



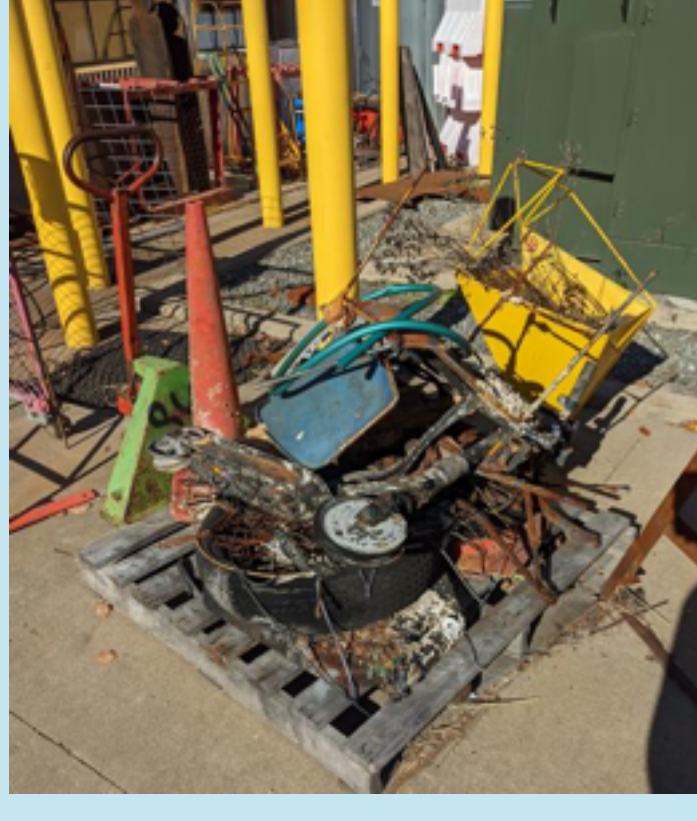
## CRMC, partners create educational marine debris exhibit

The old adage states that one man's trash is another man's treasure, but for RI CRMC's Danni Goulet it's also a learning tool – to remind people that their trash doesn't magically disappear once it's thrown away.

Goulet, CRMC's marine infrastructure coordinator, is transforming some of the trash and debris collected from the dredging of Waterplace Park and adjacent section of the river into a traveling educational art installation. It will be a visual reminder that things we toss on the ground or even in trash cans don't go away, and can end up in the water, and find their way into the river and the ocean.

Last winter when the CRMC and its partners - the City of Providence, the Providence Foundation, project manager The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island, and the 195 Commission – dredged Waterplace Park and part of the river from the Francis Street bridge next to the Providence Place Mall to the Crawford Street Bridge, it got more than the sand it sucked off the bottom.

In addition to dredging approximately 20,000 cubic yards of material from the river basin bottom, contractor J.F. Brennan, Inc. retrieved 13 scooters, countless bicycles and parts, clothing and shoes, and enough garbage and debris to fill a 30-yard Dumpster.



Some of the debris removed during the dredge project

*"That trash cost the dredge project an additional \$400,000 in time and equipment. We want this installation to not only remind people of where their trash can wind up, but that there are real costs in addition to the environmental costs." - Danni Goulet, CRMC marine infrastructure coordinator*

Goulet wanted this experience to be a "teachable moment" for Rhode Islanders. He dried out the plastic debris and garbage in a City of Providence-owned warehouse space. TNC put out a call for artists, and The Steel Yard responded. With Goulet's design vision, local welders-in-training, existing project partners and new partners (the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Sea Grant, The Avenue Concept, and Rhode Island Waterfront Events) are breathing life into the piece of traveling art.

Artists/welders work on a piece of the exhibit's frame

[Read more here](#)

## CRMC funds seven restoration projects

The RI CRMC has awarded funding for seven habitat restoration projects in the 18th year of its RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund (CEHRF).

The Council approved the funding at a semi-monthly meeting in early March. Projects included numerous fish passage and connectivity improvements in the Pawcatuck River, Ten Mile River, and Mattatuxet River. Projects also had a resiliency focus this year, including a dune habitat restoration project, a salt marsh adaptation project, and restoring coastal habitats and increasing stewardship at Common Fence Point. Another project seeks to improve in-water and bank habitat on the Woonasquatucket River. As with the previous years, in its request for proposals the CRMC put special emphasis on projects that would enhance the resiliency of Rhode Island's coastal habitats to climate change and sea level rise.

To date and including this year, the Trust Fund has awarded \$3.9 million for 143 projects, which have leveraged more than \$30 million in matching funds. In its 18 years, the Trust Fund has helped to restore over 300 acres of coastal and estuarine habitat. The full report is on the CRMC web site at <http://www.crmc.ri.gov/habitatrestoration.html>. Photos of the projects are available upon request.



Engineering Consultants conducting field surveys and sediment sampling downstream of the Potter Hill Dam (photo courtesy of TNC)

[Read more here](#)

## CRMC rewards RI students for science fair projects



The RI CRMC has awarded gift cards to five Rhode Island junior, middle and high school students for their winning projects in the 2021 Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair.

This year's science and engineering fair was held virtually because of the pandemic, and showcased engineering, science and environmental projects from students from grades 6 through 12. This year students showed a total of 200 projects, and the CRMC awarded VISA gift cards for projects on solar energy/efficiency, micro plastics, water quality, and wind turbine technology. There was no science fair in 2020.

The students were winners of the individual science fairs at their schools; teachers are allowed to send as many as 15 winners per school. The CRMC awarded prizes in the special awards category, which allows organizations and groups to set their own criteria and choose their own winners.

The Council has been giving out special awards for the science fair for 20 years. Special awards were established as a way for local businesses and organizations to promote what they do and get students interested in science and engineering-related research.

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