

## HOW YOU CAN HELP CLEAN UP OUR RIVER

### CLEAN, PLANT, BEAUTIFY

Many friends and partners work with the River Rangers: cleaning up litter, pulling tires and other junk out of the river, painting murals and planting flowers and more along the river. You can join us spring through fall for **Clean Days on the Greenway!**

### CLEANER WATER

The Narragansett Bay Commission and Woony friends test the water to check its health. People even count the fish every spring. More fish are using the river now than they have for the last 150 years!

### NATURE AT WORK

In and near Riverside Park, plants work to soak up the rain. They clean rain water before it gets to the river. We choose native plants to give animals food and places to hide or rest. Plantings also store water and help stop floods.

### EDUCATION AND RECREATION

In the classroom and at the parks, kids love our river games and lessons. By playing and learning with nature, kids become Woony River Heroes! Kids, come to summer Bike Camp! All friends can join us spring through fall to walk, bike, and paddle along the river!

### YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

Even though the river bottom is still dirty, the river water is cleaner than it was even 5 years ago. We need your help to keep pollution and litter off the streets and out of the river. Together, we can make the river safe for people to use and clean for the animals that call it home.

## WHY IS OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER CONTAMINATED?

In the past, the Woonasquatucket River (or Woony) was used by mills for power, leaving many chemicals in the river's bottom. It also is polluted from trash like tires, shopping carts and more.



## WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

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(401) 861-9046 [www.WRWC.org](http://www.WRWC.org)

# DO'S & DON'TS

## FOR THE WOODASQUATUCKET RIVER

PRONOUNCED: WOON-AH-SKWA-TUCK-IT



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

# DO'S & DON'TS



FOR THE

## WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER GREENWAY

### RHODE ISLAND

The river water is getting cleaner. Fish and birds are returning! But, the river bottom is still toxic. So please be safe and follow the Do's and Don'ts rules of the Woonasquatucket River.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Heavy rains wash pollutants from the streets into the river. It is best to steer clear of the river until 2 days after a storm.



Please contact us for assistance or more info.

[WRWC.org](http://WRWC.org) 401-861-9046

# DO'S



The Woonasquatucket River Greenway is a valuable resource that offers many fun opportunities for recreation. Until the day comes that the river bottom is safe to wade and play in, there are lots of fun things you and your family can do that will not risk your health.



WALKING



BIKING



PICNICS



CANOEING



RUNNING



SPORTS



CATCH & RELEASE



## WASH UP!

To remain safe, everyone must wash up after touching the river!!!

# DON'TS



The E.P.A. has found dioxins, PCBs, mercury and other contaminants in the river bottom of the Woonasquatucket.

Dioxins are a group of waste chemicals produced by industrial manufacturing. They are toxic even in tiny amounts and can lead to cancer and other illnesses. The highest concentrations are near the Allendale & Lymanville dams.

## NO SWIMMING, BATHING OR WADING!!!



## DON'T EAT THE FISH, EELS, ANIMALS OR ANY PLANTS THAT YOU FIND ALONG THE RIVER!!!

- Contaminated fish, eels, animals and plants may look, smell or taste fine, but they can make you ill.
- Cooking DOES NOT get rid of the contaminants.
- Fishing along the river is OK for fun, but you must throw back whatever you catch or find.
- These simple rules will ensure that you and your family will not get sick.