

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Michael Camara, and I am writing as a resident and homeowner in the Meshanticut neighborhood of Cranston to express my strong support for the proposed \$1 million allocation to restore Meshanticut Lake and Park.

First, I'd like to thank State Representative Paplauskas for championing this important initiative. His leadership in bringing this bill forward reflects the growing recognition that Meshanticut is a hidden gem — one that deserves the same investment and care we see in other public spaces across the state.

This park has long served as a quiet gathering place for residents, but its full potential has gone unrealized due to years of underinvestment. With proper support, Meshanticut can become a safe, accessible, and well-utilized park — one that benefits families, seniors, and visitors across the city.

If you look at some of Rhode Island's most successful cities — Providence, Bristol, Newport — you'll find a shared commitment to green space and public access to parks. These spaces are foundational to community health, local pride, and quality of life. Cranston, by contrast, has lacked that same level of public investment. Supporting this funding will help change that.

It's time for Meshanticut Park to build back momentum and take its place as a point of pride for Cranston. I respectfully urge you to approve this \$1 million allocation and help us realize what this park can become for our city.

Thank you for your time and leadership.