



Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

Parks and Recreation

Neighborhood Guild

325 Columbia St
Peace Dale, RI 02879
(401) 789-9301

Recreation Center

30 St Dominic Rd
Wakefield, RI 02879
(401) 284-1975



www.southkingstownri.com

April 13, 2026

To: Chair of House Finance
Chairman Marvin Abney
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Re: Support for House Bill 8144 – FY2027 Green Economy Bond Funding

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of South Kingstown's Parks and Recreation Department to express our strong support for increased investment in Rhode Island's Outdoor Recreation Grant Program, and specifically in support of House Bill 8144 as part of the FY2027 Green Economy Bond.

Outdoor recreation infrastructure plays a vital role in supporting public health, environmental stewardship, and local economic development. As a coastal community with a strong commitment to conservation and active living, South Kingstown has consistently prioritized the development and maintenance of accessible, sustainable recreational spaces for residents and visitors alike.

In the most recent grant cycle, South Kingstown submitted three project applications for funding consideration. Each of these proposals represented shovel-ready outdoor infrastructure improvements designed to enhance community access, improve safety, and promote environmental resilience. Despite the merit and readiness of these projects, we regret to report that none were selected for funding.

This outcome underscores a broader issue: the demand for outdoor recreation funding in Rhode Island far exceeds the resources currently available. Municipalities across the state are prepared to advance impactful projects that align with statewide goals for climate resilience, public health, and economic vitality, yet insufficient funding limits the ability to bring these initiatives to fruition.

Increased investment through the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program, supported by House Bill 8144, would:

- Enable municipalities to implement ready-to-go projects that improve quality of life for residents
- Strengthen climate resilience through thoughtful design and sustainable infrastructure
- Support local economies by enhancing tourism and outdoor amenities
- Ensure equitable access to safe and inclusive recreational spaces across all communities

South Kingstown remains committed to advancing projects that reflect these priorities, and we stand ready to partner with the state to deliver meaningful outcomes. We respectfully urge the General Assembly to support House Bill 8144 and to allocate additional funding to meet the demonstrated need for outdoor recreation investments statewide.

Re: Support for House Bill 8144 – FY2027 Green Economy Bond Funding
April 13, 2026
Pg 2

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Rhode Island's communities and natural resources.

Sincerely,



Theresa L Murphy
Leisure Services Director
Town of South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department