

CRMC, partners dredge Waterplace Park, portion of Providence River

The CRMC is dredging Waterplace Park in downtown Providence to remove years of road silt and sand from the river basin bottom, which will also restore the full function of the Water Fire events.

Work began mid-November, and crews have stopped work for the holidays. Dredging will resume on January 3, 2020, and there is approximately a week to 10 days' worth of work left.

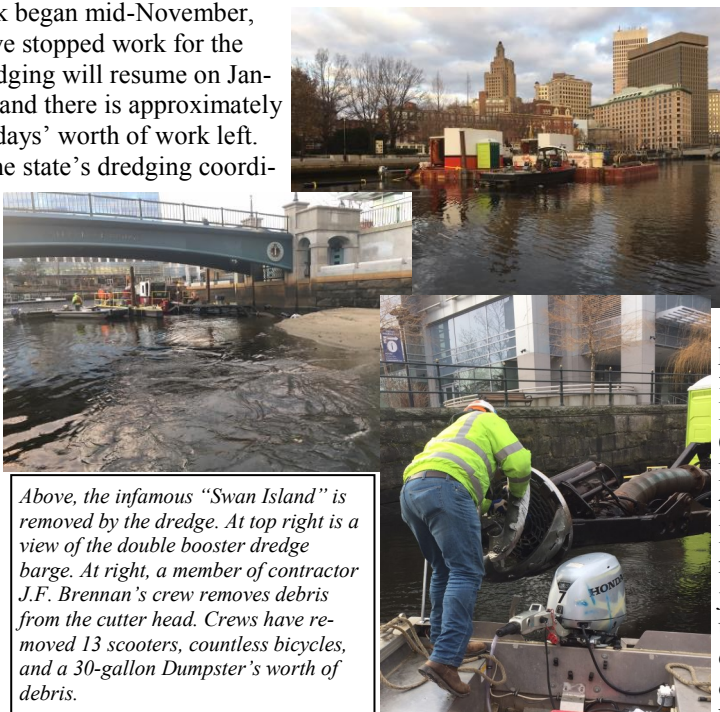
As the state's dredging coordinator, the CRMC is working with project manager The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Rhode Island, as well as the City of Providence, R.I. Department of Transportation, 195 Commission, and Providence Foundation to remove material from bank to bank from the Amtrak bridge under the Providence Place Mall to the Crawford Street Bridge piers. It will be beneficially reused at a redevelopment site in the city and possibly to cap a

landfill in Pawtucket, and the silty material will either be beneficially reused by TNC for marsh creation and elevation in the Seekonk River, or trucked to a Providence Redevelopment lot at 70 Houghton Street.

The dredge runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The city will be reusing much of the sandy material for its road sanding supply.

Funding for this project comes from the Green Economy and Clean Water Bond, of which the State of Rhode Island secured \$7 million. The project requires the use of a specialty dredge mounted on a low-profile barge. According to CRMC's Danni Goulet, who is managing the project for the agency, the project will restore the majority of Waterplace Park to its originally constructed depths.

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Above, the infamous "Swan Island" is removed by the dredge. At top right is a view of the double booster dredge barge. At right, a member of contractor J.F. Brennan's crew removes debris from the cutter head. Crews have removed 13 scooters, countless bicycles, and a 30-gallon Dumpster's worth of debris.

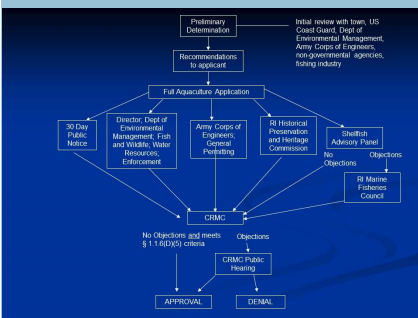
Aquaculture workshop gathers feedback for industry

A first in a series of meetings brought aquaculturists, regulators, and town officials together to discuss user conflicts, and the process of permitting the state's shellfish aquaculture leases.

Held on November 19 at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, officials from the Towns of Charlestown, Narragansett, and South Kingstown, the CRMC, and growers discussed each side of the user conflicts that the industry brings to Rhode Island.

"We got everybody together here because we know that we are sharing the Commons, and it's a privilege for us to share the Commons," said Matt Behan, owner of Behan Family Farms and president of the Ocean State Aquaculture Association. "Everybody wants to be good neighbors. There haven't been a whole lot of issues, and I think that the permitting process is pretty good. People that have their farms are generally doing pretty [well] without a whole lot of user conflict problems, but we want to make sure that stays the case."

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CRMC aquaculture permitting process

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