



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 8 WINTER 2022

## Tidewater in Pawtucket Finally Starting To See the Light of Day

By: Filomena DaSilva



*Left: Historical Tidewater Landing site. Above: Proposed development of the Southeastern side of the site. All photos taken from the Tidewater Landing Facebook Page.*

Cleaning up the Tidewater Landing site in Pawtucket has been an understatement. It has taken several years and is still nowhere near ready, but the clouds are lifting and the project is slowly moving forward. The latest feat in the city took place this past October where Rhode Island Energy completed cleanup of a portion of the brownfields area before developer, Fortuitous Partners, begins their new soccer stadium plans scheduled for a 2024 kickoff date. “The operational history of the Tidewater-



# LRSMM STAFF SAMPLES FOR PFAS

By Nick Noons

Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM) staff have initiated a Statewide Background Assessment of PFAS in soil to help inform the development of PFAS criteria under the *Remediation Regulations*. Other New England States have conducted similar background studies and have found higher levels of certain PFAS, particularly PFOA and PFOS, than expected in background soils. A Rhode Island specific study was deemed necessary due to the potential differences in regional sources. For example, Vermont has been impacted by aerial deposition of PFAS from manufacturing facilities and historical land application of paper mill and wastewater residuals has had notable impacts in Maine.



(Left to right) New-hire Patty Burke and Michelle Furbeck log a soil sample collected at High Rocks Gorge in North Smithfield.

A representative number of background sample locations were selected across the State on DEM properties and other State-owned land. Sampling is currently ongoing, and the results of the study are anticipated in early 2023.

## Tidewater

Cont'd from Front Pg

er site extends back into the late 1800's, and its regulatory history with Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management extends back at least three decades", says Joseph Martella, an Environmental Engineer with RIDEM's Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM). Although Martella has worked with this site for over 25 years, it has a fairly complicated history because of the contamination associated with the different activities throughout the years.

This past Summer, Tidewater broke ground and according to their Facebook page, they say it will be "more than just soccer" for the city. "It will be a hub of activity for residents and visitors alike. A riverwalk, retail shops, restaurants, housing, concerts, community events and more". The project is expected to create thousands of jobs and spur economic activity and growth within Pawtucket. Leo Hellested, Administrator for the Office of LRSMM, noted that he was glad to see this project moving along and that the outcome will be a real win for Pawtucket. "It's fantastic that it's formally breaking ground, an awesome mile stone", he concluded.



More recently, the Boston Globe wrote an article highlighting the progress at Tidewater. Click [here](#) for the entire story and additional photos.



# East Providence Breaks Ground at Bold Point Park

By: Filomena DaSilva

**The** old UNOCAL (Union Oil Company of California) site in East Providence became inactive in 1984 and was left in environmental ruins. Last month, the City of East Providence, the East Providence Waterfront Commission & the RI Waterfront Enterprises broke ground on a \$30 million concert venue for that same location. The property was listed as a brownfield site by the US EPA years ago and has some work to be done before it is ready for patrons, but with assistance from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, consultants, and many others, it seems to be headed in a suitable direction. Initial plans for the site include public access to the waterfront, outdoor concerts and other amenities to be enjoyed in the warmer weather. “Bold Point Park has become a signature, outdoor destination for entertainment for Rhode Island,” says Governor Dan McKee. “This venue, will be first class, state-of-the-art, and part of a new Rhode Island that we are building.” RIDEM’s Director, Terrance Gray, noted that this is “another sequence of projects along the city of East Providence waterfront that takes a site that is underused with a few environmental challenges and makes it into something amazing. It’s a success story.”



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

from everyone at the Office of LRSMM



**LRSMM wishes  
all our readers  
a happy and  
healthy 2023**

# Staff Corner

## LRSMM STAFF MEMBER SELECTED TO ASTSWMO'S DISPOSAL & CONVERSION TASK FORCE

*By: Filomena DaSilva with input from ASTSWMO's Kerry Callahan*



The Disposal and Conversion Task Force within the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Materials Management Subcommittee has recently welcomed Robert Schmidt as its new Region 1 representative. The mission of the Task Force is to assist State and Territorial solid waste managers and staff by providing solid waste program development & waste conversion technology information, and providing input to EPA and other interested parties on their proposed rules, priorities, and initiatives for solid waste management. Each Task Force within ASTSWMO has a total of 10 members, one per EPA Region. As a regional representative, Schmidt and other members will be expected to conduct outreach to each State or Territory in their respective Region to seek input and keep them informed of issues being addressed by the Task Force. These individuals will assist in addressing rulemakings, and program and policy issues related to their scope of work. Depending on the subject matter, the group may also work cross-programmatically with other Task Forces within the Materials Management Subcommittee or across other ASTSWMO Subcommittees. Members organize sessions relevant to each Task Force's area of interest for ASTSWMO meetings which are generally held monthly to discuss ongoing projects. Congratulations Robert!

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## LRSMM WELCOMES NEW SCIENTISTS



Patty Burke graduated from UMass Boston in 2019 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Biology. Previously, she worked as a Senior Pretreatment Specialist at a wastewater treatment facility in Massachusetts, where she

focused on industrial pollution source reduction and participated in PFAS research and sampling. She also worked as an Environmental Educator and Aquarist at Save the Bay in Providence, where she taught students about the environment and Narragansett Bay. Patty is excited to join the Office of LRSMM team at RIDEM.



Jessica Carney started working with the Office of LRSMM as an Environmental Scientist in December. Previously, she worked as a Metals Analyst at an environmental testing laboratory in Rhode Island. She graduated with a M.S. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 2020 and completed her B.S. in Marine Science from Eckerd College in 2018. In her free time she enjoys hiking and reading, and she is excited to be part of this team.



# OSCAR the Q&A Mascot

By: Filomena DaSilva

## This Week's Message:

Winter weather can make things a little tricky especially when it comes to trash pickup. To ensure that your service is not disrupted, use trash bags and keep bin lids closed. Heavy wind storms can topple your trash bins. Keeping the lids closed can help reduce spillage. Remember that during the winter, bags may freeze to the bottom of the bins. Sometimes this is unavoidable, but if you have room, you may decide to move your bin to the garage to keep this from happening. Remember to dig a spot for your bin should there be snow on the ground. Placing bins on top of snow piles can prove to be a bad move. As snow melts and shifts, the can could fall and spill. A clean area helps secure the container for weekly pickups and keeps the neighborhood tidy. In a severe snowstorm, check with your local City or Town for any weather related closure announcements. Remember to collect your cans as soon as your trash has been picked up. This ensures that they are not left rolling on the streets.



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

