside Statue Renovation**—To coincide with the Bajnotti Fountain renovation work, the Parks Department also performed conservation work on the General Ambrose Burnside Statue which also graces Burnside Park. The Burnside statue which is 10 feet tall and rests on a 10 foot high granite base was installed in 1887. The recent conservation work included cleaning, graffiti removal, and waxing. Funding was from private grants and gifts.

- **Providence River Park Expansion**—The expanded Providence River Park south of Crawford Street Bridge was dedicated in the summer of 2002 by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and is now under the jurisdiction of the Providence Parks Department.



The \$4 million project enables the river walk to stretch from Water Place Park to James Street in Fox Point. As RT 195 is re-located in future years by RIDOT, the river walk will cross Wickenden Street and extend to India Point Park.

DOWNTOWN PARK MAINTENANCE

Because of the number of special events held in Downtown parks, the maintenance of these parks is maintenance intensive. The Parks Department relies heavily on other parties through agreements to help maintain downtown park spaces. In 2002 with the completion of the Kennedy Plaza improvements, the maintenance providers for Downtown Parks was as follows:

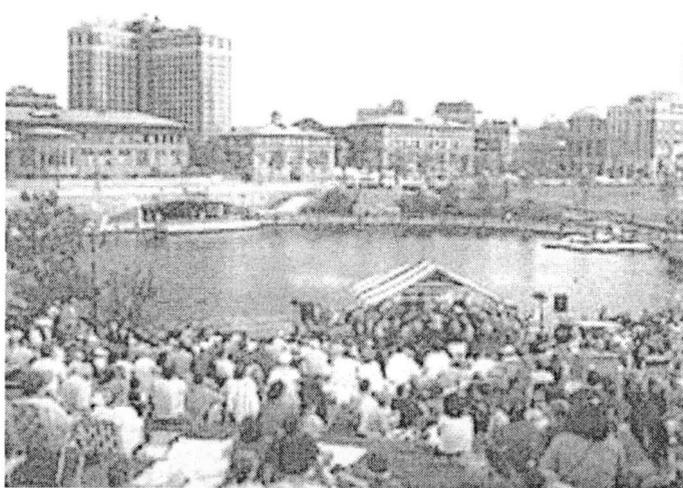
<u>Maintenance provider</u>	<u>Park Space</u>
RIPTA	o Kennedy Plaza
Parks Department	o Burnside Park o Biltmore Park o Cathedral Sq. o Memorial Park.
Trinity Repertory	o Trinity Mews
Tilden Thurber Company	o Freeman Park
Correctional Industries	o Waterplace Park
Abutting Property Owners/ Office of Cultural Affairs	o Providence River Park
Skating Center Staff	o Fleet Skating

DOWNTOWN PARK PROGRAMMING

The Providence Parks Department, Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) is the leading presenter of public art in Rhode Island. Working with its non profit arm, Capitol Arts Providence, OCA events and activities reach Providence residents from all social and economic backgrounds. Besides bringing in national performers, OCA works with local organizations to grow and nurture new initiatives in public programming. These initiatives have included Trinity Summer Shakespeare, Gallery Night Providence, and Watefire Providence. See also www.caparts.org.

Concerts in Waterplace Park

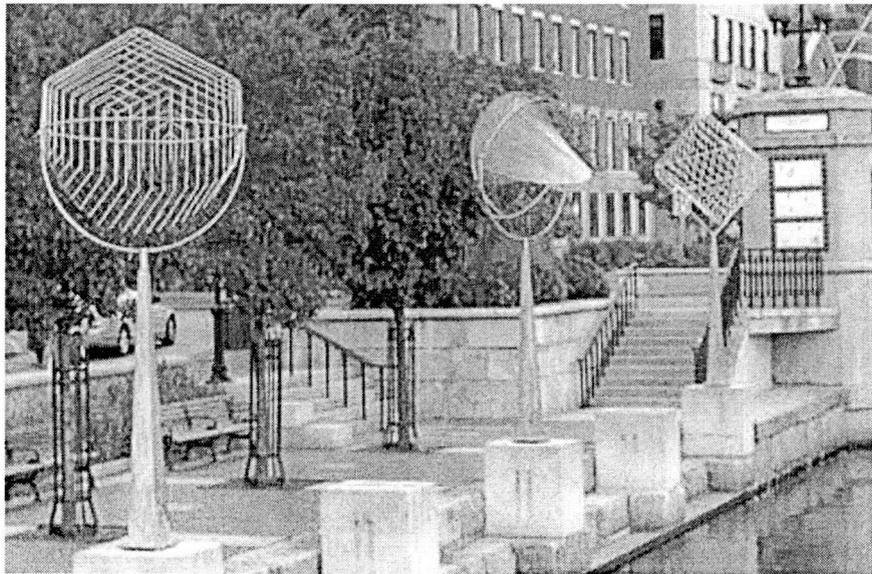
Now a summer-time tradition, the Waterplace Summer Concert Series presents musicians from around the globe. The Waterplace Summer Concerts are free and open to the public allowing the local community to gather within the heart of the city and to take pride in the revitalized energy that the city has recently enjoyed. These concerts attract almost 5,000 per event.



In 2002 due to budget limitations and difficulty raising outside funds the summer concert series in Waterplace Park was cut from ten concerts to four concerts. Currently, the office is working on finding ways to solve the funding problems for these concerts in order to create a ten-week series in 2003.

Convergence International Arts Festival, September 6-22, 2002

Convergence International Arts Festival celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in 2002. The festival is anchored by the Providence Parks Department, Office of Cultural Affairs, but is also a statewide event that celebrates the contemporary arts in all corners of Rhode Island. This unique partnership was forged in 2000 when the Rhode Island Division of Tourism, CapitolArts Providence, and the Providence Parks Department, Office of Cultural Affairs teamed up with arts and tourism organizations from across the state.



- *An Day of Madness, Mayhem, and Provocative Prose, September 7*

On September 7th downtown Providence became the stage for many artistic performances. The Banjotti Fountain and Burnside Park were transformed into a magical backdrop for dance and opera. Over 700 people attended the performances of Island Moving Company and Maria Goyanes' "Variations on Carmen." These performances truly transformed the way in which one looked at the park and downtown Providence at night. The park became a welcoming place filled with inspiring atmosphere, movement, and sound.

Yankee Magazine named Providence's Dave Cole as a rising art star of New England. On September 7, the public got to see him in action as he knit an American flag from hundreds of feet of felt using two excavators. "The Knitting Machine" was a site specific performance that can only be called a spectacle worthy of Mike Mulligan's steam shovel meets Martha Stewart!



- Sculpture

One of long standing traditions of the Convergence Festival is the installation of public sculpture. Each year, the festival alters the Providence landscape with large-scale public sculpture that encourages the public to see the city from a new perspective. In November of 2000 the *Providence Preservation Society* recognized Convergence with an award which said,

"The Festival is an incubator for future success, commissioning artists to create works and events to be shared with the community...The artwork re-defines the newly carved public spaces of Waterplace Park, Memorial Park, and the River Walk. The work also converts vacant urban parcels into a public museum for contemporary art. Convergence and the creativity it produces stands as a reminder that Providence is a city that embraces its public space and celebrates the arts as a part of everyday life."

CapitolArts, in partnership with the RI Historical Society, offered guided sculpture walking tours May - October as part of the *Downcity Alive Walk - SummerWalks*.

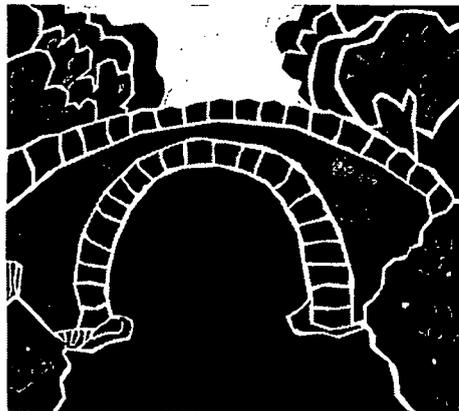
Permitted Events and Activities

The staff of the OCA is also responsible for the issuing of Park Permits for Waterplace Park, the River Walk Park, Market Square and Memorial Park. In many cases the OCA staff serve as technical and logistical advisors to organizations. In 2002 the OCA worked with many organizations including: Waterfire, the Steve Shaw Road Race, Christmas in April Volunteer Appreciation Day, the Walk for Hope, Emancipation Days, Victory Assembly of God's public concert, numerous tourism events and weddings.

Trinity Summer Shakespeare

In addition to all the above activities, OCA worked directly with Trinity Repertory Company in presenting the Trinity Summer Shakespeare Project in Waterplace Park. Trinity was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts support grant based on its collaboration with the Office of Cultural Affairs.

3/Roger Williams Park



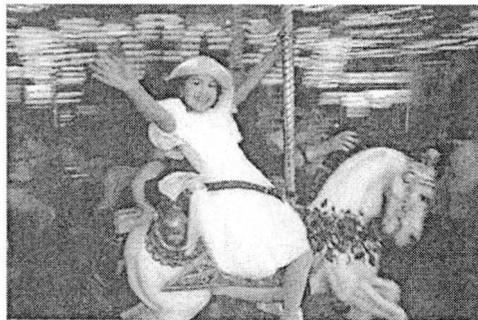
INTRODUCTION

While recognized as a statewide attraction, Roger Williams Park is first and foremost a city and neighborhood park for Providence residents. The south side neighborhoods of Elmwood, South Elmwood, Washington Park, and Reservoir—all use Roger Williams Park as a recreational space. The Park is 435 acres and includes 105 acres of ponds and lakes with changing attractions, as well as destinations and activities that have attracted generations of Providence residents.



CAROUSEL VILLAGE & BOATHOUSE BOAT RIDES

Carousel Village is one of the most visited areas of the Park by neighborhood residents and families. The major features of the area include:

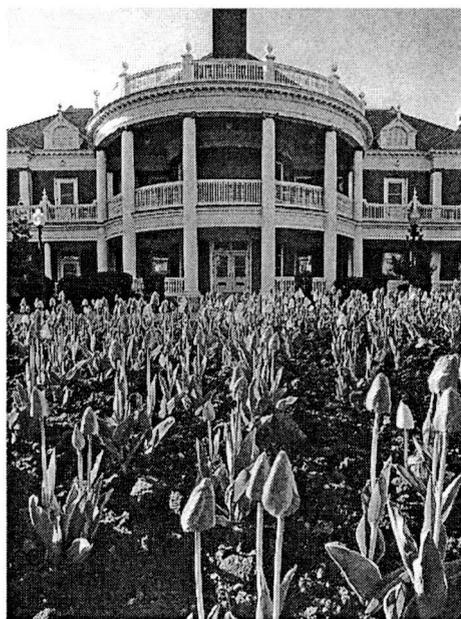


- Carousel rides
- Pony rides
- Bumper boat rides
- Train rides
- The Hasbro Playground
- The Depot Café
- Picnic areas

The Hasbro Playground, built by local toy maker, the Hasbro Company in 2001, enjoyed increased attendance in 2002 and is now one of the most popular playgrounds in the entire city.

Located just 100 yards from the Carousel at the Boathouse Dock, the family-oriented paddleboats proved popular in 2002. A new fleet of 13 paddleboats was purchased and an electric 21-foot cruise boat, the *Roger Williams Park Launch*, provided narrated 30-minute tours of the Park's waterways.

THE CASINO



One of the most popular venues for special events in Providence and Rhode Island is the Roger Williams Park Casino. Built in 1896 by Providence builder Gilbane, the historic Casino is a unique historic building for special events and public programming. Revenues generated from rentals in the building are used to pay for on-going maintenance of the building and for renovation efforts. In 2002 exterior painting of the building was

completed. Some exterior repairs are still on-going and are awaiting additional funding before they are completed.

In keeping with past rental policy, many Providence-based community groups rented the Casino in 2002 at reduced rates to hold fundraisers and special events.

A Sample of Providence Groups Renting the Casino in 2002

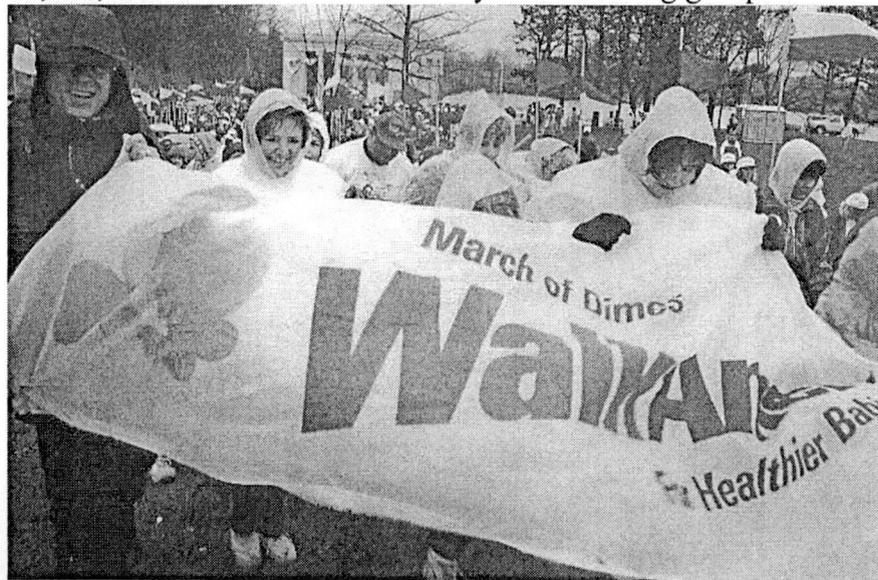
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| --Urban League | --Heritage Harbor |
| --Providence School Dept. | --Groundwork Providence |
| --Providence Place Academy | --Chamber School |
| --Providence Fire Department | --Providence Police Dept. |
| --CCRI/Providence Campus | --Perishable Theatre |
| --Elmwood Foundation | --Met School |
| --San Miguel School | --Providence Headstart |

The total number of events hosted by the Casino in 2002 was 194 which was down from 2001, although revenues taken in, \$234,000, were about the same as 2001. The exterior painting of the Casino required almost 45 days to be “non-bookable days”.

OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS

While the Casino, the Zoo, and the Museum are featured locations for major community events each year, the entire Park landscape is a popular place for the community to hold events. In particular, the Temple to Music, the Bandstand, and the Carousel area are all popular venues for community events. Many of these events receive Parks Department support in terms of logistics and security. Major cultural and music events held in 2002 included: the Dominican Festival, the Nigerian Youth Festival, and the annual RI Indian Council’s Pow-Wow.

2002 was another banner year for community groups to raise money in the Park with walk-a-thons and road races. More than \$2,000,000 was raised in the Park by the following groups:



- American Diabetes
- American Cancer Society
- Animal Rescue League
- Big Brothers of Rhode Island
- Cystic Fibrosis
- March of Dimes
- National Kidney Foundation
- Parkinson Disease

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND PLANETARIUM

Since the 1890's, the park Museum has been a leader in the community in informal science education for students and the general public. In 2002 approximately 28,000 visitors experienced the Museum's collections, exhibits, or educational programs. Included in this number is approximately 2,000 Providence school children and community youth groups.

The Museum collects natural history specimens and cultural artifacts from around the world. These collections have educational value beyond their scientific significance. They provide Providence children with opportunities to learn about plants, ecological patterns, cultures and astronomical phenomena.



The Museum is an important research resource in the community. In 2002, the Museum hosted a variety of visiting researchers in the fields of natural history and anthropology from all over the world. And the Museum staff provides its collections for several area groups to use, including: Providence School Department, RI Science Teachers' Association, and the RI Archaeological Society. See also www.osfn.org/museum.

Exhibit and publication highlights of 2002 include:

- *Circle of the Sea: Creations from Oceania*

This full color catalogue published in 2002 is the Museum's second major exhibit publication and features 100 pages of photographs, interpretive text, and historical essays.

- *Discovery in a Land of Plenty: The Journal of Lewis & Clark*

This timely exhibit featuring photographs, natural history specimens, ethnographic objects and excerpts from the explorer's journals was created for the Museum's rotating exhibit gallery. This exhibit ran from February-September, 2002

- *Metamorphosis: From Observation to Illustration*

A collaboration between the Park Museum and Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, this exhibit ran from September, 2002-January, 2003. Featured in the exhibit were the works of the members of the Guild and examples of natural history and ethnographic materials from the Park Museum.

- **Lobby Area Exhibits**

The beautiful Museum lobby was used in 2002 as a site for several small eye-catching public exhibits:

- "Postcards from the Park, c. 1900"
- "Women's History Month"
- "Snowflake Bentley"
- "Our Place in Space"
- "Living and Working in Space"

Education activities in 2002 included both old and new programs, listed below:



- **Space Camp**

This was a popular new addition in 2002 to the Museum's educational offerings. This program offered during the summer was a two-day program for children in grades 2-4 where the children learned about human exploration in space and life aboard the International Space Station.

- **School Field Trip Programs**

Three new school group programs were created in 2002: "Bugged Out", utilizing the insect collection to illustrate habitat diversity; "Nature's Greenway", which examined an herbarium for clues about plant cycles and the reasons for changing seasons; and "Voyage to Mars" which focused on the past, present, and future of the "red planet".

- **School Vacation Story Time**

This new program in 2002 used neighborhood adults and high school students to read stories to small children from Museum library books accompanied by a selection of related specimens from the Museum collection.

- **After School Curious Kids Program**

This 6-week program was again offered in 2002 in the Spring and Fall and focused on science discovery for children in grades K-4.

TODD MORSILLI MEMORIAL TENNIS COURTS

The ten tennis courts at Roger Williams Park, the only public clay courts in Rhode Island, are open each year from mid May to the end of October. Because clay courts are maintenance intensive, user fees are charged. These fees are used to pay for the operation and maintenance of the courts during the season. Parks Department funds are used to pay for the costs of getting the courts ready for play each spring.

Besides serving the general public, the Morsilli Courts were used in 2002 for tennis clinics for Providence youth groups organized by the Recreation Department. Several major tennis tournaments were also held in 2002:

Tennis Tournaments held at Morsilli Tennis Center, 2002

• Babcock-Leukemia Society Tournament	5/31-6/2
• Senior Olympics Tennis Tournament	6/7-6/9
• RI State Closed Championship	6/20-6/23
• Todd Morsilli/New England Juniors	7/15-7/19
• RI Metropolitan Tournament	7/24-7/29
• Pan-Can Doubles Tournament (Pancreatic Cancer Fundraiser)	8/16-8/18

GREENHOUSES/BOTANICAL GARDENS

The existing Charles H. Smith Greenhouse complex took a major step in 2002 in being transformed into a new Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens. Architects and construction managers were hired and design began on the new Botanical Gardens that will surround the existing greenhouses.

Current plans for the new Botanical Gardens call for the following to be built in the first phase of construction which is expected to occur from May, 2003 to September 2004:



Proposed Anthony Quinn Conservatory

- 17,000 sq. ft. Papua New Guinea Conservatory
- 3,500 sq. ft. Anthony Quinn Conservatory event space
- 9,000 sq. ft. Welcome Center
- Nine new major outdoor gardens
- Two new outdoor event spaces
- Renovated existing greenhouses
- Relocated polyhouse greenhouses for plant growing
- Off street parking areas for 110 cars

The existing Greenhouse staff in 2002 continued its typical activities--growing plants in the existing greenhouses, maintaining three major gardens in Roger Williams Park, supplying plants to City Hall events, and holding its seasonal flower shows for the general public. With design direction from senior staff of the new Botanical Gardens, the Greenhouse crew also accomplished major renovations to the small gardens that surround the existing greenhouses.



One of these—a new Japanese garden designed by Mary Ellen Flanagan—was selected by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects as an award winning garden for 2002.

To whet the appetite of the public for the new Botanical Gardens, Botanical and Greenhouse staff jointly produced the following public events in 2002:

Roger Williams Park Butterfly Show

The Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens hosted its first ever ***Butterfly Pavilion: Flowers in Flight***, August 31 – September 22, 2002. The event was sponsored by Warwick Nurseries. The three-week event was held 9:00am – 4:00pm daily and housed in the Charles H. Smith Greenhouses. Visitor attendance totaled 11,579.

Pavilion attendees were wowed by 6 different species of free flying butterflies. Each week, close to 500 butterflies emerged from their pupa stage and were released to entertain visitors with their dazzling colors. Attendees not only enjoyed the beauty of the exhibit, but also learned about the lifecycle of a butterfly, species residing in New England (specifically in Rhode Island), and how to design and install butterfly gardens.

East Side Floral and Antique Festival

The crisp fall weekend of September 20-22 saw the Trolley Shelter area of Blackstone Boulevard transformed into the second annual East Side Floral and Antique Festival. The festival featured sculpture of the late Anthony Quinn, garden displays, and antiques. A garden and antique lecture series was held during the three-day event. Topics included rose care, fall lawn care, and floral design. The East Side Festival drew 3,300 visitors.

The Holiday Express at the Botanical Gardens

All Aboard! The Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens offered a miniature train exhibit and joyful poinsettia display November 30, 2002 through January 5 2003. Situated in a warm and inviting greenhouse environment, the beauty of the festive colors, lush green gardens and the sounds of jingle bells delighted all of Santa's elves. Botanical Gardens staff and train hobbyist, Ralph Williams, designed this unique garden and railroad setting. Attendance totaled 2,092.

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO

In June 2002, Jack Mulvena was appointed Zoo Director for the Roger Williams Park Zoo. For the past nine years, Jack Mulvena has served as Executive Director of the RI Zoological Society (RIZS), the fund-raising and support arm of the Zoo. He will retain that role in addition to being Zoo Director. Under Mulvena's direction, the RIZS has provided over \$5 million in funds for Zoo capital projects and funds annually about 60% of the Zoo's staff.

“Roger Williams Park Zoo has established itself as the best zoo in New England and one of the top zoos in the country. We have an outstanding reputation in the zoo world and we are an important education, conservation, and economic resource for Rhode Island”

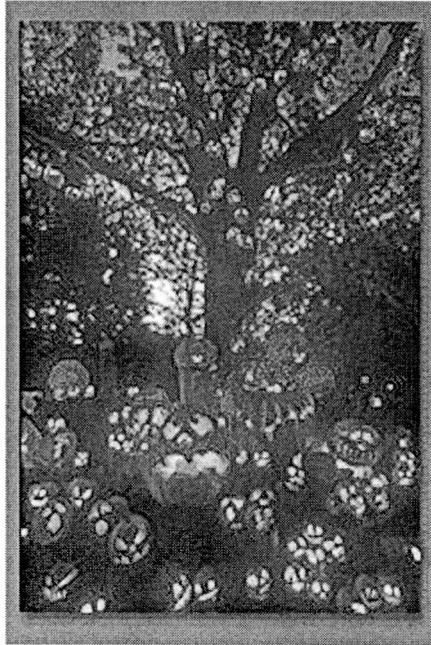
Jack Mulvena, Zoo Director

Attendance

The Roger Williams Park Zoo continues to be one of the most popular places for Providence and Rhode Island families to visit. While the Zoo has achieved regional and national recognition, it remains a city institution and is the pride of Providence. *The Zoo continues to be free for all Providence school and community recreation groups. In addition, the Zoo is free to all Providence residents on the first Saturday of each month.*



Overall Zoo attendance (includes paid and unpaid) increased dramatically in 2002 from 2001. *The 2002 attendance was 743,000, up by 14 % from the 2001 attendance of 649,000.*



Most of this increase was attributable to the *Jack-O-Lantern* special event held at Halloween. This event drew over 80,000

The Zoo admissions fee includes a surcharge that is collected on all paid admissions and it is turned over to the City's General Fund. This surcharge is recognition of the fact that the Zoo attendance is now almost 80% from outside of Providence. For 2002 this revenue turned over to the to the City was about \$180,000.

Zoo Events

The Zoo has not had a major new exhibit in several years. To stimulate attendance, the Zoo in the last couple of years has relied on special events and marketing to increase the number of Zoo Visitors. Besides the very successful Jack-O-Lantern event, the other special Zoo events in the past year included: Conservation Week, Spooky Zoo Sundays, WILD About Seniors, and Zoobradour performances.



One of the longest and most successful of the promotions in 2002 was the **Itsy Bitsy Empire** exhibit that was set up in four new stand-alone buildings in the Zoo. The exhibit, one of the largest of its kind the country, featured some of the most feared, most dangerous, and most misunderstood

invertebrates, including tarantulas, spiders, centipedes and millipedes. Visitors saw the Yellow Fattail Scorpion, the most dangerous scorpion in the world, and the Deathstalker Scorpion, which has the most potent venom of all scorpion species.

Zoo Renovations

While no new exhibits were developed in 2002, there were several projects completed (mostly by Zoo staff) in the Zoo that improved the life of our animals or improved the visitor experience:

- The historic **Zoo Stables** were renovated to provide office space for the Zoo's Operations Department.
- Safety improvements were made to walkways along the **Wetlands Trail**.
- The **Elephant Building** was expanded by 1,600 sq. ft. to accommodate the increasing size of our three elephants. This will allow medical treatment to be safely provided to the elephants.
- A new 400 sq. ft. **Gibbon Barn** was built to provide off exhibit holding for our collection of Gibbon primates.
- The first of three **Butterfly themed gardens** was installed near the Zoo Education Center.
- The Rhode Island Red barn at the **Farmyard exhibit** was expanded to accommodate a new Shetland sheep collection.
- The roof of the **ZooLab** building was fitted with Photovoltaic Cells. This project was a joint effort with the RI Energy Collaborative and will allow the building to produce 2520 watts of power. The new system will be integrated with a new interactive kiosk which will be used to educate Zoo visitors about energy conservation and options for alternative energy.

Zoo Education Programs

The Roger Williams Park Zoo is recognized nationally for its education programs for youth and for families. The Zoo's on-site programs use docent interpreters at exhibits, exhibit graphics, special workshops, Zoo Camp, ZooPower, and entertainment to get across information to visitors. Off-site programs include the Zoo Mobile visits and in-classroom presentations. The Zoo's ability to run such extensive programs is fueled by a large volunteer program. There are almost 130 Zoo Docents who performed over 21,000 hours of volunteer education work in 2002; about 88 docents are active in any given month.

The ZooPower program involves teenagers from Providence high schools coming to the Zoo after school and learning to do Zoo education programs in Providence middle schools.

Zoo Education Statistics, 2002

Preschool aged students

Preschool	1944
Wild Beginnings	225
Wild Tales	<u>227</u>
Total	2396

School aged students and teachers

Afterschool Programs	429
On-Grounds Tours	1700
Teacher Training	37
Zoo Camps 2002	850
School Zoo Mobiles (215 programs)	6450
Career Talks, Job Shadows, and Misc. programs	<u>1920</u>
Total	12148

College aged programs

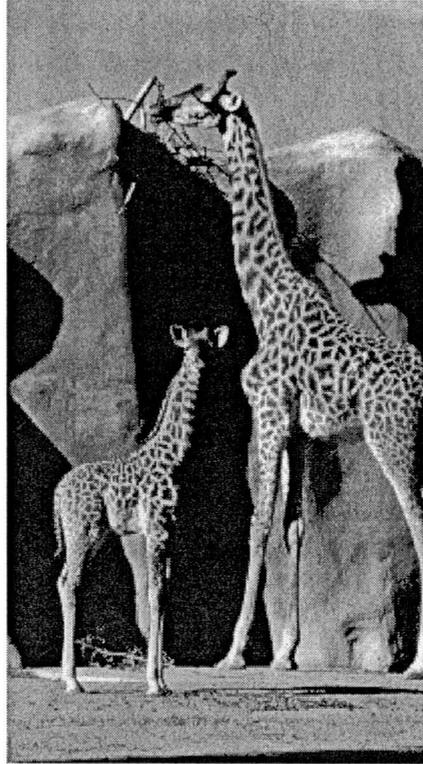
Class programs	230
Internships (10 – 13 week programs)	<u>15</u>
Totals	245

Family Programming

Thurs Night Lecture Series	87
Animal Ed-ventures Programs	314
Just for Fun Programs	<u>448</u>
Total	849

Community Programming

Overnights	1349
On-Grounds Scout Tours (1hr)	117
On-Grounds Scout Programs (all day)	<u>322</u>
Total	1788



Zoo Education highlights for 2002 included:

- Provided interpretive graphics and docents for the Itsy Bitsy Empire exhibit;
 - Added 25 new Zoo Docents;
 - Facilitated an education exchange project between Providence and Papua New Guinea schools;
 - Expanded the partnership between the Zoo and the nearby Broad Street School and the Roger Williams Middle School;
 - Launched a partnership with the new Sophia Academy;
 - Upgraded the graphics at several Zoo Exhibits;
- Unveiled a new Zoo Mobile, courtesy of a grant from Providence-based, Textron, Inc.

Zoo Conservation Programs

The year 2002 in the Zoo was one of incredible achievement for its conservation programs.

• **Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program**



The Roger Williams Park Zoo has spearheaded the international effort to save the threatened tree kangaroo for several years. The Tree kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP) is funded largely by the RI Zoological Society and involves 17 international collaborators. Tree kangaroos are found only in the rainforests of Australia, West Papua New Guinea, and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The TKCO focuses on the Matschie tree kangaroo that is unique to the Huon peninsula of PNG.

One of the major threats to tree kangaroos is habitat destruction, and that is why Lisa Dabek, Conservation Director of the Roger Williams Park Zoo, has traveled the 10,000 miles from Providence many times in recent years to work with PNG villages to help conserve rainforest habitat. Dabek's grassroots efforts to convince individual landowners in PNG to set aside a portion of their lands for conservation has resulted in 50,000 acres of land being preserved so far. That's an area about four times the size of Providence.

The Tree Kangaroo program has a strong educational focus. It involves literacy programs and teacher training in PNG and an art exchange program between schools in Providence and schools in PNG. In beautiful postcards and drawings, Rhode Island children have shared local life—Waterfire events, our beaches, and our native wildlife. PNG students have responded with stories of their “tsing-tsings” (culturally symbolic dance), descriptions of their mountains and rainforests, and pictures of tree kangaroos.



Lisa Dabek and the Roger Williams Park Zoo were honored in 2002 with two national awards for the tree kangaroo conservation program. The American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZAA) bestowed its International Conservation

Award to the Zoo and Lisa and Jack Mulvena, Zoo Director, accepted the award at the AZAA's annual meeting in Fort Worth. Lisa was also honored as one of eight winners of the 48th annual Chevron Texaco Conservation Awards.

- **The American Burying Beetle Project**

In 2002 the Zoo continued its collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the recovery program for the American Burying Beetle. The American Burying Beetle is an endangered (since 1989) two-inch long insect that is an important scavenger responsible for recycling decaying animals back into the ecosystem. East of the Mississippi River, it can only be found presently on Block Island. In June of 2002, the Zoo provided 254 pairs of beetles bred in the Zoo, the most ever since the program began at the Zoo in 1994, for re-introduction in Nantucket.

Media Relations

The creative and hard working public relations staff of the Zoo saw its efforts in 2002 rewarded with exceptional coverage in the local and national media. The birth of two giraffe babies, the Itsy Bitsy Empire exhibit, the awards for the Zoo's work in Papua New Guinea, and the rehabilitation of 'Topsy' the Tortoise—all received national TV and newspaper coverage.

The Zoo was on local TV broadcasts more than 100 times in 2002. And the Zoo's informative and creative web site, www.rwpzoo.org, received 428,000 visits and over 9.4 million hits in 2002.

PARK RANGERS

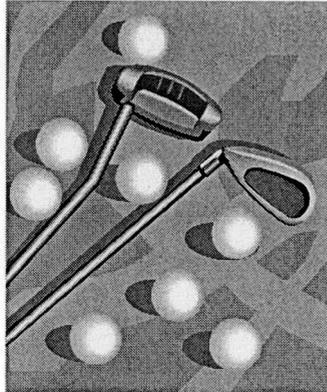
The 16 member Park Ranger force is responsible for providing security and traffic management in Roger Williams Park 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's a daunting job, particularly during the peak months of April-September, when over 2.5 million of the Park's annual 3 million visitors come to the Park. Aided by new vehicles and more training, the Park Rangers in 2002 reduced the number of felonies and misdemeanors occurring in the Park. The Rangers also use a canine corps and bike patrols to patrol all the areas of the Park.

4/Citywide Park Facilities



TRIGGS MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE

Triggs, as it is affectionately known in Rhode Island golf circles, is operated by FCG Associates under a lease agreement with the Parks Department. The lease revenues, approximately \$285,000 in 2002, provide a revenue stream for neighborhood park improvements. Under the agreement with FCG, Providence residents and senior citizens play at Triggs for reduced rates.



Approximately 47,000 rounds of golf were played at Triggs in 2002, down about 10% from the previous year, because of the excessive number of 90 degree days in the summer. Even with the reduced play, Triggs is one of the most heavily played golf courses in the region. In cooperation, with the city's Recreation Department, free golf instructional programs were provided to Providence youth.

“Triggs Memorial Golf Course is not only one of the oldest public courses in Rhode Island, it is also one the best...Triggs is as good as the best private courses.”

Boston Globe

Capital improvements in 2002 included: improvements to the irrigation on holes 1 through 6; 40 new golf carts, and reconstructed bunkers on holes 15 and 16. Construction of the new Pro Shop and Maintenance buildings did not begin in 2002 as anticipated because of delays in financing arrangements.

The following major tournaments were held at Triggs in 2002:

- Rhode Island Stroke Play Championship
- Ocean State Women's Fourball Championship
- Rhode Island Public Links Championship
- U.S. Challenge Cup Stroke Cup for Juniors
- New England Intercollegiate Championship

NORTH BURIAL GROUND

The North Burial Ground (NBG) dates from 1700 when city leaders set aside 45 acres of land for burying the community's dead. During the 19th century, the cemetery was expanded to its present 109 acres. The cemetery contains almost 100,000 gravesites and approximately 30,000 gravestones. During 2002, there were 202 burials in the cemetery



NBG contains an eclectic collection of funerary sculpture spanning three centuries, ranging from simple direct burial markers in “potter’s field” to elaborate mausoleum structures. Slate and marble slabs are the predominant stones prior to 1880. Granite became the predominant stone after 1880 as nearby granite quarries opened in Westerly and in Quincy.

The gravestones, particularly the carvings on the stones, offer glimpses into the customs and culture of the people who lived in Providence over three centuries. Religious development, family and social structure, birth patterns, slave patterns, social and humanitarian attitudes—all can be gleaned from the North Burial Ground gravestones. The gravestones provide thousands of stories about Providence history—stories about immigrant families who came to Providence to make a new life, stories about families who lost a family member fighting for our country, and stories about families who lost infant after infant to sickness and disease.

Current maintenance at NBG is daunting. The average number of employees during 2002 was 10. This compares to 20-25 employees who maintained the cemetery as recently as the early 1970's. Grass cutting operations at the cemetery are labor intensive because the historic layout of the cemetery precludes the use of large mowers. In addition, over a period of several decades, several hundred gravestones have been vandalized, succumbed to weather, or have been accidentally knocked down by falling tree limbs or by grass cutting machinery.

The Parks Department appointed a new NBG Director, Tom D'Amore, in 2001 and in 2002 the fruits of his leadership began to bear fruit. Staff has been better utilized, purchasing improved, equipment improved, public relations substantially improved, and neglected areas of the cemetery have been renovated. Complaints from the public have been reduced from 20 per month to 3 per month. In order for the Parks Department to bring the maintenance of the cemetery to acceptable levels, **6-8 seasonal employees need to be hired for grass cutting operations.** This type of hiring has not been possible in recent years in the City.

An on-going project at the cemetery is gravestone repair. As alluded to, the backlog of gravestones needing repair is currently overwhelming. During the past two years, 125 stones have been repaired using in-house staff and professional stone conservators. Hundreds of stone await repair and will be done over a 5-7 year period.

FLEET SKATING CENTER

The Parks Department operated the Fleet Skating Center up until November of 2002 when the operations were abruptly transferred to the city staff at the Dunkin Donuts Center. Under Parks Department leadership, the Fleet Skating Center was finally beginning to meet its financial goals and become a break-even venue. An array of popular summer events developed by the Parks Department was beginning to increase the Center's revenues during the summer and fall and bring the overall operation to break-even operation.

5/Forestry



FORESTRY OPERATIONS

The Forestry Division of the Parks Department is responsible for the management of almost 30,000 street trees in Providence as well as all the trees in City parks. The division removes dead trees, removes stumps, trims trees (maintenance pruning), and responds to citizen issues involving city street trees. Citizen requests typically consist of picking up limbs that have fallen from a street tree into the yard or on the sidewalk. They also sometimes involve removing a branch that has partially fallen from a tree.



Next to managing the elephants in the Zoo, it is the most dangerous job in the Parks Department. Work is done by Forestry crews in all types of weather conditions at heights of 50 feet above the ground, of ten in close proximity to electrical wires.

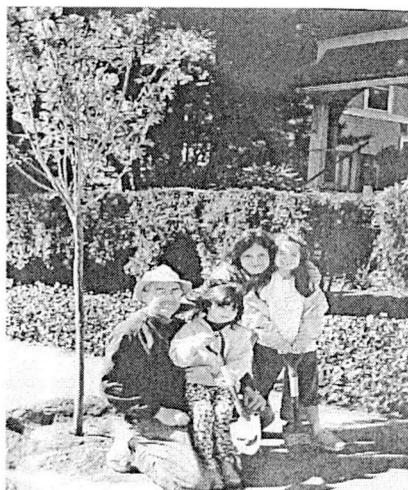
Summary statistics for Forestry in 2002 are as follows

Tree Removals—621
Tree Prunings—568
Stump Removals—325
Miscellaneous Citizen Request Solved—760
Banners Installed--178

The backlog of called in requests to Forestry (inspected and issued work orders) for tree work at the end of 2002 was approximately the following: tree removals—350; tree trims—160; and stump removal—200. All of these numbers are greater than at the end of 2001 and reflect the die off of Norway maples in the city. The real backlog of tree work that needs to be performed in the city street tree system is even much greater. **At least 1,800-2,000 street trees are in such bad condition, that they should be removed. In addition, the number of street trees that require some type of pruning is estimated to be 5,000-7,000.** Norway maples, which are no longer planted on Providence streets, and which were planted in the 1950's and 1960's are dying off in great numbers at the current time and are the culprit in this situation.

TREE PLANTINGS

A total of 722 trees were planted on 94 streets in 2002 through three major tree planting programs administered by City Forester, John Campanini, of the Parks Department. The majority of tree plantings—430—were done through the *Providence Neighborhood Planting Program*. Other funding sources included bond funds through Ward 3 and Ward 5 allocations and Community Development Block Grant funds.



About 100 more trees were planted in 2002 than were removed. This slight excess in tree inventory allowed the city's tree inventory to expand to around 30,000. Given the number of dying Norway maple trees in the city, however, the number of annual tree plantings needs to expand by a much larger number if Providence is going to merely keep the status quo.