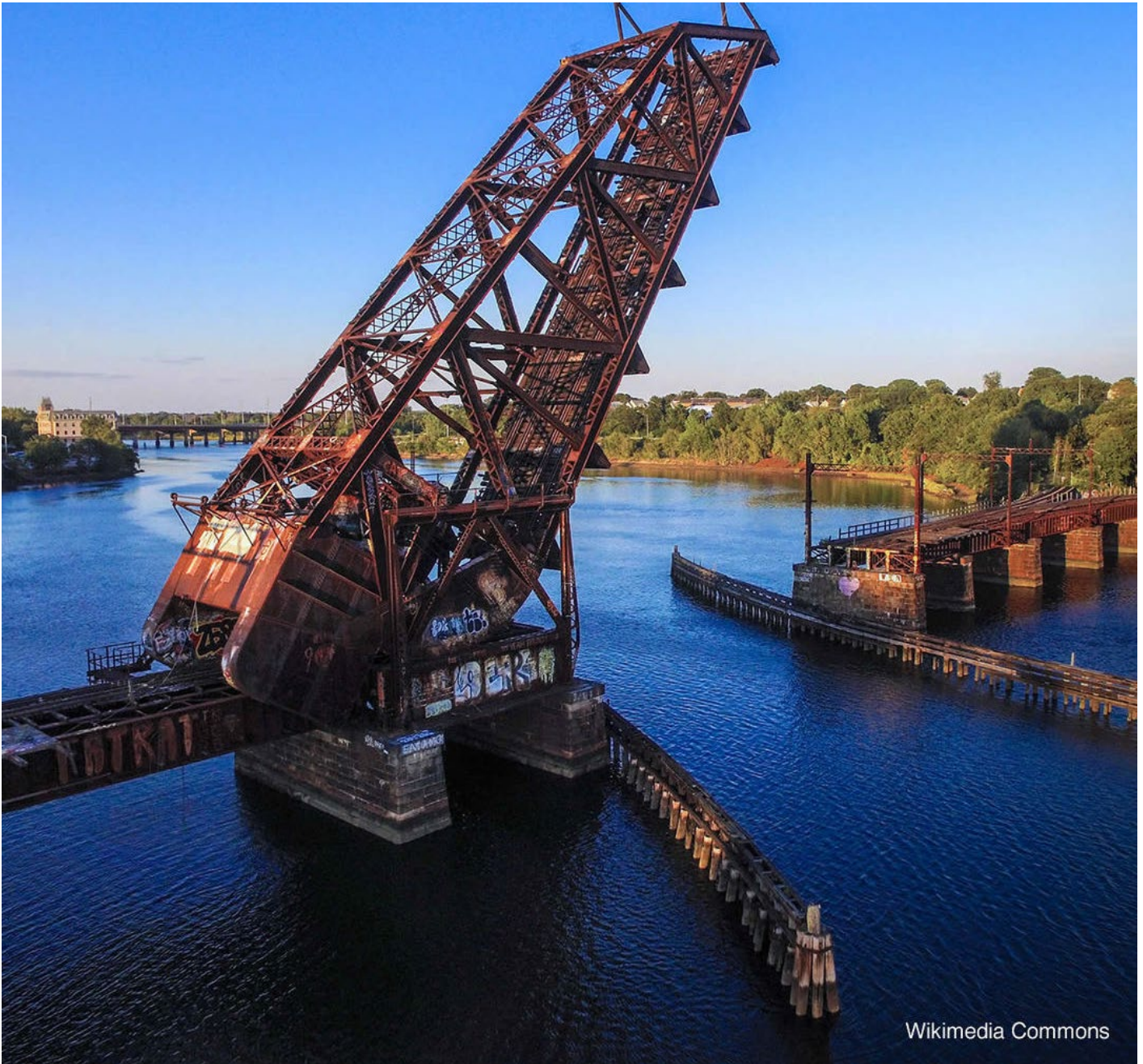


# Call for Design Ideas:

## Crook Point Bascule Bridge Reuse



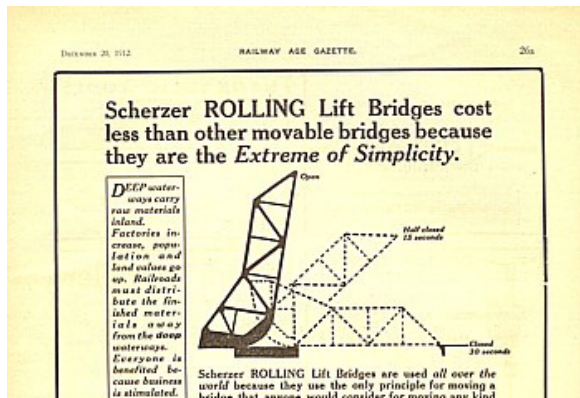
Wikimedia Commons

***Note: Round One submissions due by  
Sunday, November 29th, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST***

## **Background**

The Crook Point Bascule Bridge is a steel railway drawbridge that once connected Providence's Fox Point neighborhood to the City of East Providence across the Seekonk River. The bridge—which is also referred to as the Seekonk River Drawbridge or Crook Point Bridge—is currently unused and fixed in the upright position. The abandoned bridge's structure is still intact, and many view it as a Providence landmark.

Built in 1908 by the Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge Company of Chicago, the bridge once functioned as part of the East Side Railroad Tunnel project connecting the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad lines to Providence's old Union Station. The bridge was built 850 feet across and rose up to a 64-degree angle, allowing for a 125-foot clear waterway. Until 1938, the bridge and tunnel were used regularly by passenger trains travelling from Providence to destinations including Bristol, Rhode Island and Fall River, Massachusetts. After 1938, the bridge was mainly used for freight. In 1976, rail operations ceased on the bridge and the corresponding East Side Railroad Tunnel stopped receiving trains shortly thereafter. Both the bridge and tunnel have been abandoned since, with the bridge left in an upright position to allow boats to move along the Seekonk River without obstruction, as mandated by the River's federal channel designation. Since 1976, when the bridge and tunnel were abandoned, Providence residents and visitors have been fascinated by the bridge, as a symbol of Providence's industrial past and as a sculptural element of the city's skyline.



Over the past decade, the bridge's adjacent Gano Park has emerged as an important recreational space for the surrounding Fox Point neighborhood with a community garden, Little League field, boat launch, and recent extension of the Blackstone River Bike Path (which connects to India Point Park and the East Bay Bike Path). Improvements to the area have focused on creating connectivity to the Fox Point neighborhood, the waterfront, and beyond.

In 2019, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT)— who is currently responsible for maintenance of the State-owned structure— allocated \$6 million to demolish the bridge in 2026-2027. Since then, the City of Providence has begun discussions with RIDOT to potentially transfer ownership of the bridge to the City so that it can be preserved, rehabilitated, and repurposed.

## Looking Forward

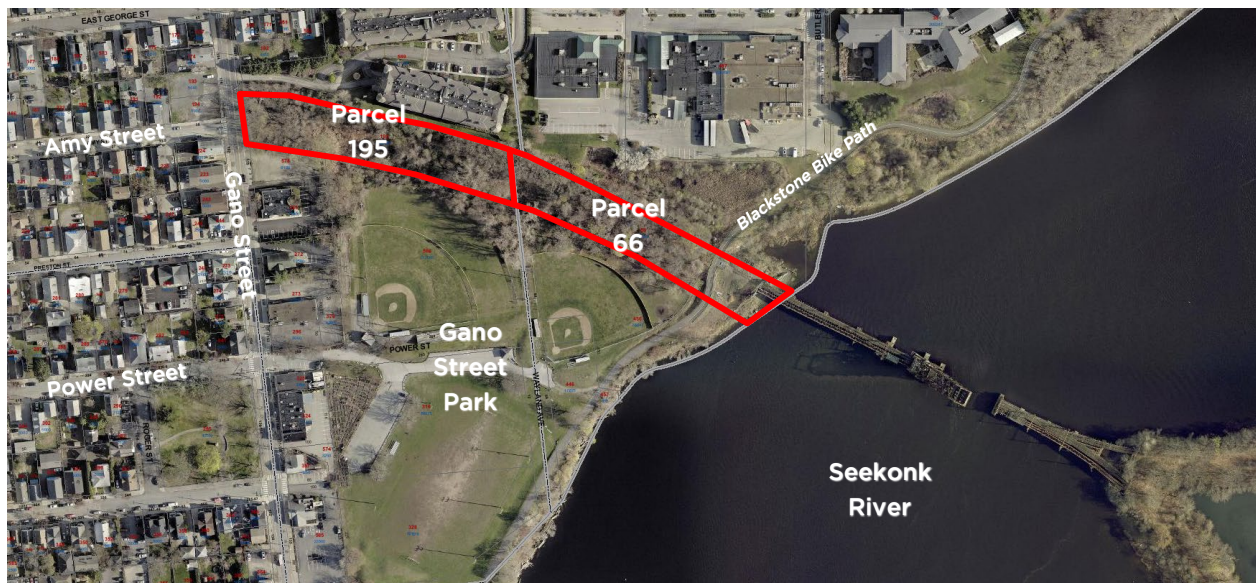
The Providence Redevelopment Agency and City of Providence now seek exciting design ideas for reuse of the Crook Point Bridge structure as well as two adjoining parcels of land— parcels 66 and 195 (as shown on the map below). Parcels 66 and 195 lead to the abandoned and sealed East Side Train Tunnel, which runs under College Hill between Benefit and Gano streets.

Those interested in submitting ideas are encouraged to spend time learning about the bridge and surrounding Fox Point neighborhood.

We also encourage you to review creative projects from other cities around the world— such as New York City’s High Line, Philadelphia’s Rail Park and Schuylkill Crossing, Seoul’s Seoullo 7017, Louisville’s Big Four Bridge, the Kinzua Bridge in Pennsylvania’s McKean County, and Landschaftspark Duisburg Nord in Germany— that have preserved and repurposed historic structures like the Crook Point Bridge.

This competition is sponsored by the Providence Redevelopment Agency. The structure is owned by the Rhode Island Public Rail Corporation. Neither the Rhode Island Public Rail Corporation, nor the Rhode Island Department of Transportation are involved in this design competition. This competition is designed to generate creative ideas for the future reuse of the structure.

*If you would like GIS shapefile layers for the project area (including topography, lot lines, building footprints, roadways, and sidewalks) please email Alexis Kievning at [akievning@providenceri.gov](mailto:akievning@providenceri.gov).*



Call for Design Ideas: Crook Point Bascule Bridge Reuse



*(Photo credit: David Everett)*



## Key Objectives

- Create a safe, comfortable, accessible, public space that connects residents and visitors to the Seekonk River and complements the adjacent existing park space.
- Determine a creative use for the historic structure that attracts people to it and aligns with Providence's identity as the Creative Capital.
- Preserve the upright portion of the bridge in some form and display it as an historic local landmark.
- Create an anti-racist public space where all people feel welcome and invited.
- Create a solution that is eco-friendly in both its design and construction.
- Maintain through movement for boats through a 90-foot wide, 42-foot tall center channel in accordance with requirements of the RI Coastal Resources Management Council and US Army Corps of Engineers.

## Our Challenge for You

### Round One Submittal Requirements:

- A single PDF that includes (in the following order):

- A signed cover letter of no more than two pages that includes:
  - a brief summary of the designer or design team;
  - identification of your primary contact person;
  - a mailing address, email address, and phone number for your primary contact person; and,
  - a brief overview of your design objectives for the project.
- One to two vignettes/drawings/sketches/illustrations of your vision for the former bridge and the two adjoining parcels of land (parcels 66 and 195).  
***NOTE: No more than two vignettes will be accepted for Round One.*** All ideas are welcome! No idea is too small or too grand. This could be as simple as an informal sketch or something more advanced, as long as it conveys your design concept. Feel free to annotate the vignette(s) if you feel that is needed to help convey the idea.
- A written narrative of no more than two pages that explains your idea and how it meets our key objectives.
- A summary of your qualifications and experience of no more than ten pages. Submissions from individuals, groups, and companies of all levels of experience are welcome, including students.
- Higher-resolution files of your one to two vignettes in the form of JPG file(s), suitable for posting to the project website and the City's social media accounts.
- Some additional guidelines and instructions:
  - Be sure to put your name or company name in all file names (*for example: "Crook Pt Bridge Concept - John Doe.pdf" or "Crook Point Bridge Drawing - Jane Doe Architects LLC.jpg*).
  - Email your file(s) to Alexis Kievning at [akievning@providencri.gov](mailto:akievning@providencri.gov) with the subject line "Crook Point Design Competition".
  - Keep attached file sizes under 6 MB per email total. Any attachments with file sizes larger than 6 MB (combined for all attachments) should be uploaded to a shared drive of your choosing with a link shared via email.
  - No physical copies of materials, USB drives, CDs, or other physical documents or objects will be accepted.
  - Round One submissions are due by Sunday, November 29th, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST.

***Note:** All information submitted to the City of Providence in response to this Call for Design Ideas becomes part of the public record. The City may use images submitted (with credit to the creator/s) on their website and in social media posts.*

## **A Note on Diversity, Inclusion, and Local Talent**

As the Creative Capital, Providence has many local designers, artists, creatives, architects, and landscape architects who have a deep knowledge and understanding of our unique City. Although we look forward to receiving submissions from people of all levels of experience from places near and far, non-local persons or teams are encouraged to partner with local designers, artists, creatives, architects, or landscape architects to deepen their understanding of the project and support local talent. We strongly encourage the creation of teams that include people who identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, with intersecting identities, LGBTQIA+, women and non-binary people, people living with disabilities, and others with lived experience being part of marginalized communities.

## **What's Next?**

A jury comprised of City staff, community members, and other stakeholders will review all submissions received in response to this Call for Design Ideas. Five finalists will be selected for a more detailed second round submission and each awarded \$1,000. You will be contacted via email or phone by a City of Providence staff member if you are selected as a finalist for Round Two. The jury will then review submissions from each of the five finalists and select one winner who will receive \$10,000 upon award.

Round Two submission requirements will be distributed to the five selected finalists; however, these requirements will likely include an updated narrative and cover letter as well as the creation of a least one but no more than two 30" by 40" display boards in PDF format (*to be submitted digitally, no physical boards will be accepted*) that may include: "inspiration" images relevant to components of the project; annotated photographs of the site, images of precedent projects, project area maps, original sketches, diagrams, hand drawn or computer generated drawings, or other images and graphics needed to convey the concept(s). The board(s) should convey the design approach, objectives, and other important features of the team's design ideas, serving as a visual companion to the project narrative. Round Two will be a "blind" judging round, during which the jury and public will not know which proposals are from which of the five finalists. As such, the five finalists will not be permitted to display their name(s) or logo(s) on the board(s). Additional instructions will be provided to the five finalists prior to Round Two.

The City will also display and promote submissions from both rounds through our website and social media platforms where community members will be able to view and comment on submissions.

Updates will be posted to the City's project website at [www.providenceri.gov/planning/crook-point-bridge/](http://www.providenceri.gov/planning/crook-point-bridge/).

### **Anticipated Timeline (subject to change):**



Call for Design Ideas: **Crook Point Bascule Bridge Reuse**

Call for Design Ideas Announced: October 22, 2020

Round One Submissions Due: Sunday, November 29, 2020 by 11:59 PM EST

Five Finalists Announced and Invited to Participate in Round Two: Mid-January 2021

Round Two Submissions Due: Early March 2021

Winner Announced: Late March/Early April 2021