



Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, Inc.  
28 Bridge Street, Willimantic, CT 06226  
[www.willimanticwhitewater.org](http://www.willimanticwhitewater.org)

#### Board of Directors

Peter Leeds  
*President*

Barbara McGrath  
*Vice President*

Jean de Smet  
*Secretary*

Mark Granville  
*Treasurer*

Kristina Locke

Dan Mullins

Jana Roberson

Steve Sladyk

## Willimantic Whitewater Partnership Newsletter

### Volume 1 Number 1

April, 2024

### Welcome!

Welcome to our first newsletter. Yes, it's a little plain, but that will change. This will be sent to our email list every month on or about the 15<sup>th</sup>. Read on to see what is happening at your park!

We want to welcome everyone to Willimantic Whitewater Park, a downtown oasis of serenity AND with a wild river overlook! Your host for your park is Willimantic Whitewater Partnership. We invite you to join us on our mission of making our park even better. Join us, won't you?  
[willimanticwhitewater.org](http://willimanticwhitewater.org)

Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, 28 Bridge Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Individual annual membership is \$25. (Please see the membership form on our website or attached to this newsletter.) Sign up after October 1, and your 2025 dues are set!

### Upcoming Events At Our Park

- **Saturday, April 20, 9 - 12 Annual Day Of Giving**  
Join Eastern students and community members to "shine up" your park.
- **Saturday, April 27, 12:00 Celebrate Trails Day**  
Join Thread City Cyclers for their mid-ride stop, raffle prizes and snacks and a portable toilet, too.  
[www.threadcitycyclers.com](http://www.threadcitycyclers.com)
- **Saturday, May 4, 12:00 First Annual WWP Golf Tournament**  
Contact Kris Locke to play or sponsor, 860-771-9968.
- **Saturday, May 11, 8 - 12 Willimantic Farmers Market**  
Opening day of our season-long market; farmers, vendors, and a food truck, too. The oldest market in the state!  
[www.willimanticfarmersmarket.org](http://www.willimanticfarmersmarket.org)



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## **What's Happening With The Development Grant**

As you've probably heard, WWP was awarded a grant in 2023 to begin work on park improvements. The process has been deliberate and steady, with the interviewing and hiring of an architectural firm, which led to a community engagement component. We hosted in-person engagement as part of Willimantic's famous Chocolate Festival, and then our architectural partners conducted an extensive on-line forum. The results of this process are now being reviewed by board members. Exciting changes at the park are in the offing.

## **Membership Renewal**

You will find below a membership form for 2024 membership. Our plan does call for you to receive a tee shirt (in the future) and a sticker (as soon as you join). Our plan also calls for you to receive regular updates in the form of a newsletter.

Admittedly, we are a bit behind in our renewal efforts, as our calendar year begins January 1. Please join us with a bit of grace and forgiveness!

## **Annual Meeting**

Monthly meetings of the partnership are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Windham Community / Senior Center, 6:30 to 7:50 p.m. Meetings are open to all members and even the public.

Our annual meeting, which all members are invited to and at which all members can vote, particularly on the upcoming year's slate of officers, will be held on Wednesday, May 22.

## **Website**

Our website, following its original construction in 2018, has been undergoing an overhaul. Check it out and let us know what you think.



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Dear Willimantic Whitewater Partnership supporter:

Thank you for your interest in the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership. We want to take this opportunity to update you on the latest about our progress and ask that you consider joining us or renewing your membership.

Your Membership is Important. Joining or renewing is easy. Complete the attached Membership Form and mail it along with your dues check. Our membership year is January to December, but if you join in October or later, your membership carries through to the next year.

WWP brings together hiking, biking, and paddling enthusiasts who are interested in developing an urban recreational and whitewater park in Willimantic, which will bring economic development to the town and serve as a hub for four recreational trails: East Coast Greenway, Hop River Trail, Airline Trail, and Willimantic River Trail.

#### Hop River/Airline Trail Extension Project

2017 and 2018 were exciting. The Hop River/Airline trail extension is fully open and, as we note from our site at Bridge Street, used frequently by hikers and cyclists. We hope you are part of the community that is enjoying this trail.

#### Waterfront Park Project

We successfully completed a \$200,000 brownfield clean-up and the site is shovel-ready. A new railing has been installed on the river overlook, the building has been painted, and a trail way finding kiosk has been installed along Bridge Street.

The State Bond Commission approved a funding allocation of \$500,000 to the Town of Windham in 2021 for the Whitewater Park. The grant funding will allow the park to be greatly improved with various features and amenities. The Whitewater Partnership is now seeking individuals from the community who want to participate in this exciting new chapter.

#### Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors is updating WWP's strategic plan to help focus our efforts and move the vision of a whitewater park to completion. Please join us by sending in your membership today.

Follow us on Facebook (Willimantic Whitewater Partnership) for the latest information, news, and events. If there is anything we can do to enhance your membership experience, please email any questions or concerns to [willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com](mailto:willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

  
Peter Leeds, President

04/14/2024



## 2024 Willimantic Whitewater Partnership Membership

Complete and mail the following form to:

Willimantic Whitewater Partnership  
28 Bridge Street  
Willimantic, CT 06226

Make your check payable to **WWP**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Types:

- ☐ Student/Limited Income: \$10
- ☐ Individual: \$25
- ☐ Family: \$50
- ☐ Non-profit Organization: \$100
- ☐ Corporation: \$250

### Optional Friend of WWP donation:

**All donations are welcome!**

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$1000

If you would like to be involved with Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, please check your areas of interest.

- ☐ Social media volunteer
- ☐ Park maintenance
- ☐ River cleanup
- ☐ Gardening
- ☐ Grant writing / fundraising
- ☐ Board Member

For more information, email us at [willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com](mailto:willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com). For updates, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or our website [www.WillimanticWhitewater.org](http://www.WillimanticWhitewater.org).

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**"WWP" is a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to the development of an urban waterfront and whitewater park in downtown Willimantic, Connecticut.**