

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island



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PRESS RELEASE

North Kingstown Soon to Debut on World Renown Trollmap

Sponsorships Remain with Unique & Significant Recognition Opportunities

North Kingstown, RI — A still-to-be-released location within the Town of North Kingstown's recently improved Ryan Park, will become home to the newest Thomas Dambo Troll next month. Each troll is a unique larger-than-life wooden/recycled materials art installation designed by Dutch recycle artist Thomas Dambo (shown here in his Denmark-based studio). Dambo's passion for recycling and upcycling started when his parents taught him and his brother the value of protecting nature and using recycled materials to make their own toys, costumes, tree houses, and items; he graduated in 2010, with a degree in Interactive Design from Denmark's Kolding Design School. Today, Thomas Dambo lives on his farm in the Danish countryside, where he has his studio and offers talks about his art practice and workshops to teach people how to reuse and upcycle.



Credit: Thomas Dambo

Dambo's Trolls have proven to be wildly popular tourist attraction in cities across the world, including Greta Granite and Erik Rock, the two trolls installed in 2024 along the Ninigret Bike Path in Charlestown, RI. Dambo's collections and works include exhibitions and public commissions across North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. From the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, Dambo's recycle art installations draw crowds. Year-one attendance records topped 1.24 million visitors to the six large-scale sculptures hidden in the landscape within Morton Arboretum in Illinois in 2018. It is exactly this excitement and incredible public following that Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director for the Town of North Kingstown, aims to capitalize on locally.

The Dambo Troll to be installed in North Kingstown is a result of the Recreation Department's successful grant application to Rhode Island Commerce to support a collaboration with South County Tourism for a significant placemaking and improvement project. The grant enables two additional 2025 trolls, one each in North Kingstown and Richmond, to complement the troll

coming to Blackstone Valley also around this time and creating a larger *trollprint* in the Ocean State known as the Rhode Island Troll Trail.

While the RI Commerce grant covers a portion of the overall cost, Dumas-Gibbs has undertaken a campaign to fill the remaining gap with pledges from [sponsors](#), as to not impact her department's operational funds for year-round youth and community programming. Excitement from municipal leadership, staff, and departments, as well as the Leisure Services Committee and Arts Council, is giving her hope the initiative will be fully funded before the end of August. The first local businesses to support the Troll venture include McKay's Front Porch, Heritage Kitchens, and Rhode Island Energy, ensuring ensure their names are included in final signage that is revealed to parkgoers in-route to North Kingstown's first major public art installation.

The design for North Kingstown's troll will remain confidential until the ribbon cutting in late August, but there are many avenues for the public to help ensure the project is a success beyond initial financial commitments. Dumas-Gibbs is maintaining a volunteer sign-up sheet (<https://bit.ly/NKtrollvolunteer>) to manage the need for four volunteer light laborers during Dambo's build, as well as two "runners" each day that will be on-call for last minute supplies, food, etc. needed by the team.

"My mission is Waste No More: our world is drowning in trash while we are running out of natural resources. I choose to spend my life showing the world that beautiful things can be made out of trash. I give new life to discarded materials by turning them into large-scale artworks. My aim at the moment is to build 1,000 Trolls using recycled materials all over the world," states Thomas Dambo. The Town of North Kingstown is thrilled for the opportunity to bring a Troll to our area and its anticipated debut on his world-renown [Trollmap](#) next month.

To build on the anticipation around the impending build and unveiling of North Kingstown's Troll, "we encourage local businesses to get creative with themed displays, decorations, menus, etc. and really have fun with it," Dumas-Gibbs says. "While an initial and large increase in visitors to the area is expected post ribbon-cutting, this influx is a prime opportunity for our community to be on display. With retail, restaurants, and businesses of all kinds joining in on the troll, storytelling, public art, and recycling-themed excitement and whimsy, we've got an incredible community engagement opportunity on our doorstep."

More information on this initiative is available on our website:

<https://www.northkingstownri.gov/1149/Troll>, including the link and QR code for online donations and sponsorships: <https://bit.ly/NKtroll>. Recognition of current sponsors and individual donors, including McKay's Furniture, Heritage Kitchens, Rhode Island Energy and more begins online.



Please note: the Lafayette Road entrance to Ryan Park will be closed to the public starting August 13, and remain closed through August 24.

For questions regarding the Town of North Kingstown, please contact Kate Glass, Director of Communications & Executive Assistant/Office of the Town Manager:

kglass@northkingstownri.gov; regarding the Troll initiative: Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Director of the Department of Recreation, at (401)268-1540 or ddumas@northkingstownri.gov.