



## Jamestown Walking Tour Brings Active Transportation Paths to Life

By Valerie Southern

On Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> a small but energetic group of WTS members met at the soccer field parking lot on the island of Jamestown to participate in a walking tour of the town's new Pedestrian and Bike Path and its Community Farm.

The less than a quarter-mile walk was within a wooded area on the north side of the island. The path is a new addition to the community's active transportation system; enabling bicyclists and pedestrians to avoid traffic and enjoy interior scenic woodlands past the town reservoir pond and along its historic "Ice Road;" an alignment once used in colonial times to cut and store ice.

The path is entirely on town property and designed in response to the community's desire to have a safe connection for walkers and bikers from the north end of the island to the town's south end commercial center, school, recreational, and government services. The black-topped section of the path from the reservoir spillway to Eldred Avenue is roughly 10' wide with 2' grass shoulders.

Along the path there is community artwork and the restored original Ice Road stone-walls.

After the brisk 25 minute walk led by the Jamestown Town Planner Lisa Byer, who offered history and interesting facts, the group toured the Jamestown Community Farm. The manager, Bob Sutton, explained the 17-acre farm on privately owned land is a non-profit 501c (3) created 13 years ago in response to the community's desire to grow and enjoy healthy food and also to contribute a portion of its healthy bounty to those less fortunate.

Places like the Community Food Bank and the Martin Luther King Community Center are locations for frequent deliveries. It was explained that farming methods minimize the impact on the natural environment and all labor is provided by volunteers. The community farm produces roughly 21,000 pounds of garden vegetables and roughly 54 gallons of honey.

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### Chapter Updates:

- WTS Scholarship applications are available to eligible high school and college students. Go to <https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/rhode-island/scholarships> for more information and applications.
- Collen Quinn, a global leader and advisor on e-Mobility Climate Policy spoke at the Chapter luncheon on Sept. 23, about the need for equity in policies governing the future of transportation.
- On Friday, Sept. 10, the WTS-RI book club met to discuss "Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail" by Cheryl Strayed.

For the latest chapter news, go to our website: [wtsinternational.org/chapters/rhode-island](https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/rhode-island)

# 2021: WTS-RI Celebrates 15 Years as a Chapter!

## Anniversary Spotlight: Christine Palmer

*Retired Transportation Engineer/Veterinary Technician, at Coventry Animal Hospital and Veterinary Healing Arts*

I joined WTS-Rhode Island when we were still an affiliate of the Boston chapter and remained a member until I retired from engineering in June 2018. I was the chapter's first vice president and went on to serve as president from 2007-2008. I also assisted on many different committees including programs and communications and spearheaded several strategic planning initiatives for the chapter.

WTS provided a way to network with other engineers and transportation professionals in Rhode Island. I was one of the founding members of the chapter and felt there were unique opportunities for professional development as the chapter grew.

Initially chapter activities included a lot of hard work mixed with a great deal of trial and error. While WTS-Boston was there to provide guidance and encouragement during our affiliate period, we were anxious to step out on our own and create something to meet the needs of our members. Many of our early initiatives are still in place today including the committees we developed, our WTS-Rhode Island branding, the annual Member/Sponsor Breakfast, event stipend program, and student outreach initiatives.

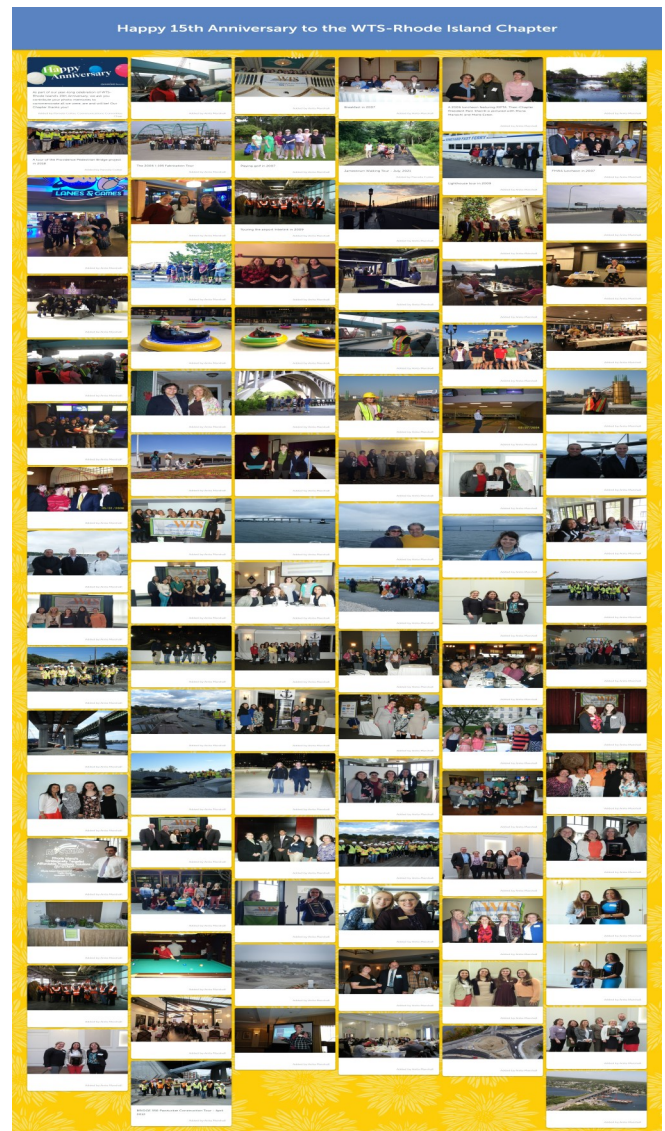
My best WTS-RI memories include attending the 2006 WTS International Convention in St. Louis when WTS-Rhode Island was officially recognized as a chapter. It was also exciting to help plan the chapter's 5-year and 10-year anniversary celebrations. It was particularly rewarding to see the growth and progress the chapter had made during each 5-year period. I was also very pleased to be selected WTS-Rhode Island Member of the Year in 2014.

Job titles and pay are not the true measure of success. A solid work/life balance and finding fulfillment in what you do every day are most important. Surround yourself with strong mentors and remember to reach back and help others once you achieve success.

Since retiring from engineering I embarked on a new career in veterinary medicine. I earned my credentials as a certified veterinary technician in 2020. There was plenty of time to study for the national exam during the pandemic! I now work full time for a full-service companion animal hospital that sees traditional house pets as well as exotics (including hedgehogs, sugar gliders, chinchillas, birds and reptiles) and part time for a veterinary dermatologist.



WTS-RI Founding Member Christine Palmer

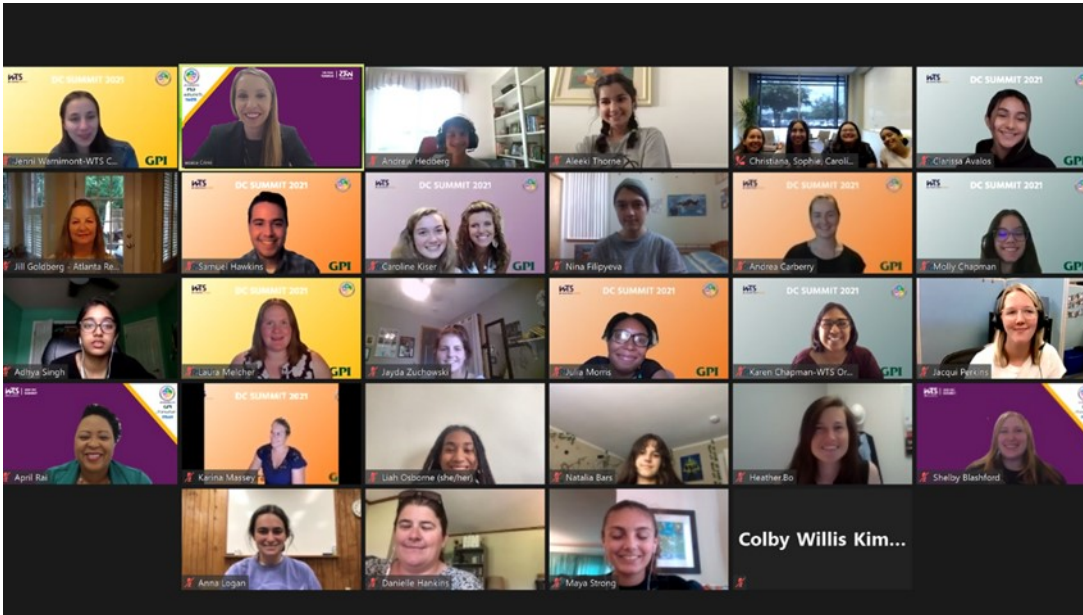


We've compiled a treasure trove of nearly 100 photos from the past 15 years of WTS-Rhode Island memories. Click on the Kudoboard link [here](#) or check out our [chapter Facebook page](#) or [website](#).



# Youth Summit Brings Together Future Leaders

By Samuel Hawkins



For the first time ever, WTS Rhode Island attended the WTS 2021 D.C. Summit! The D.C. Summit is the flagship program of *Transportation YOU*, a hands-on mentoring program that aims to change the face of the transportation industry by growing the involvement and interest of girls and young women in STEM studies. The Summit offers an exciting opportunity for local high school students by bringing mentees and mentors to Washington, D.C. in June for a 4-day program of tours, lectures and interactive experiences showcasing careers in Transportation.



Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's D.C. Summit was held virtually on June 22 through June 24. Sam Hawkins, WTS Rhode Island's Student Outreach director and D.C. Summit Mentor, had the privilege of attending with local high school student and Mentee, [Armina Parvaresh Rizi](#) (right.) Armina is a senior at Lincoln Senior High School in Lincoln, RI. She is passionate about mathematics and science, and aspires to study Artificial Intelligence in the near future. In the meantime, she works as a mathematics educator, and volunteers with a number of local organizations,

"I decided to attend the WTS Summit due to my growing passion for STEM fields," Armina said. "The best of the program was really getting to hear from women in STEM, which empowered and encouraged me to pursue a career in STEM fields in the future."

The D.C. Summit kicked off on Day 1 with speed networking, which gave mentors and mentees the opportunity to meet and greet students and professionals from all over the country. Day 1 wrapped up with a virtual tour of the Mid-Atlantic Spaceport. Day 2 of the D.C. Summit opened with inspirational messages from Women Transportation Leaders, followed by a fun transportation trivia hour. After a short break, mentors and mentees received a live, virtual guided tour of the Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Thurgood Marshall Airport led by Annette Fisher, Chief of Marketing & Air Service Development at BWI. The third and final day of the D.C. Summit opened with a live Q&A session with Transportation Professionals in both the public and private sectors, and concluded with a live, virtual tour of the Chesapeake Maritime Museum.

While the pandemic presented a unique challenge for D.C. Summit organizers and attendees, the event was a huge success, with more than 50 mentors and mentees in attendance! WTS Rhode Island looks forward to sending more local students and a member to attend next year's (hopefully) in-person Summit in Washington D.C.

