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THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. Date

Approved..... Mayor

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN ECONOMY AND
CLEAN WATER BOND

WHEREAS: state partnership programs to help municipalities protect their special places and farmland, develop parks, establish bike paths, and remediate/redevelop contaminated brownfields sites have long been effective in helping Warwick make important economic and quality of life investments in our community’s future; and

WHEREAS: the Comprehensive Community Plan for the City of Warwick documents the City’s objectives for open space protection, parks and outdoor recreation facilities, transportation infrastructure, stormwater management and flood prevention; and

WHEREAS: investments in land conservation, parks and bike paths are fundamental to Warwick’s quality of life, strengthen our communities, and enhance the health of our community’s residents; and

WHEREAS: completing the state’s network of bike paths will: enhance connections between communities, workplaces and parks; promote health and fitness; and increase the State’s appeal as a tourist and outdoor recreation destination expanding this sector of our economy; and

WHEREAS: funding for remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites in our community will create jobs, protect public health, and help us to revitalize our village centers by transforming liabilities and underused or abandoned properties in productive places generating increased local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS: municipal projects financed in part with past state Open Space and Recreation Bond funds have enabled the City to implement our adopted Comprehensive Community Plan, preserve our community character and enhance our quality of life by protecting the special places and improving parks and outdoor recreation facilities in our community; and

WHEREAS: the Governor’s fiscal year 2019 budget proposes a \$48.5 million Green Economy AND Clean Water Bond for open space protection, parks and bikeway development, stormwater management, brownfield restoration, coastal resiliency and public access, clean water and drinking water, wastewater treatment facility resiliency and dam safety programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Warwick respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly include an authorization in the State Fiscal 2019 Budget for the \$48.5 million Green Economy and Clean Water Bond

1 referendum proposed by Governor Raimondo for voter consideration at the November 2018
2 General Election.

3
4 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

5
6 SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN TRAVIS
7 ON BEHALF OF MAYOR AVEDISIAN

8
9 COMMITTEE: FINANCE

2018 **\$48.5 MILLION**



green economy and clean water bond



Green Economy **\$28 MILLION**

The value of Rhode Island's network of historic parks, bikeways and open spaces goes beyond providing beautiful places and scenic greenways for public enjoyment. This network is an important contributor to the state's economy and ability to attract people and businesses to Rhode Island. Each year, our parks delight millions of visitors and generate jobs and revenue that support state and local economies – while our farms support continued growth of the state's vibrant food sector.

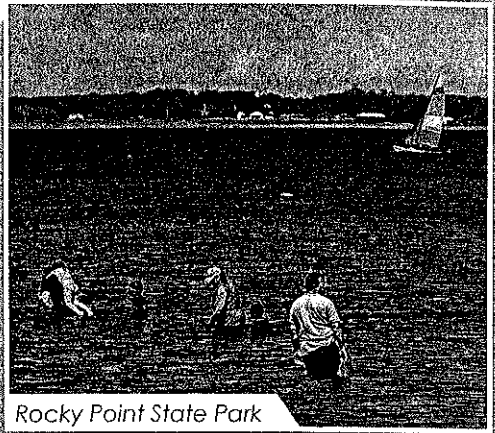
LOCAL RECREATION: \$5 MILLION in matching grants to improve community parks and recreation facilities. Studies show access to green space improves health, promotes stronger social ties, and enhances neighborhood satisfaction and pride. The 2018 grant round for the remaining 2016 Green Bond funds closed this month with requests totaling twice the available funds.

BIKEWAYS: \$5 MILLION investment to expand and improve the safety of the state's bikeway network, including the East Bay Bike Path, for bicyclists and pedestrians. There are more than 60 miles of bike paths in Rhode Island, supporting the use of nearly two million people each year.

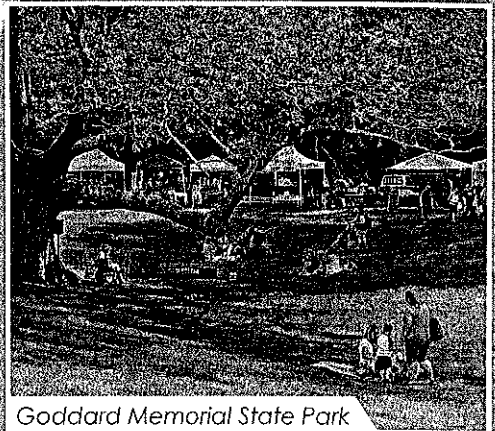
FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE: \$4 MILLION investment to protect historic farmlands and open space that enhance our communities and fill gaps within state conservation areas. Rhode Island is leading the nation in food-system planning and innovation – spurred on by a growing demand for fresh, locally grown food among consumers. This investment helps preserve historic farmlands and put them within reach of farmers looking for land.

STATE PARKS: \$10 MILLION investment to improve park facilities. DEM is currently evaluating capital needs across several properties, including Fort Adams State Park, which is the site of popular events including the Newport Folk Festival, Newport Jazz Festival, and Volvo Ocean Race.

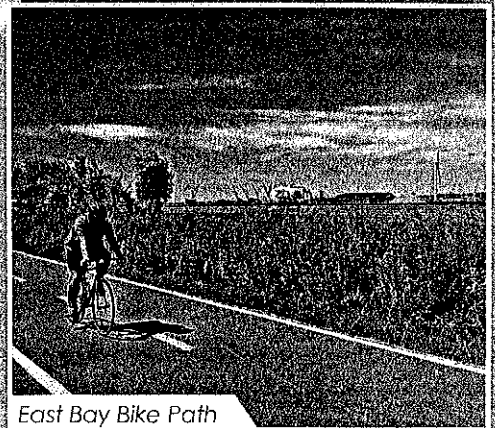
BROWNFIELDS: \$4 MILLION in matching grants to clean up former industrial sites or "brownfields" so they may be returned to tax rolls, create jobs, and revitalize our neighborhoods. Through the Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund, the State has already invested \$5 million into 23 projects in ten communities, and will soon be funding new projects across the state through the 2016 Green Economy Bond. So far, these grants have leveraged close to \$575 million in additional investments and support thousands of jobs – resulting in new businesses, schools, and housing on formerly vacant properties.



Rocky Point State Park



Goddard Memorial State Park



East Bay Bike Path

According to a recent URI study, the State's 22 major recreational facilities generate more than



94 MILLION
VISITS



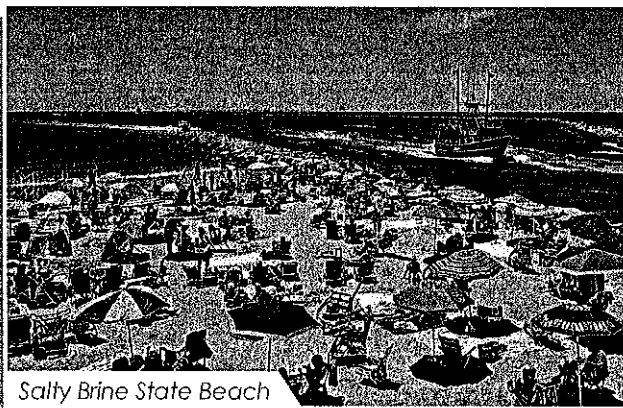
\$311 MILLION
CONSUMER SPENDING



3,709 JOBS
ANNUALLY

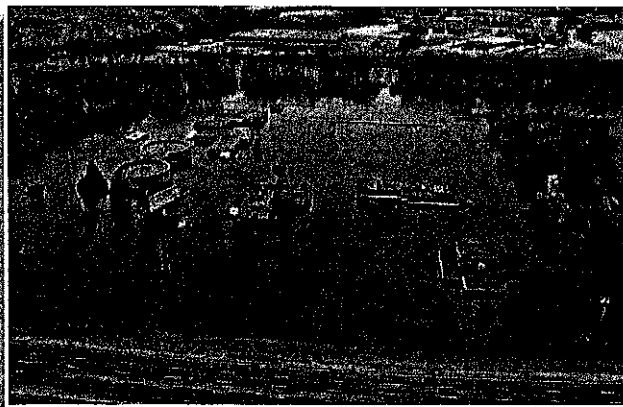
2018 **\$48.5 MILLION** 
green
 economy and
clean
 water bond

The health and vitality of our lands, waters, and communities support our way of life and economy in Rhode Island. This bond invests in water quality, land cleanup, farmland, recreational facilities, and open space to ensure our state remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.



Salty Brine State Beach

They call Rhode Island the Ocean State for a reason. Between our ocean frontage and Narragansett Bay we are blessed with spectacular stretches of beachfront and beautiful views.



The flooded Warwick wastewater facility sits between the surging Pawtuxet and the closed Interstate 95 during the floods of 2010.

Clean Water
\$20.5 MILLION

COASTAL RESILIENCY & PUBLIC ACCESS: \$5 MILLION in matching grants for projects that improve Rhode Islanders' access to our 400 miles of coastline. Investments will support efforts to reduce or eliminate flooding risk in coastal or inland areas and promote green infrastructure and climate resilience.

CLEAN WATER & DRINKING WATER: \$6.1 MILLION investment in the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) to improve the environmental quality of our state's waters including Narragansett Bay, create jobs, and make Rhode Island a better place to live, work, and play. These matching funds will unlock \$35 million in federal funds over two years and an additional \$150 - \$200 million in private sector capital. The SRFs are co-managed by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, DEM, and Rhode Island Department of Health.


WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY RESILIENCY: \$5 MILLION in matching grants will help ensure water quality by protecting wastewater treatment facilities from flooding and impacts of climate change identified in a recent vulnerability assessment. Together, Rhode Island's 19 wastewater treatment facilities purify close to 100 million gallons of sewage each day.

DAM SAFETY: \$4.4 MILLION to repair or remove "high-hazard" state-owned dams. Rhode Island is experiencing 10 more inches of rainfall annually than in the 1940s, further stressing dam structures.



 www.DEM.RI.gov

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Questions? Contact Joe Masino, DEM Legislative Liaison at 401-222-4700, ext. 2038 or joseph.masino@dem.ri.gov