



# State of Rhode Island

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH M. McNAMARA, *District 19*  
*Chairman, Committee on Education*

July 29, 2022

The Honorable Frank J. Picozzi  
Mayor, City of Warwick  
75 Gristmill Road  
Warwick, RI 02889  
[Frank.j.picozzi@warwickri.com](mailto:Frank.j.picozzi@warwickri.com)

Dear Mayor Picozzi,

It has come to my attention that the owners of the property located at 175 Post Road have placed a “No Trespassing” sign over the trail marker at the head of the trail that leads to the Pawtuxet River. This action eliminates the last public access point to the Pawtuxet River Basin in the city of Warwick. This is a historic trail that has been utilized by citizens for over 5 decades. It is also an example of systemic elimination of public access to this once robust resource that was highly utilized for recreational activities by members of the community. This follows the restriction of access that started with the sale of the Dryden Heights Playground and the five acres that were purchased by Herff Jones Manufacturing, which is now enclosed by a six foot industrial fence that is topped by barbed wire. One resident of the community said to me, “living adjacent to the river we suffer all of the negative effects, such as flooding and are unable to reap any of the benefits”. This is the same neighborhood that once housed a clam bake at the turn of the century, a roller skating rink that also had canoe rentals (now Shaw’s Market) and of course Rhodes on the Pawtuxet with big bands and canoeing.

I believe that our rivers and streams deserve the same protection for public access that we give to our bay and the ocean. I will be introducing legislation that promotes access to our state’s rivers and streams and will institute a process for preserving access to these valuable resources. I would also encourage the city of Warwick to advocate for more public access to this valuable watershed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions relating to this issue. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

**Joseph M. McNamara**  
**Chairman, Health Education & Welfare**  
Representative District 19-Cranston/Warwick  
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