

Council approves Waterplace Park dredging

This fall, the RI CRMC will be dredging Waterplace Park in downtown Providence in order to restore the full function of the Water Fire events, and to remove years of road silt and sand from the river basin bottom. The CRMC Council approved the maintenance dredge permit at its October 8 meeting.



As the state's dredging coordinator, the CRMC will be 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 approximately 22,000 cubic yards of material from bank to bank from the Amtrak bridge under the Providence Place Mall to the Crawford Street Bridge piers. The material 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 CRMC plans to begin the dredging November 15, 2019 and the dredge will be running 24 hours a day, seven days a week until February 15, 2020. The City of Providence plans to close Peck Street during the duration of the project for through trucking, and the Water Fire braziers will be removed prior to work beginning. The city will be reusing much of the sandy material for its road sanding supply.

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CRMC seeks pre-proposals for Trust Fund projects

The CRMC is seeking pre-proposals for habitat restoration project funding through its R.I. Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund. The General Assembly established the Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Program to facilitate design, planning, construction, and monitoring of coastal and estuarine restoration projects by providing grants and technical assistance. The program is administered by the CRMC with support from the Fund's Technical Advisory Committee.

Proposed projects must be located within Rhode Island. Priority will be placed on those projects that seek to enhance coastal habitats' resiliency to climate change and sea level rise; for example, projects that remove barriers to future wetland migration with sea level rise or that enhance shoreline vegetation where habitat is threatened by increased coastal erosion. Project pre-proposals are due by 4 p.m. on November 15, 2019.

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Whitehouse EEO Leaders Day focuses on activism

The tone of Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's 10th annual Energy, Environment, and Ocean Leader's Day was decidedly more direct when addressing the climate change discussion.

Whitehouse is well-known for his passionate commentary on all subjects related to climate change, both for his native Rhode Island and the nation, as well as his fiery climate change talks, "Time to Wake Up," of which he has given to Congress 254 times.

"Climate denial is a castle that you might want to take over, occupy, and tear down, but you can bang your head against the castle wall [to get in], or you can look for the lock," he told a large crowd at the Rhode Island Convention Center on October 4. "And I'm looking for those tumblers in the lock."

Whitehouse explained that things are finally changing across the country; the tumblers are lining up. Climate change is visual, it is happening before our eyes, and the impacts are being felt in real time. "The business community gets it, and 10 years ago they couldn't give a hot damn about the environment."

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