

2006 Bonds for Recreation, Fort Adams Restoration

Bond #7

The proposed \$4 million bond will provide \$2 million to the Department of Environmental Management to improve public recreation facilities at Fort Adams State Park and \$2 million for the Department to continue restoration work at Fort Adams, a National Historic Landmark within the park.



- Fort Adams, open daily for tours, is the largest and most complex coastal fortification of its type in North America, constructed between 1824 and 1857. Fort Adams remained in service until after World War II, providing the opportunity to interpret the history of the United States, military strategy and engineering, and the defenses of Narragansett Bay over a long period. Much restoration of the Fort has taken place, including securing openings to

prevent intruders and vandalism, restoring the north casemates for a museum, re-roofing the east front to make the officers quarters watertight, and construction of a youth overnight barracks in the officers quarters. The \$2 million restoration portion of the bond issue will permit the restoration of additional interior spaces and exterior features at the historic Fort, making them accessible to the public for use and interpretation, and to support additional users.

- Fort Adams State Park is a major open space and recreation facility for Newport, with playing fields, a public sailing and kayaking center, two museums, miles of paths for walking and biking, beach and boat launch facilities. The park attracts over 500,000 visitors annually, and is the site for major public events such as national rugby and soccer tournaments, music and dance festivals, national and international sailing regattas and visits by the Tall Ships. The \$2 million recreation portion of the bond issue will create needed public restrooms, meeting rooms, changing and storage facilities in the area of the playing fields and public sailing facilities at the state park as well as spectator seating.



Bond #8



The proposed bond will provide \$3 million to the Department of Environmental Management to provide grants to Rhode Island cities and towns for the development and/or renovation of recreation facilities.

- The Department provides grants of up to 50% of costs for the construction of local parks and recreation areas. In the past, grants have been awarded for basketball courts, skate parks, tennis courts, passive recreation areas, soccer facilities, bikeways and the like. All 39 cities and towns have received grants from the program over the past 20 years.