



SOUTH | WEST | RHODE RIVERS

# Arundel Rivers

FEDERATION

In 2019, South River Federation combined forces  
with West Rhode Riverkeeper Inc.

# The Church Creek Community Engagement Project

By Nancy Merrill Sullivan



# Lessons Learned



Find out the community's priorities and look for overlap



Partner with a community that directly serves their immediate needs



Engaging underserved is important! But often not urgent.



Find and outside facilitator or project manager.





# The Federation's Problem





# Restoration



## **We Know:**

Population that interacts with our restoration projects

## **We Don't Know:**

Who they are and what they want.  
How to communicate with a language barrier

## **Available Resource:**

Early Partnership with Center of Help.



# Literature Review

on anti-litter campaigns and  
Hispanic environmental needs

- High recreational use of natural resource areas
- Successful litter campaigns invoke “home”, increase convenient waste disposal, and have an enforcement component.





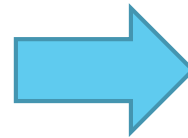
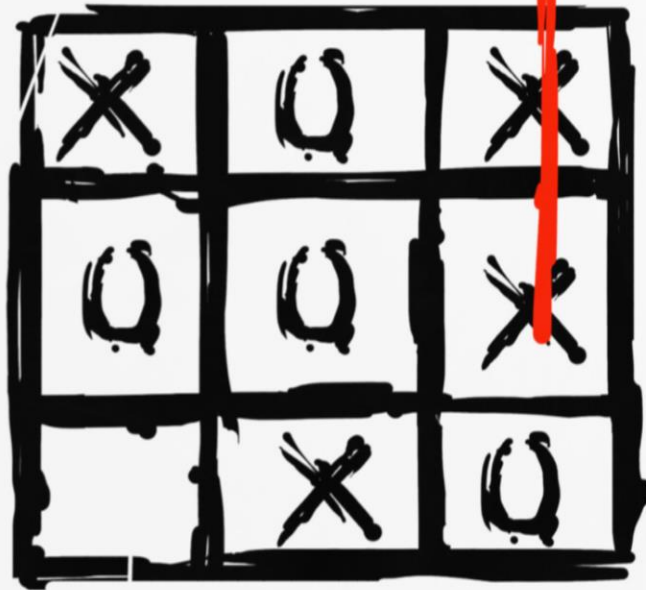
# Focus Groups

## **Two 15 person focus groups**

(one for a housing community adjacent to one of our restoration projects.)

- Their number one concern was security. (i.e. gate)
- Better access to recreational areas
- Rodent issue
- No Environmental Champion

# THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



## RAT ROUND-UP!

1/11/2018

Professional rodent removal will  
take place outdoors at Allen  
Apartments.  
**Please do not disturb the traps!**



**Do your part to keep  
our home clean!**  
Put your trash in dumpsters



**Call 888-xxx-xxx**  
or visit the Center for more  
information.



# Engagement with Center of Help Students





# Slow! One Step at a Time

The Trust asked us to apply to conduct a benefits and barriers focus group study.

- Resident and Management Company Walk Thru
- A Survey of Trash and Litter in the complex
- A Focus Group on benefits and barriers
- Education and Outreach
- Rat Round-up (Pre-Intervention)





# Challenges:

- Both organizations changed Executive Directors during each phase.
- Recruitment was semi-successful
- Communication with the Management Company— no bad press

# Results:

- Dumpsters hard to close and too tall (trash bags pile up)
- Poor Signage
- People Leave Trash Bags Outside
- Caught 40 rats (multiple dens)





## Phase 3:

- Better Signage and Education
- Find a new style of dumpster
- Build Stairs for dumpster
- Minty rat repellent trash bags (hire community member)





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Thank You!