



EAST PROVIDENCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



2008 Annual Report

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The East Providence Conservation Commission had a busy and active year, with numerous new and ongoing projects of note.

The Commission reviewed, and made recommendations on, several initiatives including street abandonments, land donations, and the Turner Reservoir Raised Walkway Project.

The Commission sponsored a Rain Barrel sale early in the year in conjunction with the New England Rain Barrel Company. Nearly 120 rain barrels were sold, which were then distributed to City residents on April 18, 2008 at the Pierce Memorial Field Parking Lot. One dollar from every barrel purchased was designated to supplement the Commission's annual budget. The success of this event and interest expressed by City residents following the sale promoted the Commission to arrange for a similar sale and distribution for 2009.

Long-time Commission member Nancy Stevens informed members that her term will be expiring at the end of the year and she will not be seeking reappointment. She will, however, be happy to assist the Commission on any projects where she can be helpful. The Commission thanked Nancy for her many years of service to the Commission and the City of East Providence and wished her well.

The Commission participated in the Footsteps at the Turner Reservoir event organized by the Ten Mile River Watershed Alliance on Columbus Day, with assistance from the City of East Providence. This very successful event was attended by roughly 75 area residents and provided the opportunity for a guided walk along the Turner Reservoir Loop Trail during the height of foliage season. The Hunts Mills historic site was used as the base for this event, and the Hunt House and Pump House were open for viewing.

Commission members were asked at the end of the year for their input on the state-mandated 2009 update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission added a resin table and canopy to its inventory for use at various outdoor events, and a large Conservation Commission banner was designed "in house" and purchased.

The City, through the Commission, is a partner in the Seekonk Area Trails initiative, which is an effort to develop a trail network on nearby YMCA and Town of Seekonk property that would link up with our Turner Reservoir Loop Trail. The National Park Service is providing assistance with this effort, which should prove of significant recreational benefit for both Seekonk and East Providence.

A grant application for improvements on the Boyden Heights Conservation area trail was being prepared at year's end.