



WITH YOUR HELP, HUNDREDS OF KIDS WILL RIDE BIKES WITH CONFIDENCE!

Thanks to donors like you, we are offering seven weeks of Bike Camp this summer! At Bike Camp, kids ages 8-13 spend a fun-filled week in the summer exploring the watershed on two wheels. Campers learn safe riding skills, basic bike maintenance, and watershed stewardship. After a bike-filled week at camp, our campers leave with the freedom and independence of riding a bike safely and confidently.

The Red Shed offers scholarships to qualified campers, providing access for all no matter their income. Red Shed supporters, including Contech Medical, the Lorber Foundation, the Kelson Foundation, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Trek Bikes, Narragansett Bay Wheelmen, and many generous individual donors make the Bike Camp experience possible for hundreds of kids each summer. We are grateful to them and you!

Right: A “wow” moment from Bike Camp in 2019. Lots more to come this summer! For more on our Red Shed Bike programs, visit wrwc.org/what-we-do/red-shed-bike-programs



CLEAN DAYS ON THE GREENWAY ARE HERE AGAIN!

Since the start of 2021, you and our partners at the Narragansett Bay Commission helped us host more than a dozen Clean Days on the Greenway this year, with more to come. With your support and participation, our River Rangers are leading teams to plant trees, pick up litter, build structures, and beautify the Greenway in so many different ways. Want a team-building volunteer experience? We partner with local companies and organizations to create a Clean Day on the Greenway for your group.

Want to participate in a community Clean Day on the Greenway? Join us on the last Saturday of the month all summer long.

June 26: Georgiaville Pond in Smithfield
July 31: Donigian Park in Providence
August 28: Riverside Park in Providence



For more information about upcoming Clean Days on the Greenway, contact Clare Brown, 401-861-9046, or visit us at wrwc.org and search for Clean Days.



Above: In January, Senator Jack Reed and more than 25 other hardy volunteers joined us to pick up litter along the river in Providence.



Above: While on break from working on a COVID vaccine, a team from EpiVax helped make the Riverside Park playground sparkle on Earth Day.

Below: In April, volunteers from Hasbro and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management teamed up on Earth Day to beautify the Greenway.



WIN A NEW ELECTRIC BIKE TO TOUR THE GREENWAY AND HELP US KEEP IT LOOKING GREAT!

Get your raffle tickets today to win this brand new Retrospec Rev City Electric Bike, valued at \$1,200. Cruise on the Greenway and get your errands done in style with this step-through city bike sized to fit most adults. All proceeds for this raffle go to supporting our work creating positive environmental, social and economic change by revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River, its Greenway and its communities.

Ticket donations:
\$10 for 1 entry ticket
\$50 for 6 entry tickets



Get Your Tickets Now:

- Print and mail us the enclosed entry form with payment.
- Visit wrwc.org/raffle to request tickets
- Purchase tickets at the start of our events or our office at 45 Eagle Street, Suite 202, Providence, RI. Give us a ring first (401-861-9046) to make sure we're here!



Or scan this QR code with your phone:
 We have only 2,000 tickets and they're going fast!

The raffle drawing will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021, 11:00am at Cricket Field (15 Riverside Avenue, Johnston, RI) and on Facebook Live! The winner need not be present.

We are grateful to our friends at Dash Bicycle for support, and to our many generous donors for ongoing investment in our work.

For more info, contact WRWC Development Director Jill Davidson, jdavidson@wrwc.org, 401-861-9046 or visit wrwc.org/raffle



THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE OFFERING SUMMER RECREATION ADVENTURES!

Enjoy the Woonasquatucket River Watershed with us by bike, boat, and foot! Our summer recreation programs are in full swing. Made possible by generous donors, highlights of the season include:

- Wild Edibles Walk of the Greenway with Russ Cohen
- Native American History Paddle with Lorén Spears in Downtown Providence
- Bike to Sundae's Ice Cream
- Paddle Georgiaville Pond
- Hike at Connors Farm Conservation Area
- Paddle Greystone Mill Pond
- Hike Wolf Hill Forest Preserve
- Paddle Stillwater Pond
- Bike to Dame Farm for Apple Picking



With support from the Cricket Foundation and generous donors like you, we are thrilled to offer community paddles in Providence's Riverside Park. Every Thursday afternoon in July and August, friends and neighbors from Olneyville are invited to join us for a paddle to explore the river. Families are welcome and no prior experience in the water is required. Spanish interpretation will be provided. Thank you for helping us offer this opportunity for Woonasquatucket neighbors to access the joy of seeing the world from the water.



For more information about all of our summer activities, please visit wrwc.org/events



YOU HELPED US TEACH HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS TO BE RIVER STEWARDS

From fully virtual learning to joyful year-end celebrations on the Greenway, our education staff engaged hundreds of elementary, middle, and high school students as they learned about the wonders of the Woonasquatucket Watershed. Your donations supported us to build enduring video lessons and virtual instruction

Students from William D'Abate Elementary School in Providence get their imaginary binoculars ready for bird watching in Riverside Park.

techniques that we used throughout the year. As public health conditions improved, we used outdoor learning spaces for hands-on learning.

We want to thank Education Director Sara Canuel for her innovative, enthusiastic, and effective leadership. Sara expanded our education offerings and skillfully adapted them to virtual teaching and learning. In the fall, Sara is moving on to a new phase of her career. She will be teaching high school environmental education. Sara, we will miss you! And we are delighted to welcome Amanda Peavey as our incoming Education Director. Your support of our education programs allowed us to make all of the many transitions that the past year required, and we are truly grateful for your support.

MEET THE WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER'S ENERGY CENTER, LISA AURECCHIA

Lisa Aurecchia, the WRWC's Director of Projects, has been the energy at the center of our work for more than 25 years. Lisa began her work on the Woonasquatucket in 1996, when the idea for WRWC was forming. Now, 25 years later, we have Lisa to thank for the vibrant Greenway and expanding bike path.

A native of Johnston, Rhode Island, Lisa and her childhood friends dreamt of a bike path that would connect them to the wider world. After travel and adventures, she returned home to find that another visionary, our founder Jane Sherman, was building support to transform the Woonasquatucket River from a post-industrial ecological hazard to a healthy ecosystem. Safe alternative transportation routes were part of that vision from the very start. Lisa joined forces with Jane to engage folks in Johnston and Providence to envision the idea of an urban Greenway running along the river.

Lisa talked with community members about their hopes and dreams for their neighborhoods. Bit by bit, year after year, her leadership helped bring the 75-acre Woonasquatucket River Greenway and seven-mile bike path to life. She also led the creation of the River Ranger program, WRWC's flagship paid

Below: Lisa Aurecchia in her element: on two wheels leading folks to new adventures!



Above: Lisa paddling in Waterplace Park, where the Woonasquatucket meets downtown Providence.

job-training program that connects neighborhood youth with full-time professional land and water stewards to improve and maintain the Greenway.

In collaboration with the local creative community, Lisa filled the emerging Woonasquatucket Greenway with art, which she sees as a symbol of our region's creative spirit. "Amazing people exist in Providence, so many artists and community leaders who helped each other make these ideas come to fruition," she notes. "We had so many questions at first. How to get people into these new outdoor spaces? Who could pull in resources? Now the Greenway and the path look like they were always there, but this started as a seat of our pants initiative. We made it happen with the artistic community because people believed in us. This is really about the generosity of the community all along the way."

Recently, an anonymous donor generously gave \$125,000 in honor of Lisa's lifelong commitment to the Woonasquatucket River. Asked what motivated this gift, the donor said, "I have been so inspired by Lisa's vision and persistence. She has truly willed a clean and thriving river, a bike path, and open green space into existence—and all of this has made a whole neighborhood come to life."

"I HAVE BEEN SO INSPIRED BY LISA'S VISION AND PERSISTENCE. SHE HAS TRULY WILLED A CLEAN AND THRIVING RIVER, A BIKE PATH, AND OPEN GREEN SPACE INTO EXISTENCE—AND ALL OF THIS HAS MADE A WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD COME TO LIFE."

Thank you, Lisa, for 25 years of vision, joy, and leadership. We can't wait to be part of what you do next!

YOU'RE BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE!

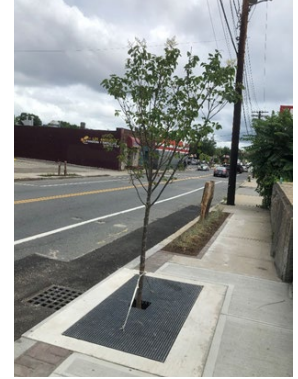
You have made WRWC a climate resilience leader in communities that need it most. We are Greening the Greenway by adding plants and soils that clean and store stormwater while reducing flooding, cooling the climate, and creating habitats for people and wildlife.

Check out one of our latest projects on Manton Avenue, a busy street in the heart of Providence's Olneyville neighborhood. "Nature at Work" captures and cleans polluted runoff from the street. Walk along Manton Avenue from Olneyville Square to just past Aleppo Street and you will see four tree filters with attached catch basins and eight sidewalk planting areas. These additions do more than make Manton Avenue greener—they prevent 2,356 gallons of polluted runoff from going directly into Woonasquatucket River.

In front of Atlantic Mills, we installed sidewalk planting areas and a tree filter. What a difference these changes make to a busy stretch of street desperately in need of trees! What you can't see is how hard these plants and soils are working to keep the river clean. We're grateful for our partners at Storm Tree, Inc., whose technology we used for the Manton Avenue tree filters and who support our work as a corporate sponsor.



Left: (Before) You can see how stormwater has no-where to go, except into catch basins on the street connected directly to the Woonasquatucket River.



Above: (After) Now you can see "Nature at Work" with inset sidewalk plantings and a closeup of a tree filter.



Above: The River Ranger crew hard at work at Farm Fresh Rhode Island, another significant "Nature at Work" project that cleans 41,150 gallons of stormwater.

ALL TOLD, OUR CURRENT "NATURE AT WORK" PROJECTS CLEAN AND ABSORB MORE THAN 75,000 GALLONS OF WATER WITH EACH AND EVERY STORM, PREVENTING FLOODING AND POLLUTION.

Of course, it's not just about the projects--it's also about the people who make them happen. The Woonasquatucket River Ranger crew installs and maintains parts of all of our climate resilience projects. The River Rangers' expertise has grown so much that they are now teaching others how to implement "Nature at Work" climate resilience projects. Greenway Manager Eric Larson and Senior River Ranger Jake Gorke recently shared their knowledge in a "Maintaining Green Stormwater Infrastructure" workshop hosted by the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center.

Huge thanks to the donors who support our "Nature at Work" projects and the great crew that makes them happen.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DR. REBECCA SILLIMAN



A supporter of the WRWC from its early days, Cranston resident Becky Silliman is a retired professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Boston University School of Medicine and School of Public Health. She remembers pulling grocery carts and tires out of the Woonasquatucket River in the 1990s. "I got involved because I wanted to make the river healthy and in the process, help the community become a healthier place in the broadest sense. Helping kids to learn to ride bikes, getting rid of the invasive plants, seeing the alewives and herring going upstream, cleaning up brownfields, giving people jobs—all of these offer a sense of hope. It means so much that you can transform an unhealthy situation into a place where people want to be."

Becky's support has extended far beyond river clean ups. She recently made a generous donation that has made a huge difference in our work. Offering advice to other donors, Becky

suggests, "If you have the wherewithal, do it. So much joy stems from watching a gift be used. There are so many needs in this world now that if you have some extra funds that you didn't use on a trip last year or that came from the stock market, you are blessed. Giving them away is quite wonderful."

Becky, we think you are quite wonderful. Thank you for your friendship and generosity!

To make your gift to support our work, please visit wrwc.org/ways-to-give or contact WRWC Development Director Jill Davidson, jdavidson@wrwc.org 401-861-9046



Becky's many talents and interests include playing the organ (and flute!)