



**WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL**

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www.wrwc.org

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Transforming the Woonasquatucket River Greenway, Revitalization Deeply Rooted in History

JOHNSTON – (June 5, 2019) The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC), in partnership with the Johnston Historical Society, will gather friends and volunteers to explore and clean up the northern section of the Woonasquatucket River Greenway (Greenway) in Johnston. The Johnston Clean Walk & Talk, part of WRWC's Clean Days on the Greenway series, will take place Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Attendees will meet near 7 Hillside Avenue, Johnston RI 02919 (across from Scramblers). Volunteers will walk north, enjoying the sights and sounds of an (almost) summer evening. From there, attendees will visit the historic Clemence-Irons House, which Historic New England proudly touts as, "one of the oldest houses in the Ocean State and an important record of twentieth-century restoration methods".

While there, attendees will go on a brief tour, going on a trip back into the history of Johnston, hosted by Historic New England. On the return trip, attendees will learn more about the history of Johnston and the Woonasquatucket River Greenway, courtesy of the Johnston Historical Society. Join to learn more about Johnston's history and how it informs the future of a revitalized Woonasquatucket River Greenway that is changing neighborhoods and changing lives.

The WRWC has worked in Johnston to improve views to the river and restore native plants. At Hillside Ave, volunteers have already installed a native meadow along the Greenway to attract birds and butterflies, helping to restore the river's ecology and function. In other parts of the river downstream, WRWC is leading large scale design projects to further transform the Woonasquatucket River Greenway. Excitement builds among the businesses, organizations, and residents along the lower river as designs are created. Everyone is excited to once again see the river teeming with life in the middle of our cities and towns.

Further up river in Johnston, cleanup is moving forward once again on the Centerdale Manor Superfund Site. The Centerdale project opens up possibilities for future safe recreation and connection to bike paths across the state. The WRWC works with other groups statewide to connect the Greenway to other bike paths across Rhode Island. We all hope to increase healthy living with safe walking, bike paths, less smog and more green spaces. To learn more or get involved, visit planri.com.

Visiting sections of the Greenway like on June 5th at Hillside Ave provide a great example of what open spaces could look like while riding across all of Rhode Island. The Johnston Clean Walk & Talk is part of WRWC's ongoing Clean Days on the Greenway Series. Join the transformation on Wednesday June 5, 2019 from 6pm – 8pm.

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The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (www.wrwc.org) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works to encourage, support and promote the restoration and preservation of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed as an environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic asset of the State of Rhode Island.



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Walkers enjoying the Woonasquatucket River Greenway



Historic Clemence-Irons House