



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

45 Eagle Street, Suite 202 • Providence RI 02909
(401) 861-9046 • FAX (401) 861-9038
www.wrwc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 8, 2019

Contact: Lisa Aurecchia
(401)965-1735
lisa@wrwc.org

Transforming the Woonasquatucket River Greenway Leads to Revitalization, and WRWC Volunteers Lead the Way

PROVIDENCE – (April 22, 2019) This Earth Day starts the next transformation on the Woonasquatucket River Greenway (Greenway) in Providence. The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) in partnership with the City of Providence has hired McMahon Associates to lead a large scale design project to transform the Greenway between the Providence Place Mall and Eagle Square. Design has begun. Excitement builds among the businesses, organizations, and residents along this stretch of river, which holds great promise for the City of Providence. This section of Greenway will connect Providence’s downtown culture to an up and coming neighborhood already rich with creative and industrial arts, local businesses, renovated mills, and one feature unique to Providence – a river teeming with life that you can experience up close and personal in the middle of the city.

Decades of stewardship projects fuel the designs for the Woonasquatucket River Greenway’s Promenade Evolution. This section of Greenway currently has only marked bike lanes on the road leading to and from downtown. These marked lanes feel neither safe nor inviting. The WRWC and partners are making this area safer, more accessible and fun by adding more pocket parks, locally crafted artwork, accessible boat launches, and protected bike lanes that use nature based stormwater treatment solutions to divide walkers and cyclists from vehicle traffic along the river. The nature based stormwater solutions are a defining feature for the redesign, one that WRWC hopes to see more of in future. Alicia Lehrer, WRWC’s Executive Director notes, “Right now, all the stormwater along Promenade, Kinsley, and Providence Place goes right into the river along with all the pollution washing off the street. Adding things like planted swales will capture and clean the water before it goes into the river, and it will add green areas to the streets that also protects bikers and walkers.”

Join the transformation. More than 200 volunteers will come out for Earth Day on Monday April 22, 2019 from 10am – 4pm. As a special part of the project, volunteers will plant trees on river banks along Promenade Street and Kinsley Avenue, as part of a multi-year effort to restore habitat along this stretch of river. Invasive plants are being removed, and native plants are finally making a comeback! Native plants support more birds, mammals and even fish. Volunteers will also be doing classic cleanups along the Greenway, both on land and in water throughout the day. Join WRWC this Earth Day, Monday April 22nd. Can’t make it on Monday? Volunteers will be gathering for cleanups further up the river the following Saturday April 27th at Riverside Park from 10am – 2pm. Sign up online to register today! Visit WRWC.org for more information.

###

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.



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

45 Eagle Street, Suite 202 • Providence RI 02909
(401) 861-9046 • FAX (401) 861-9038
www.wrwc.org



Pocket Park on Corner of Eagle and Kinsley Ave.
WRWC's first pilot project showing the possibility
of what is to come along Promenade & Kinsley.



Signature WRWC Habitat
Restoration Signage
showing up along
Promenade & Kinsley.



Signature WRWC electric
box murals marking the
way to the evolving
Greenway.



Sample image of what a protected bike lane using green
infrastructure could look like.



WOONASQUACKETT RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

45 Eagle Street, Suite 202 • Providence RI 02909
(401) 861-9046 • FAX (401) 861-9038
www.wrwc.org



2018 - River Rangers & volunteers continue efforts to improve Promenade & Kinsley



2018 Spring Girls Bike Camp with our friends from Manton Avenue Project in Olneyville. They're the faces of why safe, accessible bike paths are worth it!