

Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership & Urban Bird Treaty Program



Access to Nature

Providence, a city with a **metropolitan population of 1.6 million people**, is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the U.S. While many residents do not have the resources to travel to Rhode Island's five remote National Wildlife Refuges, the city hosts a **network of over 120 existing parks and greenspaces**.

All Providence schools are **within ½ mile** from one of these spaces and the majority of residents can find a park or a greenspace **within a 10-minute walk**. This unique opportunity allows partners in Rhode Island to build on conservation initiatives within the city **alongside the Providence community**.











Providence students exploring birds at a local park. These guided adventures occur in school, after school, and through public programs year round.

The Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership meets people where they live, work, and play, inspiring a sense of place between communities and their local landscape. This can help define their role as stewards and create a bridge to understanding global issues related to land, air and water.



Young kayakers paddling down the Woonasquatucket River in downtown Providence. With public access to parks and green spaces throughout the city, residents and visitors are able to find, appreciate, and care for nature in their own backyard & neighborhoods.

We work with others to...

-  Provide environmental education programs in schools, parks, recreation centers, and national wildlife refuges;
-  Plant and maintain urban bird habitats and schoolyard habitats;
-  Host a 4-week Indigenous Youth STEM camp, with a focus on co-stewardship;
-  Offer free bilingual English/Spanish family-focused fishing events throughout the state to expand fishing access to the Greater Providence Community;
-  Support tree equity for climate and health benefits;
-  Improve urban water quality through stormwater infrastructure and education;
-  Track migratory birds through an urban Motus tower and free monthly city bird walks;
-  Hire diverse youth to support this amazing work.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the collaborative effort as the Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership in 2013. Providence was designated as an Urban Bird Treaty City in 2017, signed in 2019.



Scan the QR code to learn more



Empowering the Community

The Providence Urban Partnership builds on existing projects and local efforts in the city to bolster a strong community connection to nature through:

- **Co-leading the Teacher Institute** with the Roger Williams Park Zoo, where teachers spend a week in the field and are introduced to field biology, wildlife conservation, and Service work with the goal of bringing these lessons back to the classroom. Teachers receive year-round support for outdoor learning and a funded field trip to Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge
- **Year-round environmental education support** for educators, community members, and local partners by the Conservation Program Coordinator (top right) for in school & after school programs, summer-learning experiences, community events and public activities.
- **Formal agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, the City of Providence Parks Department and the Partnership for Providence Parks provide space & tools to students, educators, & partners, for environmental education, wildlife conservation, and habitat restoration.
- **Work with local partners to support community efforts** relating to climate change, tree equity, nature access, urban ecology connections and more.
- **Supporting community partners** with grant writing and funding towards a common mission to increase nature access for all while bolstering healthy habitats for local and migratory wildlife.

Left: Conservation Director, Lou Perrotti, of the Roger Williams Park Zoo works with Providence teachers during field investigations. Above: Conservation Program Coordinator, April Alix, supports outdoor learning in Providence through addressing common fears and dangers, like introducing children to snakes.



The Providence Urban Bird Treaty partnership has resulted in an active Urban Bird Habitat at Providence's Amtrak Station (above).



Hispanic Access Foundation Intern, Michelle Bernardo, working with students of the Indigenous Youth STEM Camp.

The Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership **will continue to work with communities** to enhance wildlife habitats, expand access to outdoor recreation, & co-design conservation while getting to know our communities and ways to support them.

Thank you to our many partners, including...

