

Two-State Effort

Blackstone River Cleanup Proposed

The Blackstone River Watershed Association has proposed a two-state effort to clean the 51-mile river from Worcester to Narragansett Bay, R.I. and establish a series of parks along its banks.

The BRWA expects the river to be clean enough for fishing by 1974, boating by 1975 and swimming by 1976. To insure this the BRWA proposes dredging and scouring the river in eight sections.

The goal of the project is to clean up Narragansett Bay, according to David M. Rosser, executive director of the BRWA. The Blackstone and Seekonk rivers are primary polluters of the bay.

A BRWA study under way since 1969 has produced a list of 417 sources of pollution discharges into the river and more than 1,000 slides and photographs of the area.

The list of polluters will be sent to Frank Licht, governor of Rhode Island and to the regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Rosser said.

An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 paid and volunteer workers will join the project, Rosser said.

The BRWA will seek federal aid for the project. It will also urge the governors of Rhode Island and Massachusetts to sponsor legislation forming an interstate park commission to maintain and operate the Blackstone River parks.

The BRWA also suggests that a bill be filed in the Rhode Island state legislature for \$2 million to purchase 200 acres for park sites.

The cleanup will begin next spring at Pawtucket, R.I., Rosser said. The first two parks are nearing completion in Pawtucket.

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Agency Head Will Inspect Blackstone River

John McLennon, area director of the Environmental Protection Agency, will come to Pawtucket Monday to inspect the Blackstone River as it passes through the downtown area.

Mr. McLennon will meet with Mayor Burns and Congressman Fernand St. Germain at 8:45 in City Hall prior to inspection of the river.

Both the Mayor and Congressman St. Germain have discussed the pollution problem of the river and are particularly concerned about the daily unsightliness that passes by the downtown area.

Congressman St. Germain said he feels every effort should be made to improve the condition of the river especially since millions of dollars have been expended to renew the downtown area.

Also participating will be Lester Klachman, deputy director of EPA; Donald Tickman, assistant for inter-governmental relations of EPA; and Joseph Scanlon, administrative assistant to Mr. St. Germain.