



State of Rhode Island

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

July 10, 2023

Chairman Smith and the Cranston Planning Commission
City Hall
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910

Dear Chairman and Members of the Commission:

The fifty-acre parcel of land in the cities of Cranston and Warwick along the Pawtuxet River known as the Haward Conservation Area should remain as a passive recreational area. For that reason, I am opposed to any development proposal that would diminish public access to the Pawtuxet River Water Shed. A systematic elimination of public access to this community resource has taken place over the past three decades. It has been particularly diminished in the city planning board decisions to block access to ten miles of trails by the sale of the Dryden Heights Play Ground. Furthermore, the city planning department has granted the Herff Jones Corporation permission to fence off several acres of vacant land along the river with security fencing topped by barb wire. A watershed that was once an asset to the community has been partitioned off and sold leaving an entire neighborhood without access to this once highly natural attribute. For these reasons I am requesting that you deny any application for development which would reduce or diminish public access to this valuable resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any questions my cell number is (401)742-5297.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. McNamara
Chairman, Committee on Education
Representative District 19-Cranston/Warwick
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 222-2296
Rep-mcnamara@rilegislature.gov

CC: Robert J. Nero
Chairman
Pawtuxet River Authority