



Warwick Sewer and Drainage Improvement Project Warwick, Rhode Island

Date of Performance: 2001–present
Client: Warwick Sewer Authority

PAL has been retained as archaeological consultants for multiple components of a citywide sewer system and drainage improvement project in Warwick, Rhode Island. The project includes construction of new sewer lines and drainage facilities along and beneath existing roads throughout city neighborhoods of western Narragansett Bay. PAL's services for the project include systematic survey in archaeologically sensitive areas, construction monitoring, informant interviews, Native American consultation, coordination and consultation with the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC), and on-call availability for any unanticipated discoveries during construction.

Subsurface archaeological investigation in one section of the sewer project resulted in the discovery of a remnant seventeenth century Narragansett Indian burial ground and late-eighteenth- and nineteenth-century cultural deposits associated with a domestic settlement. In this case, the identification of potentially significant cultural resources early in the planning process and prior to the onset of construction led to a plan of site-preservation and avoidance, while keeping the construction schedule on track.

Several phases of archaeological survey have been conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, prior to, and during construction of another new sewer line adjacent to and across Buckeye Brook, in Warwick, Rhode Island. The brook and its tidal estuary were focal points for prehistoric peoples who camped along its banks, particularly during annual fish runs and there was a strong likelihood for archaeological sites to be encountered. Representatives of the Narragansett Indian Tribe expressed concerns that the project



View of Buckeye Brook, Warwick, RI

could impact ancient Narragansett burial grounds and disrupt the seasonal fish run, still important to the Tribe. PAL developed a scope of work consisting of systematic machine trenching and monitoring to record soil stratigraphy, determine the presence or absence of cultural deposits, and provide protocols for the discovery of human remains during construction. The investigations required using multiple submersion pumps to remove water from machine trenches and the stream channel crossing.

PAL SERVICES

- **SECTION 106 CONSULTATION**
- **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**
- **HISTORIC CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT**
- **NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION**
- **MACHINE-ASSISTED INVESTIGATIONS**
- **UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES PLAN**
- **CONSTRUCTION MONITORING**