



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment

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Aquarion Volunteers Will Restore Senior Park

With Samuel P. Senior Memorial Park in Easton poised to close permanently because of storm damage, Aquarion Water Company has notified the park's board that employees will spend Thursday working at the park, enabling it to reopen in time for Earth Day.

The 10.6-acre park on Center Road, across from Easton Town Hall, suffered significant damage during last year's major storms, especially the October blizzard. The park's all-volunteer board sought volunteers to help cut up the fallen trees and clear out other storm debris. Without this assistance, the park would have to remain closed, said board president Carolyn Battaglia.

"We felt compelled to offer our assistance," said Len DeJong, manager of Aquarion's Watershed and Environmental Management Dept. "Sam Senior was president of our company for decades when it was still known as Bridgeport Hydraulic Company. And Easton is an important town for Aquarion; we have two reservoirs and a treatment plant here, as well as our environmental center. We know people throughout town enjoy walks through the park; we could not let it languish."

Easton resident Gary Haines, Aquarion's manager of forestry and maintenance, is project manager for the clean-up. He has worked with various contractors to tackle some of the biggest trees beforehand and will oversee about 20 Aquarion volunteers at the park Thursday.

"We plan to work from early morning to mid-afternoon," DeJong said. "Our goal is to leave the park ready for the public again."

The Easton Garden Club created Senior Park 36 years ago on land Aquarion owns, which includes a small brook and two ponds. Raised wooden walkways and small foot bridges enable hikers to follow trails in a wooded wetlands area.



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In addition to the garden club and Aquarion, the park receives support from the Easton Lions Club and Bob Bannow of the Larson Foundation Inc. This support, coupled with donations from the public, pay for the park's insurance and other expenses. The town does not provide funds for it.

Aquarion Water Company is the public water supply provider for more than 590,000 people in 42 communities throughout Connecticut, as well as five in Massachusetts and three in New Hampshire. It is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England and among the seven largest in the U.S. Based in Bridgeport, it has been in the public water supply business since 1857. Across its operations, Aquarion strives to act as a responsible steward of the environment and to assist the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices.

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