

# *Providence Parks Department*

*Building parks...building community*

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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### **New Playground at India Point Park to Open**

On Saturday May 31, 2003 at 11:00 AM Fox Point neighborhood residents, the Friends of India Point Park, and city officials will gather at India Point Park to celebrate the opening of a new playground. The new playground is located between the Gano Street entrance to the Park and the shoreline overlooking the Seekonk River. Funding for the project was allocated by former City Councilman Robert Clarkin from the Ward 1 Neighborhood Bond program.

The new 10,000 square foot playground replaces an existing small play area located at the western end of the Park that is due to be displaced in 2004 by the construction of a new Narragansett Bay Commission underground sewer interceptor. Designed in a collaborative effort by the Friends of India Point Park, the Parks Department, and Bradford Associates, the new playground features maritime themes borrowed from the rich maritime heritage of the India Point site. In addition to typical play equipment, such as swings and a slide, the playground includes sand boxes designed as boats, net climbing similar to that on a pirate ship, rubberized safety surfaces painted in a nautical motif, and a flagpole with yardarms.

The new playground site enjoys a spectacular view of the upper Providence harbor with tugboats, sailboats, tanker ships, and small pleasure craft viewable from the site. To preserve these views, the fenced playground and its landscaping are designed to ensure that water views are unobstructed. New benches and picnic tables are also included in the site for playground users.

Construction of the new playground was completed by Central Nurseries of Johnston at a cost of \$176,000. Now that the playground is complete, a community wide effort will be undertaken in Fox Point to produce and install a stoneware mosaic on a concrete retaining wall in the playground. This effort will be led by Mika Seeger, a Tiverton-based ceramicist, who recently completed a transportation themed mosaic for the inside of the new Kennedy Plaza bus terminal. The playground mosaic will feature themes reflecting the history of the India Point site.

