



Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
State of Rhode Island

May 12th 2025

Dear Representative Abney,

As the current Director of Parks and Recreation, after serving thirty plus years with the Providence Recreation Department, I understand firsthand how important recreational facilities, playgrounds and athletics are for the families that we interface with daily. Every effort should be made to restore and rehabilitate these venues to preserve the neighborhoods they impact across the State of Rhode Island network.

Meshanticut Lake Walking Path is one of these venues that fit this description and is important to the thousands of residents, student athletes and visitors who could experience this park. Unfortunately, the facility has lost its luster, needing serious long-term improvements to bring it back to life!

At Meshanticut Park, the 82,000 residents of Cranston have the chance to fish, canoe, picnic, run, bike, walk the dog or just sit on the bench and take in the scenic views. However, most residents enjoy walking around the facilities walking path daily. In recent years, the path has deteriorated to the point that in some areas, safety concerns exist. Tree roots have lifted areas of asphalt, large cracks have opened, and settlement has caused severe puddling during rain events.



With numerous local youth organizations and public schools using the park for training sessions, safety concerns will force these groups to find new venues very soon. The State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management oversees this beautiful facility and needs the resources to make the necessary upgrades to the walking path before it is too late.

Lastly, I am also a proud Cranston resident that knows how important this park is to the residents it serves. For all these reasons and more, I am submitting this letter of support of the Joint Resolution H 5789 to repave the Meshanticut Walking Path sponsored by Representative Paplauskas, Baginski, Potter, Lima, Fascia, Quattrocchi, McNamara and Handy. Keeping venues like this vibrant across the State touches thousands of people on an annual basis.

I hope this resolution is approved and implemented for the well-being of our residents in Cranston.

Your committee's consideration is appreciated.

Warmest Regards,

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