



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THE WOONASQUATUCKET CLEANER! CENTREDALE MANOR SUPERFUND CLEANUP UPDATE

Your investments allow us to focus on vital projects such as the Centredale Manor Superfund Cleanup, 25 years in the making, happening along the Woonasquatucket River in North Providence and Johnston.

The Centredale Manor Superfund site was polluted with dioxin and other toxins during 20th century chemical production. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Centerdale Manor site to its Superfund program, and in 2012 it established a plan to clean up this highly contaminated land and section of river.

Cleanup has begun! The pollution source area, where Centredale Manor now stands, is now clean. Cleanup will extend 1.5 miles downstream through Allendale and Lyman Mill Ponds and a 30-acre forested wetland called the Oxbow. In 2025,

when this work is complete, we will be much further on our way to a Woonasquatucket where we can enjoy swimming and fishing.

Here is why your donations make all the difference. The WRWC runs a Technical Advisory Group to advise the EPA, keep the community updated on progress, and contribute to design plans to open more river access and recreation once the area is safe. With your support, our expert staff can ensure that the funds spent on the cleanup go not only to removing toxins but also to making this section of the Woonasquatucket so much better than before.

For Centredale Manor project updates, we invite you to visit wrrwc.org/what-we-do/restoration/centerdale-superfund-site.



This pond looks inviting, but years of pollution made it a toxic danger zone. When the Centredale Manor Superfund cleanup project is complete, we will meet you there for a paddle!

YOUR DONATIONS SUPPORT YEAR-ROUND RECREATION

Your donations have done so much. All summer long, we offered free paddles at Riverside Park. We made so many new friends who saw the Woonasquatucket from a canoe for the first time in their lives! We appreciate the Cricket Foundation, REI Co-op, and especially you for your support for our community recreation programs. And now, we are expanding our recreation schedule through the winter! Join us for autumn paddles (can you believe those colors!), winter hikes (we will keep moving to stay warm!) and more. **Visit wrrwc.org/events to learn more and register.**



So many happy moments at our
Community Paddles this summer!



Donate today! Use the enclosed envelope to send a check or visit us at wrrwc.org/donate to make a secure online donation.
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council | 45 Eagle Street, Suite 202, Providence, RI 02909 | 401-861-9046

2021 CYCLING ADVENTURES!

Thanks to your incredible support, 2021 has been a fabulous year for our cycling programs. With your help, we significantly expanded access to the joy of cycling through summer camps for kids, adaptive cycling programs for veterans, and statewide bicycle education.

Summer Bike Camp on the move! Campers are taking off for a five-mile ride.



This tent made such a difference, helping Bike Camp run smoothly through blazing sun and pouring rain.

SUMMER BIKE CAMP

During July and August, dozens of young people improved their cycling skills at the Red Shed summer bike camp. All participants, including more than 20 first-time riders, learned bike safety and maintenance and enjoyed a five-mile ride along the Woonasquatucket bike path. And with your help, we provided helmets, water bottles, and financial aid to families so that everyone could participate.

Thanks to a generous donation from the wonderful collective at 100 Women Who Care Rhode Island, we put up a tent at the Red Shed for the summer, providing an escape from the sun and a place to practice tire patching on rainy days. Other Red Shed bike camp funders include Trek Bikes, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Lorber Foundation, Providence Recreation, Central Providence Health Equity Zone, and Kelson Foundation. We truly appreciate this thoughtful support!

ADAPTIVE CYCLING ADVENTURES FOR VETERANS

In September, we teamed up with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and All Out Adventures to host adaptive cycling rides for military veterans with disabilities and their families. With a range of recumbent trikes, tandems, and handcycles, more than 30 riders enjoyed a gorgeous ride on the bike path along the Woonasquatucket Greenway. With some folks experiencing the thrill of cycling for the first time in decades, these rides were a true team effort that includes all of you, our donors.

RHODE TO BICYCLE SAFETY IN RI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To expand access to cycling even further, WRWC's Bicycle Program Director Donny Green created the Rhode to Bicycle Safety program. We have partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to offer this school-based program to fifth graders. Schools can incorporate Rhode to Bicycle Safety into their physical education programs at no additional cost. We bring bikes to schools for hands-on experience, and every student receives a helmet. Road to Bicycle Safety has launched in schools in Providence, Pawtucket, Barrington, and Newport.



Tandem tricycles glide along the bike path during one of September's adaptive cycling days.

Want to bring Rhode to Bicycle Safety to your community? Contact Donny at dgreen@wrwc.org.

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YOUR SUPPORT HELPS WRWC EMPLOY AWESOME INTERNS LIKE TALIQ TILLMAN VIGIL: RIVER RANGER AND BIOREMEDIATION RESEARCHER.

During the summer of 2018, Taliq Tillman Vigil (they/them) became a summer Junior River Ranger, and this summer, we were thrilled to welcome them back as a full-fledged River Ranger and bioremediation researcher.

In addition to caring for the Woonasquatucket Greenway as part of the River Ranger Team, Taliq is researching bioremediation—that is, methods for using plants and other organisms to rehabilitate lands damaged by toxins. Taliq concluded their summer WRWC work with a presentation on using fungi to decompose dioxins in contaminated water and soil. This process may help clean up the Centredale Manor Superfund site, offering a nature-based approach to undoing the damage that has made neighbors' use of the river unsafe. Taliq shared, "This research is based on indigenous knowledge drawn from Peru, Seattle, and other places facing similar challenges."

We are grateful to you for helping us bring creative young minds like Taliq to us to offer their powerful new perspective to our ongoing work.



Taliq Tillman Vigil: River Ranger and Bioremediation Researcher.

YOU HELP NEW VOICES / NUEVAS VOCES BE HEARD

With strong support from donors and partners, we launched New Voices/Nuevas Voces, an eight-month long community leadership program. This initiative aimed to prepare our cohort of community residents for discussions on climate related issues such as flooding, storm surge and urban heat effect while also connecting them to local and state leaders, organizations, partners, and assets.

On August 25, 2021, we proudly witnessed 16 Latinx women living in frontline communities receive a certificate of completion and a citizen's citation from Mayor Elorza of Providence. Their actions included community canvassing, neighborhood

engagement and outreach, an art installation denoting the severity of rising sea levels, and participation in public meetings to discuss ways to address the threat of flooding.

We are committed to providing New Voices/Nuestras Voces participants with the necessary resources and tools that best serve our rich and diverse communities, including language access tools for Spanish and English speakers. As we plan for the next cohort, your ongoing support will help us to invest in technology that allows simultaneous translation. Your donations will make a transformative difference for the next wave of incredible community leaders.



The New Voices/Nuevas Voces in Donigian Park at the start of their summer community canvassing event.



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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: LEO TRACEY, CATHEDRAL ART METAL

Leo Tracey is President of Cathedral Art Metal, a manufacturer of inspirational and religious gifts occupying a former mill building on the banks of the Woonasquatucket in Providence. Since 2019, Cathedral Art Metal has generously supported our work with a multi-year monthly donation. Leo's reason for donating: "We have seen Olneyville change and improve in so many ways because of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council's work, so we donate to help in our own way." We are extraordinarily grateful to Leo and the whole Cathedral Art Metal team for their steadfast support.

Now it's your turn. Please join "Team Woony" as a donor. We are grateful for each and every contribution, and we work hard to ensure that your dollars make a real impact on our community. Donors at every level make a huge difference and we thank you all. We wish to recognize our strongest supporters here:



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Leo Tracey, President of Cathedral Art Metal.



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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

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