



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management

REVITALIZATION



Completion: Fall 2020

Environmental Protection Supporting Livable Communities, and a Sustainable Future!

RHODE

Issue 9 SPRING 2023

A DIFFERENT VIEW of the PAWTUCKET TUNNEL PROJECT

By: Mark Dennen



Above: View from the 60 foot shaft of the Phase III CSO Tunnel in Pawtucket. More photos on next page.

Perspective is everything!

The project of storing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) water underground until it can be treated by the Narragansett Bay Commission, is underway. It involves drilling a 30 foot diameter tunnel through 11,600 feet of solid bed-rock. This project will generate about 800,000 tons of muck. As the source rock is the meta-sedimentary Rhode Island Formation, much of it has relatively high levels of naturally occurring arsenic (on average 15 mg/kg). The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is working with the Narragansett Bay Commission and BETA Group to ensure that all of this material finds an appropriate reuse.

Newsletter prepared by Filomena DaSilva

Swiffer or SWIFR



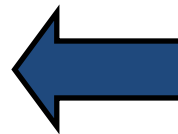
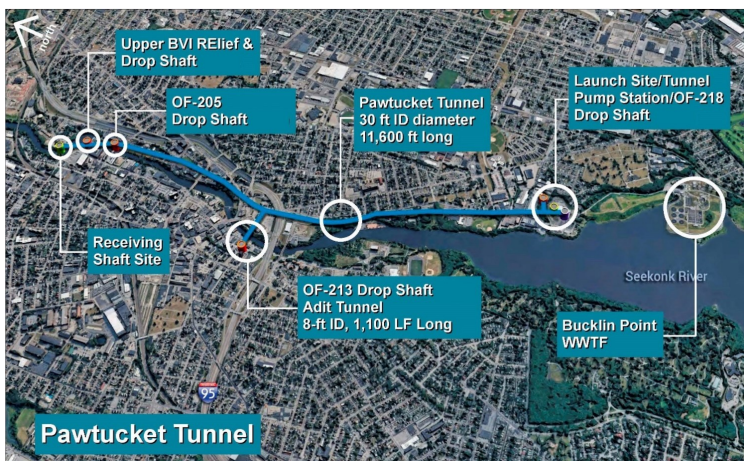
By: Alyson Brunelli

“SWIFR” You may be wondering why so many people are talking about a duster with so much excitement. This SWIFR, is not the Swiffer with which we are acquainted. This SWIFR is not going to clean your blinds but it may help clean our state. Here is what it is:

[Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program](#) funded by the federal [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). The RI Department of Environmental Management has filed an application to take part as the lead agency in partnership with the Department of Administration, RI Resource Recovery Corporation, and RI Division of Commerce for the non-compete grant. Mark Dennen, Supervising Scientist for the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM) is the main point of contact. The funds will be utilized to create a true Comprehensive Waste Management Plan for RI that examines more than solid waste going to the Landfill. The intent is to take a holistic look at waste for RI and move away from simply creating, collecting, then recycling or landfilling a solid. Ideally that stream can fork in many different directions when Extended Producer Responsibility is introduced for many additional materials

SWIFR...Cont'd on Pg. 3

Additional Photos of the Pawtucket Tunnel Project



Left: Image courtesy of Narragansett Bay Commission



Bottom Left and Above: Different views of the inside of the tunnel. Courtesy of GoLocalProv

In Case You Haven't Heard....

By: Ashley Blauvelt

The 2022 Green Economy Bond was voted on favorably by Rhode Islanders, which means the RIDEM's Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM) is preparing for the next round of brownfields grants through the Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund. This fund was first established in 2014 in order to encourage the reuse of brownfields throughout Rhode Island by providing an opportunity to apply for funding assistance for remedial investigation, redevelopment, remedial design, construction of remedies, and other associated work that comes with revitalizing a brownfield site. Currently, LRSMM is working on the latest Request for Proposals (RFP) and guidelines and plans to officially announce and post the 2023 RFP later this Spring. Click [here](#) to get in touch with Ashley Blauvelt from LRSMM or to be added to the email list which will send you an alert when the RFP is posted and be on the lookout for a press release announcing more details!



TIDEWATER LANDING

By: Joe Martella

The Tidewater Landing project is ready for the construction of its new soccer stadium!

On March 5, 2020, the office of LRSMM issued an Order of Approval (OOA) for the Tidewater former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site in Pawtucket. Work has been ongoing since shortly after the OOA was issued, and all the primary remedial work has been completed. While construction activities associated with the approved remedy are completed, there are still three separate post-remediation construction projects being conducted at the site. These include the on-going work associated with relocation of the existing Combined Sewage Outfall (CSO) by the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC); the on-going installation of electrical equipment in the newly constructed electrical control house by Rhode Island Energy (RIE); and the continued stadium construction activities by Fortuitous Partners for the future home of the Rhode Island Football Club (RIFC) soccer team. It should be noted that the soccer stadium is one of the key components of the larger area-wide redevelopment and revitalization project known as Tidewater Landing, which will include mixed use development across the Seekonk River from the Tidewater site, and construction of a pedestrian bridge to connect venues on the two sides of the river.

SWIFRCont'd from Previous Pg

such as bottles, packaging, solar panels, needles, etc. This plan could tell us where and how we need to increase our food waste composting infrastructure i.e. a county requires a compost facility, an anaerobic digester, or merely an unpackaging unit. Which materials should be captured curbside and which others are better suited to be collected via more sophisticated means? What wastes should be banned from the landfill? In addition, some funds will be directed towards further work to offer technical assistance to schools which have been mandated to divert food waste and offer technical assistance to large-scale compost facilities currently coming online. For questions, click [here](#) to reach Alyson Brunelli at the Office of LRSMM.



Staff Corner

Cumberlandite Tour

Mark Dennen, a Certified Professional Geologist with RIDEM's Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials (LRSMM), hosted a tour recently of the only site where the official state rock of RI, cumberlandite, occurs in North America. Mark presented one series that sold out earlier this year and therefore created another session for April 29th. To register for the April 29th tour, click on this [link](#) . You can also view a clip of Mark's previous tour [here](#). For more information on future events, check out the Blackstone Heritage site: <https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/events/>



The Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management is currently hiring

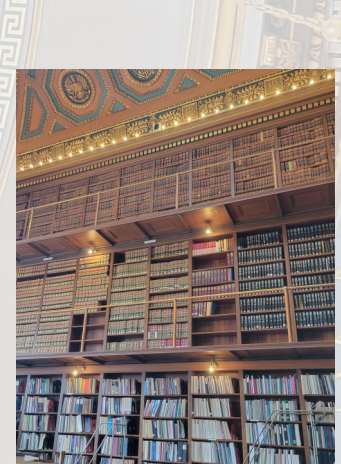


....entry level scientists and engineers. Click [here](#) to apply or go directly to apply.ri.gov to view open positions.

LRSM STAFF TAKES TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE to the STATE HOUSE

By: Filomena DaSilva

Several staff from the Office of LRSM recently took a tour of the Rhode Island State House as a team building exercise during RIDEM's 5C Week, which hosts a week long agenda of activities geared towards strengthening staff relationships and connectivity with RI's iconic properties, among other ventures. The guided tour, presented by Ann Teixeira from the Secretary of State's Office, was delightful and extraordinarily informative. The beauty of the building alone left one in amazement during the visit, yet the various tidbits of intriguing, historical information offered throughout the journey are such that can only be obtained through taking part in the experience. Among the many details offered, staff learned that the building is constructed of 327,000 cubic feet of white Georgia marble, contains 15 million bricks, and how the maintenance crew changes lightbulbs on the 1000lb chandelier at the center of the building's dome, the fourth largest self-supported marble dome in the world. Following the tour, staff headed over to the Dept. of Administration building to enjoy that day's delectable lunch specials followed by a picturesque walk back to RIDEM's main headquarters on Promenade Street.



Photos courtesy of Filomena DaSilva and Leo Hellested





OSCAR the Q&A Mascot

By: Filomena DaSilva



This Week's Message: REMOVING LARGE, BULKY PLASTICS

Now that Spring is around the corner, many people are finding themselves cleaning out different areas in their homes. If you come across unused bulky, rigid plastics, such as kiddie pools, plastic pallets, or something similar that you no longer need, continue reading to ensure that item gets to the best spot. As a general rule, only plastics that are ≤ 5 gallons are eligible for your mixed recycling.

First, if you are thinking of disposing of it, check with your local city or town, as they may have specific instructions for large items based on the type of trash collection in your area. Also inquire about any additional fees that may be charged so you are not taken by surprise. If you believe the item is still in good condition and can be reused by someone else, check out a few online sources, such as www.fullcirclerecyclingri.com/plastic, www.freecycle.org, www.5miles.com. As the old saying goes, "One person's trash is another person's treasure". This is a great way to recycle older items that you no longer have a need for and make a little extra income. Remember, there are always consignment or thrift shops and of course the good old yard sale adventure which you will start seeing more of as the days get warmer. Happy cleaning!

To submit questions for our future editions of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** click [here](#).

HOW TO CLEAN THE HOUSE



HOW TO CLEAN THE HOUSE

1. Open a new file in your PC .
2. Name it "Housework."
3. Send it to the RECYCLE BIN.
4. Empty the Recycle Bin.
5. Your PC will ask you, "Are you sure you want To delete Housework permanently?"
6. Calmly answer, "Yes," and press mouse button firmly.....
7. Feel better?
Works for me!

