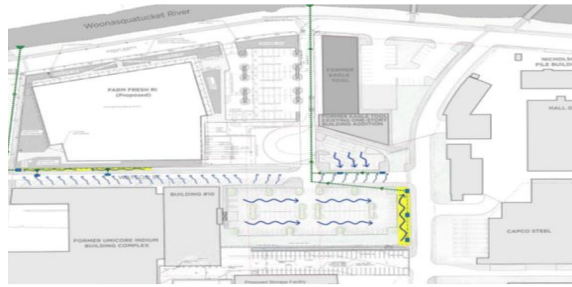


“Hope” for a New Plaza near Woonasquatucket River

Preparing a site reuse plan for Providence, Rhode Island



Project Summary

Community: Providence, Rhode Island

Technical Assistance: Site Design

Former Use: Industrial Corridor

Future Use: Multi-Use Event Plaza

Following World War II, advancements in technology reduced reliance on the power and transportation provided by the Woonasquatucket River. As a result, several industrial sites in Providence were abandoned, leaving behind contaminated soils and hazardous chemicals in the river.

The Woonasquatucket Vision Plan, prepared under a 2017 U.S. EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant, identified six catalyst brownfield sites within the Woonasquatucket Corridor. These sites could bring about transformative change to the Corridor, especially if redeveloped in line with the community priorities identified through the area-wide planning project, including improving sustainability and resiliency; creating affordable space; supporting the arts, food, and crafts; improving connectivity; and enhancing and maintaining public spaces and the Woonasquatucket River.

Community's Land Revitalization Challenge

Keeping the community's goals in mind, the City of Providence sought help with implementing a site-specific reuse vision for the Providence Redevelopment Agency (PRA) site, a catalyst site located between the Woonasquatucket River and Downtown Providence.

EPA's Land Revitalization Technical Assistance

In 2018, EPA's Land Revitalization Program provided contractor technical assistance to help the City visualize the redevelopment of the PRA site and the surrounding alleyways. The assistance resulted in the Charlotte Hope Plaza Plan.

The plan established a central multi-use parking lot and events space with creative landscape features, traffic flow improvements, and green infrastructure opportunities for stormwater management.

The City of Providence will use the Charlotte Hope Plaza reuse plan to help realize the community-desired improvements while accommodating the needs of new and existing businesses in the area.



Site design from the Charlotte Hope Plaza Plan illustrating multi-use event space and alleyway improvements.

For more information, contact Jessica Dominguez, EPA Region 1 Brownfields Program, at dominguez.jessica@epa.gov.