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Burying Waterfront Power Lines Will Encourage Tourism & Boost Economic Development

The high-voltage power lines on the Providence and East Providence waterfronts are a conspicuous impediment to the two cities capitalizing on their location at the head of Narragansett Bay. Other cities have shown that burying wires helps transform industrial backwaters into **popular waterfront destinations**.

CREATING AN ATTRACTIVE WATERFRONT DESTINATION WILL ENCOURAGE TOURISM

In **Providence**, the Riverwalks and the removal of overhead utility lines created an attractive public space that set the stage for Waterfire, which draws more than 1 million visitors a year who add more than \$100 million to the City’s economy. Removing the eyesore of the waterfront overhead wires would entice some of the 10 million people who speed by on I-195 on their way to the Cape and the Islands every year to stop and spend some money in RI. If just 1% of them were to spend \$100 here, they would add \$10 million to our economy.

Chattanooga, Louisville, San Antonio and other mid-size cities have buried shoreline wires and reaped major economic and civic benefits by creating attractive waterfront destinations that draw millions of people.

<p>CHATTANOOGA buried high-voltage power lines in its riverfront parks, upgraded the area, and now hosts <u>a million people</u> a year at festivals featuring music, arts, wine, boat races, and parades.</p> <p>“Burying utility lines is critical to the overall enjoyment of great public spaces.” – <i>Jim Bowen, RiverCity Company, Chattanooga</i></p>	<p>LOUISVILLE buried high-voltage wires and created Waterfront Park, which draws <u>1.5 million people</u> to over 100 events a year: boat races, concerts, and festivals of fireworks, wine tasting, hot air balloons, etc.</p> <p>“Waterfront Park has transformed a blighted industrial area into a popular gathering spot.” -- <i>NY Times</i></p>	<p>SAN ANTONIO buried utility lines on its Riverwalk, which draws about <u>5 million people</u> a year to restaurants, boat rides and festivals, making it one of the top tourist attractions in Texas.</p>
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BOOSTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL RAISE PROPERTY VALUES

Proximity to high-voltage power lines can depreciate property values by up to 30%, according to multiple studies in the US and Canada, as reported in the *Journal of Real Estate Literature* and elsewhere. Burying these wires will improve the marketability of key waterfront parcels, raise their property values, and increase the tax base of Providence and East for the foreseeable future.



Overhead waterfront power lines (solid yellow line) will be highly visible from projected development parcels in Providence and E. Providence, reducing their property value.

Waterfront developers and businesses in **Providence** (the Procaccianti Group, Residential Properties, and others) have written letters urging burial because it “will be a major asset to the Providence Waterfront and the redevelopment of the new 195 land parcels.”

In **East Providence**, the wires and looming towers are highly visible from the new Tockwotton Home and other developable parcels. The East Providence Waterfront Commission urges burial to create “**a more attractive waterfront for future high-quality private development**” and for current residents.