HERO 2022 Stakeholder Presentation



Shradha Birdika, Nicole Buckley, Lucy Fleming, Danielle Hall, and Charlotte Zieselman









The Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO)



An undergraduate research experience, held by the Clark University Graduate school of Geography in which students explore human-environment relationships in New England

Previous Research

- Land use modeling
- Urban forestry stewardship
- Urban Heat Island Effect

Meet the Research Team



From left to right: Nicole Buckley, Charlotte Zieselman, Lucy Fleming, Danielle Hall, Nicholas Geron, Shradha Birdika, Apple Gould-Schultz, and Madeline Regenye

Undergraduate Research Cohort

Charlotte Zieselman, Lucy Fleming, Shradha Birdika, Nicole Buckley, Danielle Hall

BMB Team

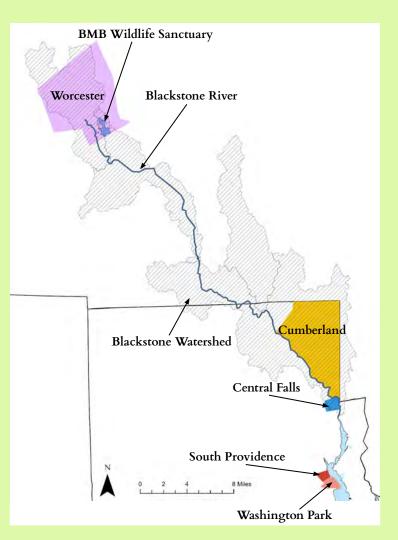
Dr. Rinku Roy Chowdhury, Sarah Hughes, and Spandan Pandey

Team Managers/Graduate Mentors

Nicholas Geron, Veronica Apple Gould-Schultz, and Madeline Regenye

Directors

Dr. Deborah Martin and Dr. John Rogan



Outline

Measuring environmental conditions and people's perceptions of urban forestry and conservation



Broad Meadow Brook-Worcester, MA

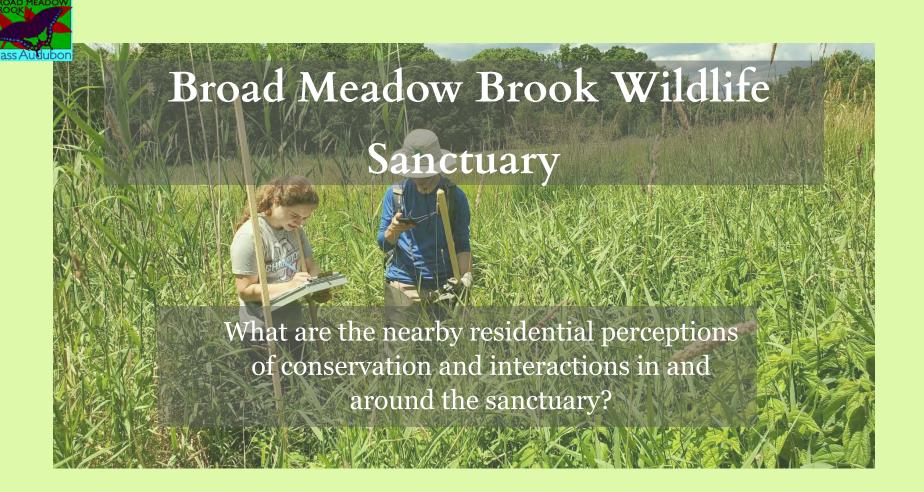




Cumberland, Central Falls, and Providence, RI









Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary



Mass Audubon is the largest nature-based conservation organization in the New England region.

- BMB Wildlife Sanctuary is a 400-acre conservation area that opened to public on June 20, 1991.
- **Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary** is fed primarily by urban storm drainage from its surrounding neighborhood.
- The sanctuary is currently undergoing ecological restoration, aiming to improve wetland health and function, promote growth of native biota, and reduce flooding downstream in residential neighborhoods.



Sarah and Shradha interviewing a resident



Study Area





Broad Meadow Brook Neighborhood Survey

We interviewed 55 out of 286 neighborhood residents, focusing on their opinions on the Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary and the environment.

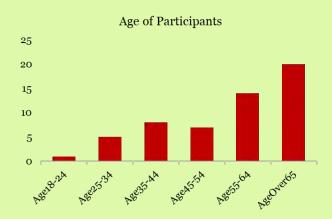


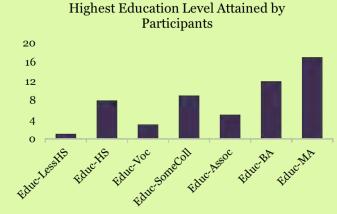


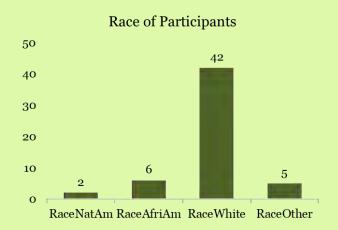
Pictures of front and back yards in Broad Meadow Brook Neighborhood

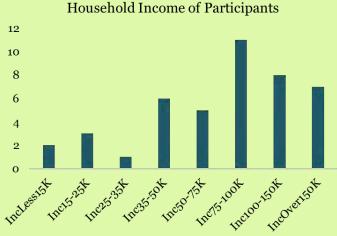


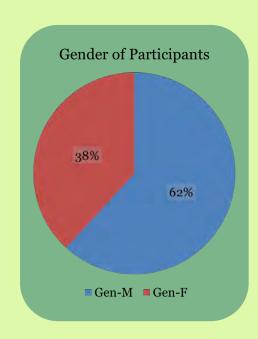
Broad Meadow Brook: Participant Demographics











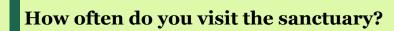


Worcester Demographics

	Our Survey	Census Tract	Worcester
Median Age	55-64	37	35
Population with a Bachelor's Degree	53%	31%	31%
% Minority	24%	29%	47%
Median Income	\$75-100k	\$61,420	\$51,647
Gender	62% male	49% male	49% male



Resident Interactions with Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary



What activities do you enjoy at the sanctuary?

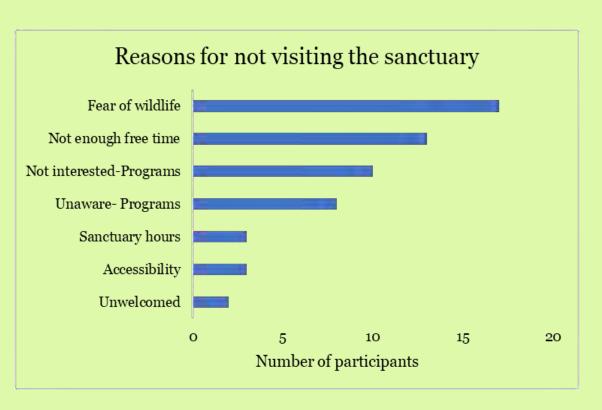


52% of participants visit the sanctuary at least once a month.

Hiking is the most popular activity, followed by birdwatching



Resident Interactions with Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

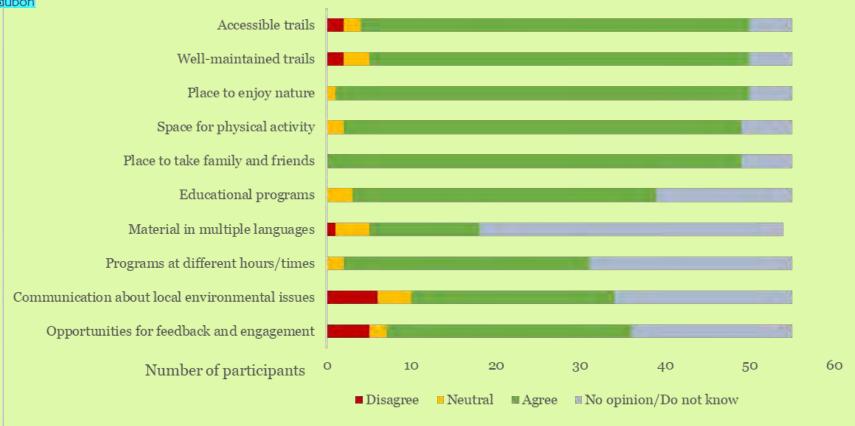


"We looked at the summer camps but it was really restrictive for the times they offer. [...] Give some kind of lessons 3 hrs long, I'd have done it. More options for kids under 8. That's something they can do to improve."

~ Resident, Broad Meadow Brook

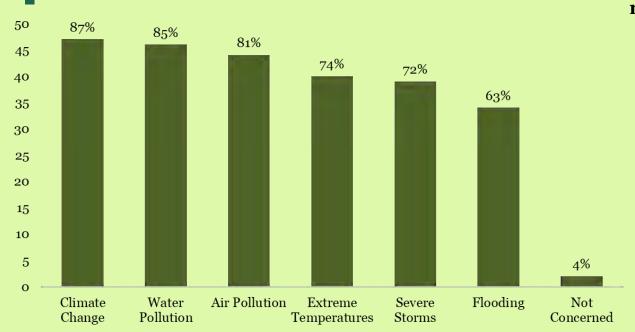


Perceptions of Mass Audubon/BMB Wildlife Sanctuary

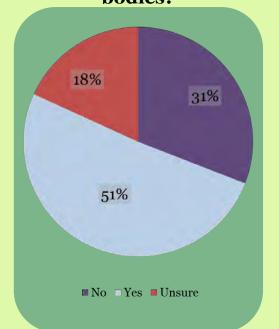


Participants Perception of Environment and

Which environmental issues are you concerned about?



Stewardship Do you think the way residents here care for their lawn and home affects the quality of water in neighboring streams and water bodies?



Climate change was residents' top concern, followed by water pollution.

Roughly half believe residents' lawn and home care affect water pollution



Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Survey Summary and Future Work

Over half of residents reported visiting at least once a month, but 27% have never been, with some participants noting fear of wildlife and lack of free time as barriers

Almost all participants thought Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary does a good job providing accessible and well-maintained trails, but could do a better job communicating with residents.

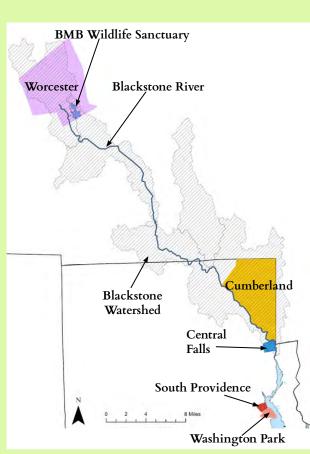
Residents are generally concerned about global environmental issues, especially climate change and pollution.

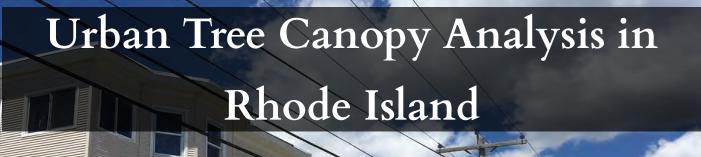


Past HERO Fellows David Henriques and Sarah Hughes installing acoustic monitors with Prof. Sangermano at BMB

Future Work

- Further analyze interview data
- Ongoing vegetation survey and acoustic monitoring





How do human and biophysical interactions impact the urban environment and inform urban forestry efforts to create a more resilient and equitable city?





Groundwork Rhode Island

Groundwork is a national nonprofit organization that strives to develop the resiliency of urban communities by providing economic opportunities while encouraging environmental stewardship.

Towns, cities, and neighborhoods identified as places where urban forestry can be most beneficial:

- Central Falls
- Cumberland
- Washington Park, Providence
- Lower South Providence, Providence



HERO team and Groundwork RI members looking at sites and a newly dug out sidewalk cut out with Groundwork in RI



Environmental Justice

Environmental justice seeks to address the inequitable access to environmental harms and benefits.

Criteria for Environmental Justice:

- High percent minority
- High percent foreign-born
- Low household income
- Lack of English proficiency



Street with few trees in South Providence



Street with a Tree Tunnel in Washington Park

Urban Tree Canopy Services and Disservices

Services

- Reduce local land surface temperature
- Reduce runoff and flooding
- Improve air quality
- Reduce energy use
- Moderate climate
- Provision of wildlife habitat
- Improve mental and physical health
- Cultural and personal significance
- Improve aesthetics



Callery Pear in Cumberland, RI

Disservices

- Risk of property damage
- Tree litter
- Tree care burden
- Insects
- Allergies
- Perception that tree
 planting poses the threat
 of gentrification



Research Goals



How do human and biophysical interactions impact the urban environment and inform urban forestry efforts to create a more resilient and equitable city?

Residents' Perceptions of Urban Trees

Objectives:

- 1. Survey residents to understand their perceptions and experiences with urban trees
- 2. Understand residents' concerns about the environment

Survey of Trees and the Urban Landscape

Objectives:

- 1. Survey Groundwork tree planting
- 2. Survey current distribution of trees and potential planting locations
- 3. Understand the impact of trees on heat and pollution



Types of Sites

Tree Site



Sidewalk Cutout



Planting Strip



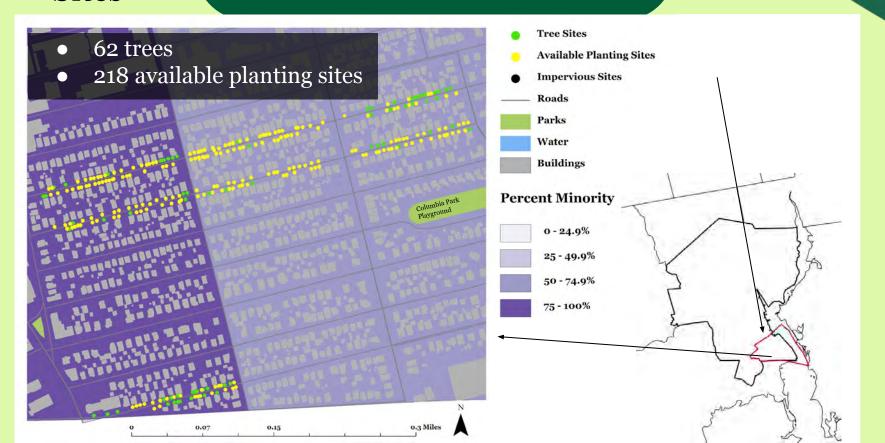
Impervious Site



Available Planting Sites

Surveyed **287**Sites

Washington Park

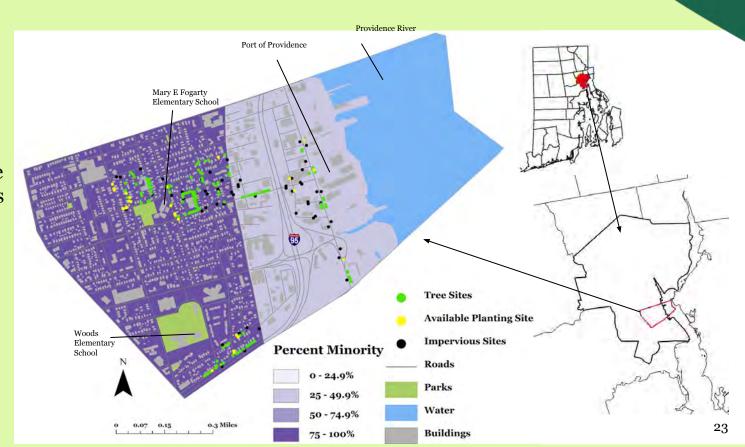




South Providence

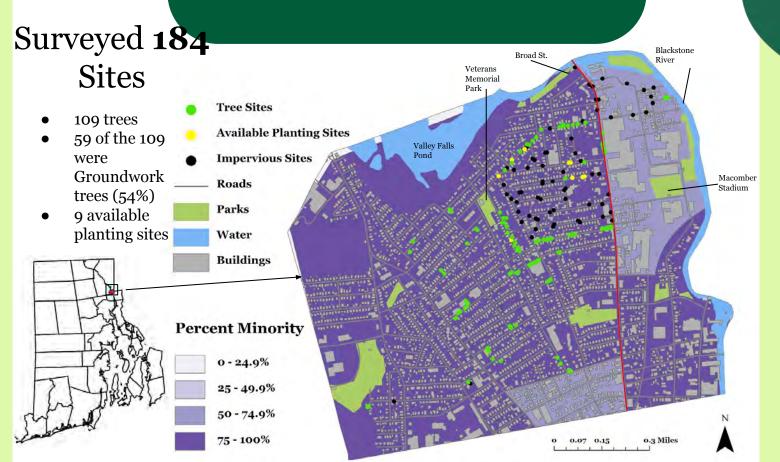
Surveyed **230** Sites

- 143 trees
- 35 of the 143 were Groundwork trees (24%)
- 26 available planting sites





Central Falls





Cumberland

Surveyed 197 Sites

- 59 trees
- 27 available planting sites



Recent Tree Planting at Valley Falls Heritage Park





Residents' Perceptions of Urban Trees

Objectives:

- Survey residents to understand their perceptions and experiences with urban trees
- 2. Understand residents' concerns about the environment



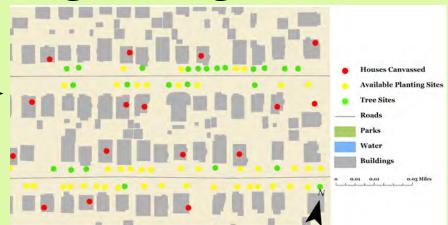
Shradha leaving a flyer at a resident's door



Interview Sampling Strategies

Washington Park

Strategy: All houses on curbless points
Knocked on 81 doors, interviewed 10 residents
Response rate: 12%





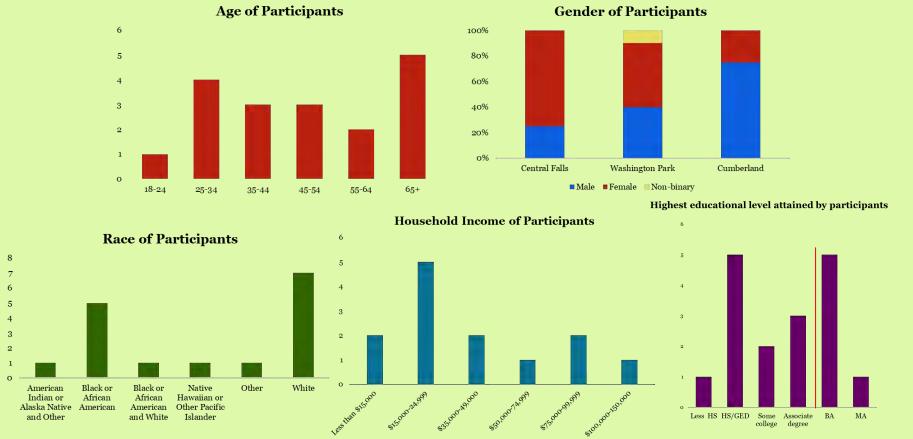
Central Falls and Cumberland

Strategy: Convenience Sampling

- 4 Interviews in Cumberland
- 4 Interviews in Central Falls



Demographics of Residents Interviewed





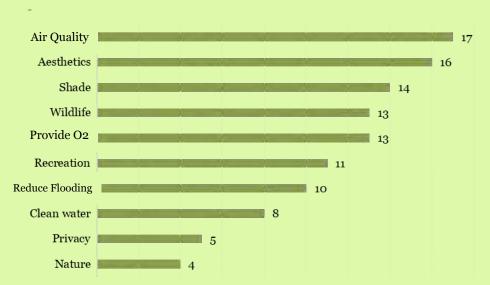
Comparison between Survey and City Demographics

	Total Survey	All Cities Census*
Median Age	45-54	34.4
Median Income	\$15,000-24,999	\$59,078
Average Non White	59%	43%
Average Educational Attainment	33%	34%
Average Female	50%	51%



Positive Perceptions about Trees

What benefits or impacts of trees do you appreciate the most?



Oo trees bring more air?

yeah that they do!

Resident, Washington Park

I think trees help a lot between cooling the earth and [providing] oxygen, obviously. So yeah, they're a good thing.

The highest perceived benefit is trees' role in improving air quality.

I think [trees] are better for air quality, it makes it look better. And the better the neighborhood looks, the more pride, hopefully, people will take in it and stop doing this to it. (referring to the litter)?



Negative Perceptions about Trees

Which of the following are potential negative impacts of having trees in your neighborhood?



66 Uh, yeah, they're starting to lift up the brick.

~ Resident, Cumberland

I don't have trees, originally, because I don't want the damage.

~ Resident, Central Falls

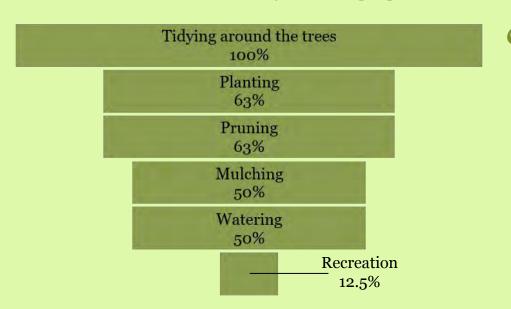
The biggest concern that stood out was property or car damage from mature trees.

6 So I think that number one should be probably fix the trees and the sidewalk conflict and then help the residents with the tree related damage and maintenance. 22



Positive Interactions and Experiences with Trees

Have you engaged in tree stewardship before?



had bought a Japanese Maple for the front yard. And then I forgot the name of the other one, it was a shade tree that we planted in the backyard. And we lived at that house for 19 years. ??

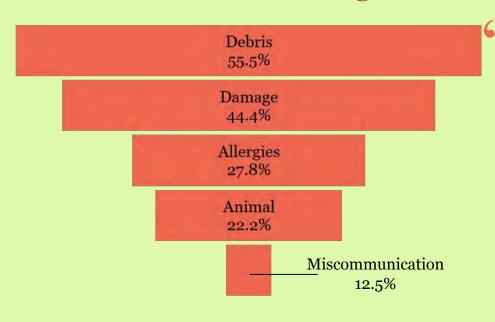
~ Resident, Cumberland

6 Yeah. We've always planted something. You know, buying fruit trees for father's day and flowering trees for Mother's Day. 9 9



Negative Interactions and Experiences with Trees

Which of the following tree issues have bothered you the most?



We had what originally was a weed that grew up and started breaking the cement wall. It was on the property line so we had taken it down. It was black from all the tree leaves and everything was a real mess.??

~ Resident, Cumberland

This tree right here drops like sap all over your car. So you can't park under it.99

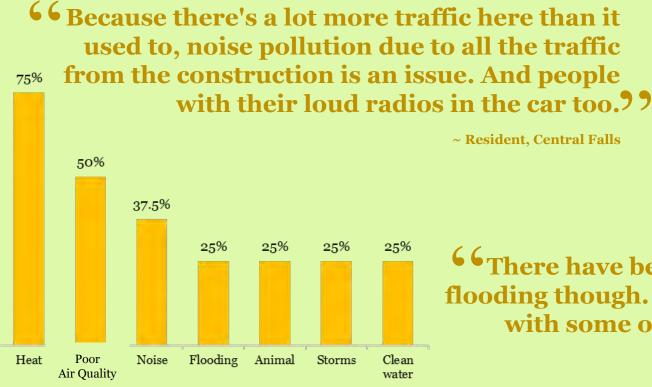
66I got one crabapple tree and it just does nothing but drop the crab apples everywhere. ??

~ Resident, Washington Park



Most common environmental concerns

What are the most pressing environmental issues your neighborhood faces?



I think
[temperature
and air quality]
are important
everywhere, to
be honest with
you.??

~ Resident, Cumberland

There have been increases in flooding though. [Trees] might help with some of the flooding.

~ Resident, Central Falls



Residents' desired allocation of resources

How should resources for trees be prioritized?

So I think that number one should be probably fix the trees in the sidewalk conflict and then help with like help the residents with the tree related damage and maintenance.

~ Resident, Washington Park

I think that around here, it's a nice thing to have as much trees as possible. ??

~ Resident, Washington Park



66 If it was up to me, there will be trees everywhere.??

~ Resident, Central Falls

66 I do think it would be cool if there were more environmental regulations, that people had to follow to keep trees, not just chop them down and more education, definitely. 9 9

~ Resident, Washington Park



Survey of Trees and the Urban Landscape

Objectives:

- 1. Survey Groundwork tree planting
- 2. Survey current distribution of trees and potential planting locations
- 3. Understand the impact of trees on heat and pollution





Tree and Temperature Survey Methods

Air Quality and Temperature

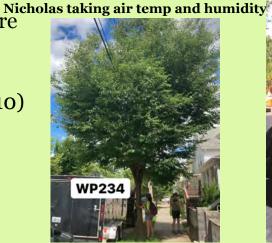
- Air Temperature
- Relative Humidity
- Land Surface Temperature
 (LST)
- Particulate Matter (2.5 /10)
- Ozone





Street Tree Survey

- Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)
- Distance to Impervious Surface
- Vigor





Apple and Prof. Martin surveying a tree

Danielle and Lucy taking DBH



Site Types

Sidewalk Cutout



Planting Strip



Impervious



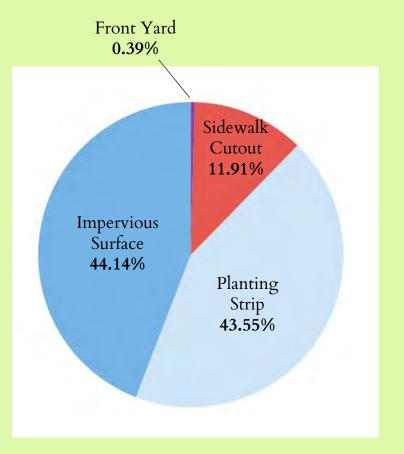


Potential Planting Site Types

513 potential tree planting sites identified



Potential planting site in Washington Park





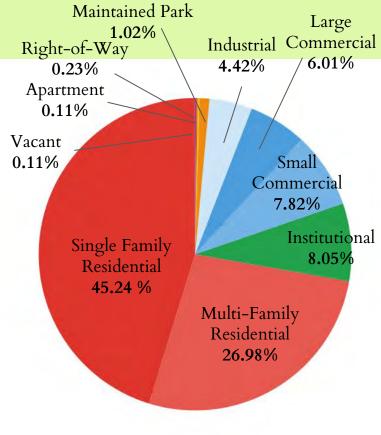
Potential planting site covered with trash in Washington Park



Land Use Types

Single Family Multi Family Residence Residence





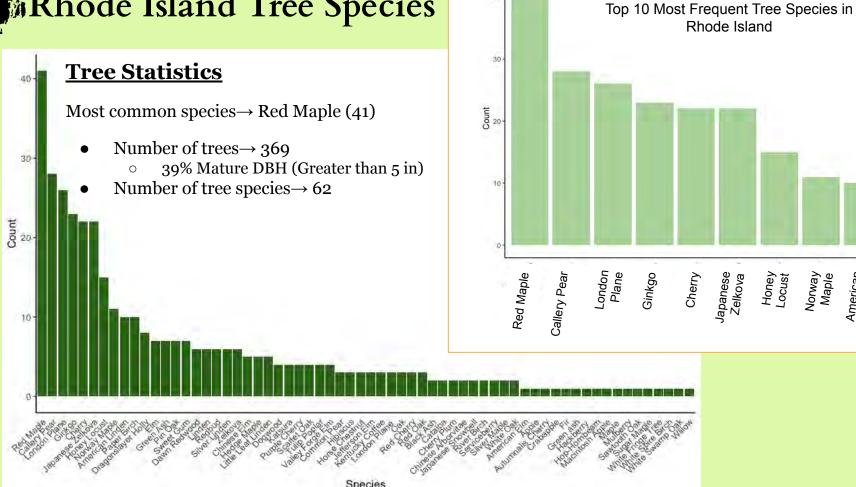
Small Commercial

Industrial





Rhode Island Tree Species



'apanese Zelkova

Honey Locust



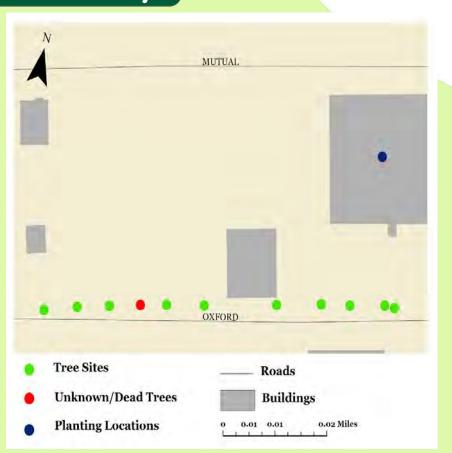
Groundwork Tree Survey

126 Total Trees Planted by Groundwork

- 73 Trees in Central Falls
- 53 Trees in South Providence

94 Total Surveyed by HERO

- **59** in Central Falls
- **35** in South Providence



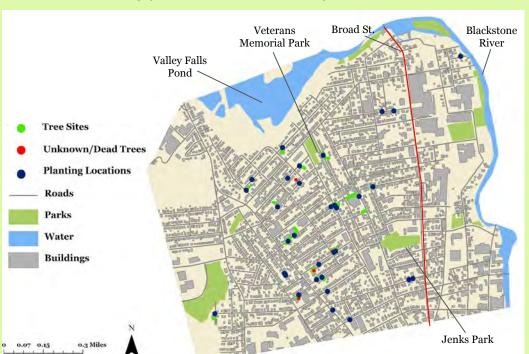


Groundwork Tree Survey

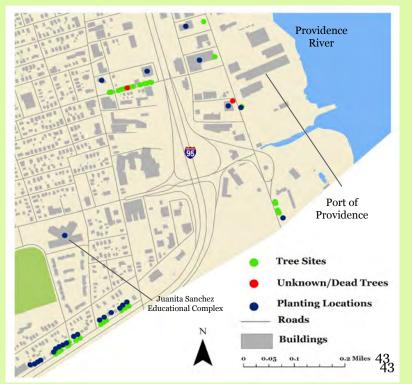
Tree Survivorship

92.55%

Central Falls 54 Trees, 1 Unknown, 4 Dead

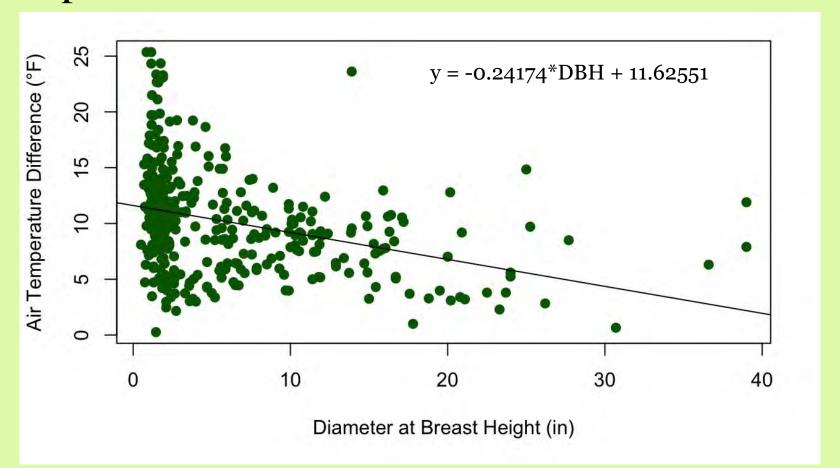


South Providence 33 Trees, 1 Unknown, 1 Dead





Impact of Trees on the Urban Heat Island Effect





Temperature and Air quality

Maximum	
Temperature	25.36
Difference (°F)	
Maximum Air Temperature (°F)	101.55
Maximum Heat Index (Real Feel) (°F)	113

All of our measurements of ozone and particulate matter were within the EPA's healthy standards

- Central Falls had the max temperature difference
- Washington Park had the maximum temperatures along with the maximum heat index



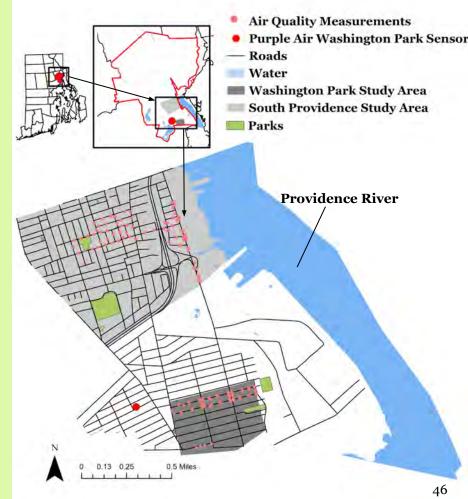
Regs taking an ozone measurement

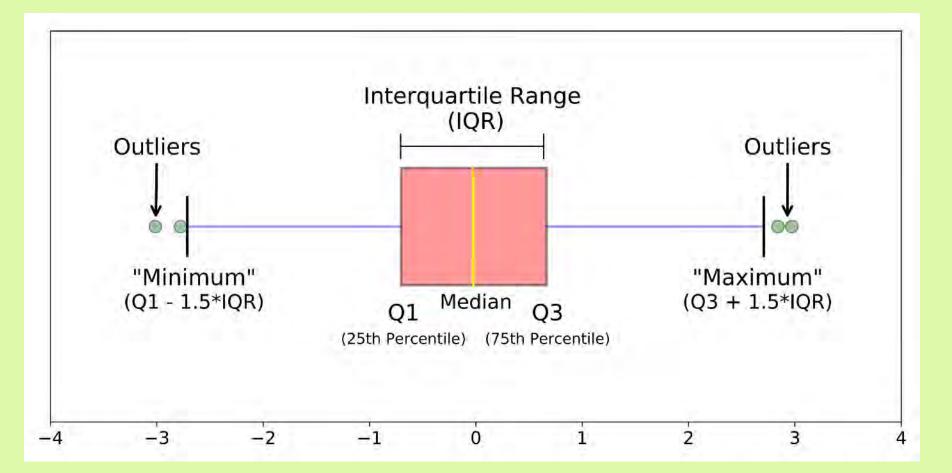


Air Quality Comparisons

<u>Difference between HERO and Purple Air</u> PM 2.5 Measurements

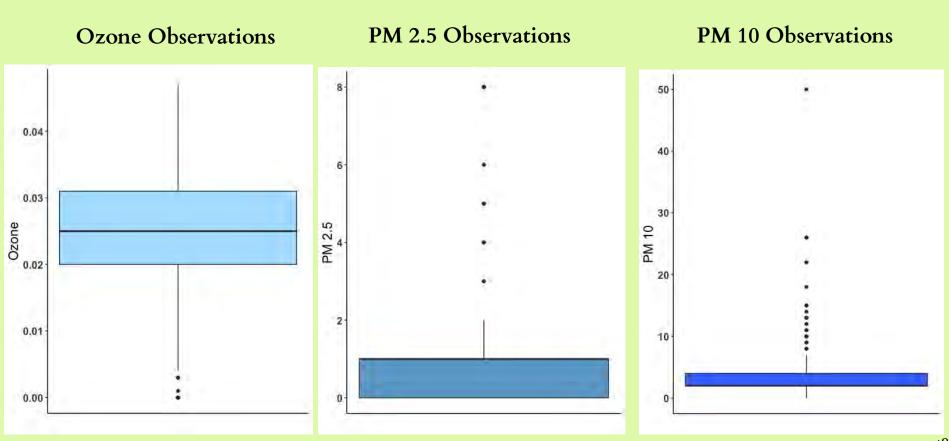
Average measurement difference	2.84 (μg/m ₃)
Aeroqual Standard Deviation	2.08 (μg/m3)
Purple Air Standard Deviation	3.94 (μg/m ₃)
Max Weekly Purple Air PM 2.5	586 (μg/m3)
Weekly Purple Air Std Deviation PM 2.5	13 (μg/m3)







Air Quality Statistics- All Sites





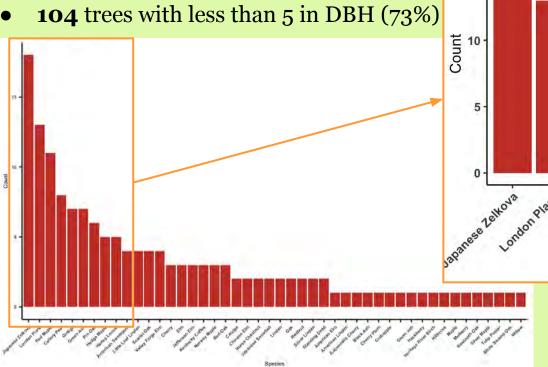
Neighborhood and City Summaries

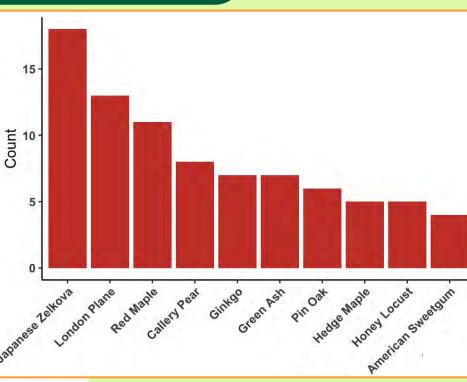




South Providence

- **143** trees surveyed
- 35 trees planted by Groundwork (24%)
- **46** tree species

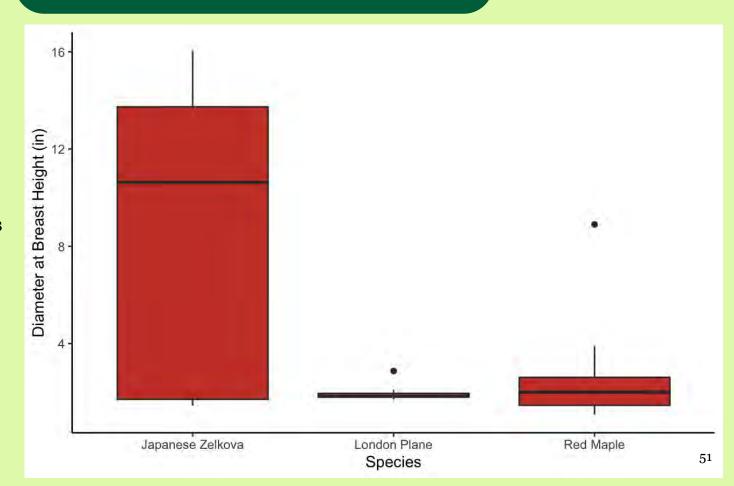






South Providence

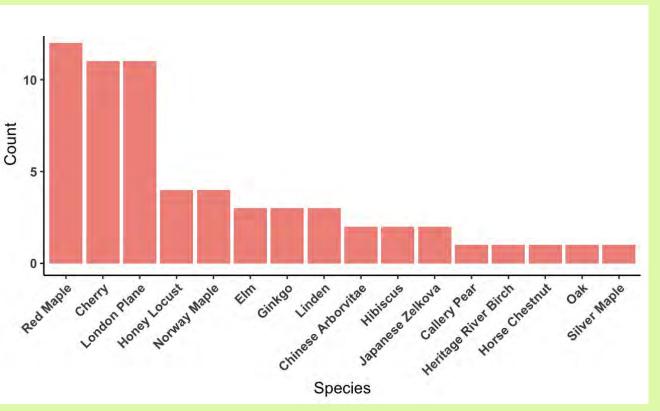
Top 3 Species – Diameter at Breast Height Measurements





Washington Park

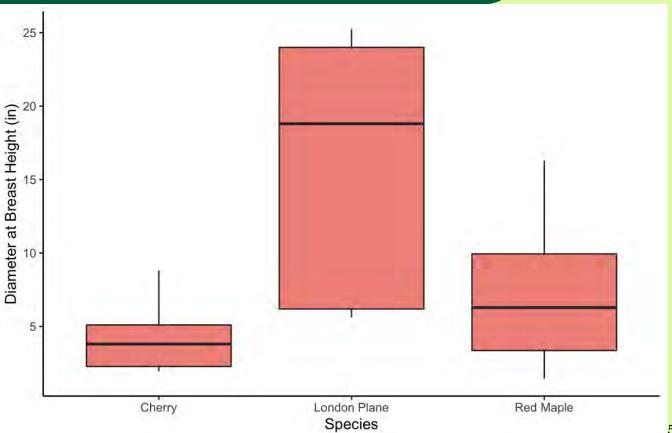
- **62** trees surveyed
- **16** tree species
- **21** trees with less than 5 in DBH (34%)





Washington Park

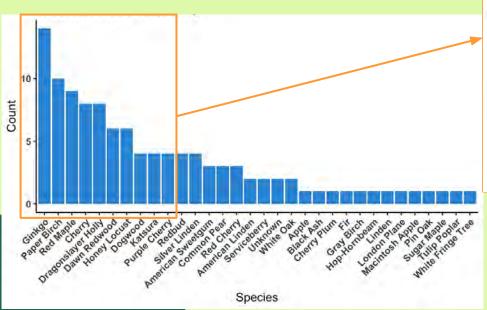
Top 3 Species – Diameter at Breast Height Measurements

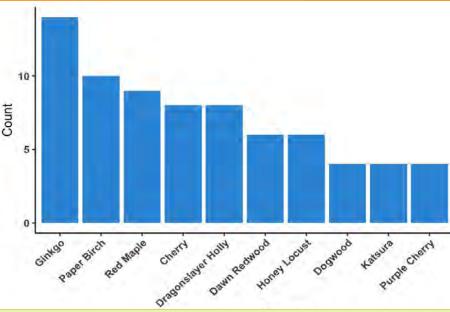




Central Falls

- **109** trees surveyed
- **32** tree species
- 87 trees with less than 5 in DBH (80%)
- **59** of the 109 were Groundwork trees (54%)

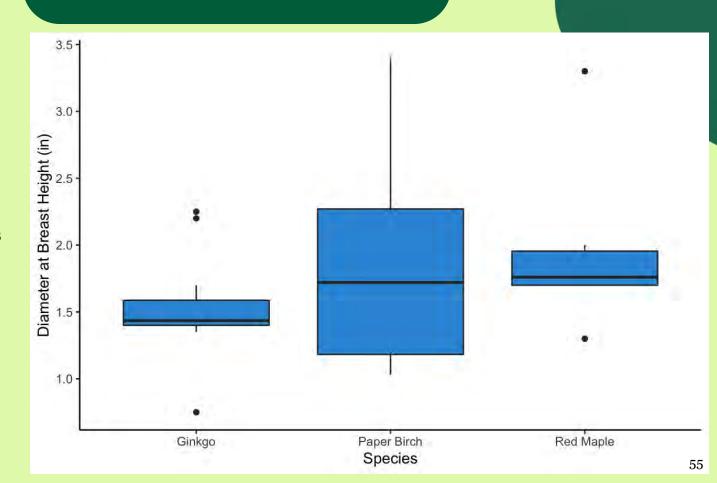






Central Falls

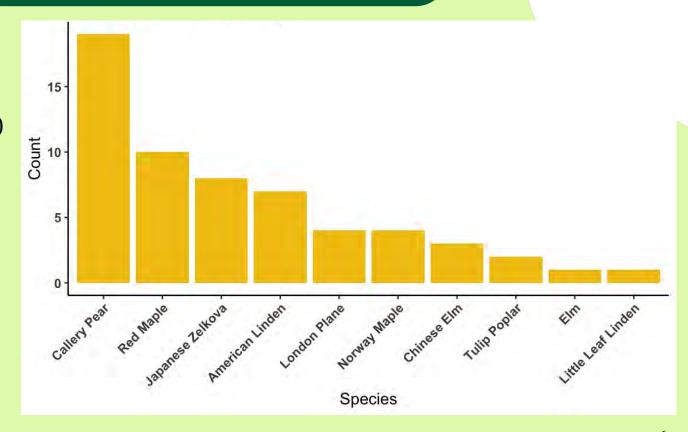
Top 3 Species – Diameter at Breast Height Measurements





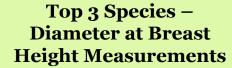
Cumberland

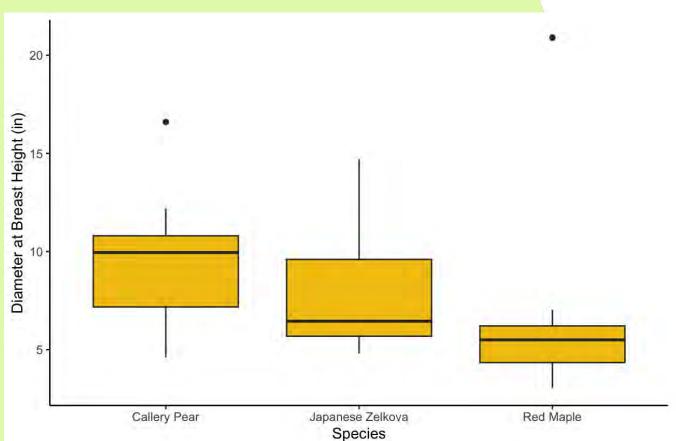
- **59** trees surveyed
- 10 tree species
- 10 trees with less than 5 in DBH (17%)





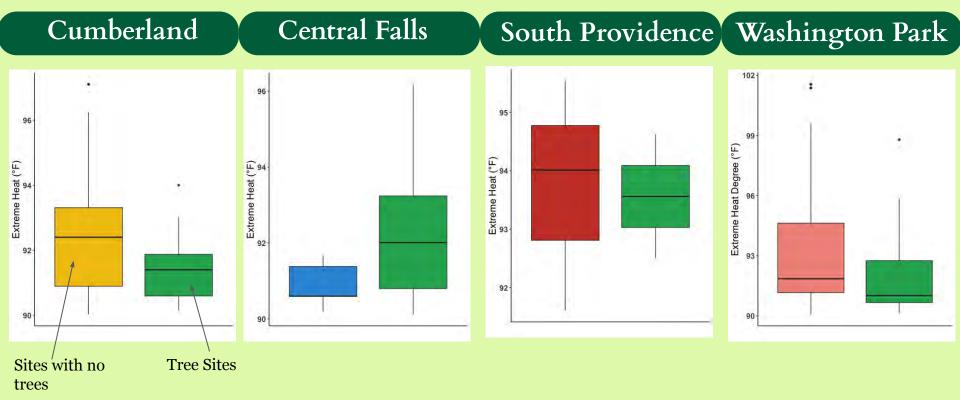
Cumberland







Extreme Heat



Extreme heat was observed more frequently in sites without trees
In Cumberland, fewer extreme heat observations were seen because 83% of trees are older, and larger

Survey of Trees and the Urban Landscape Takeaways



Paper Birch in Central Falls, RI

- Cumberland and Washington Park have older tree populations while Central Falls and South Providence have many young trees
- Small differences urban heat island metric across sites with and without trees on days with extreme heat in Cumberland, Washington Park and South Providence
- Urban heat island was reduced with increase in DBH.
 Every 4 inches of increase led to a 1°F decrease
- Japanese Zelkova and London Plane were some of the most frequently planted and largest trees
- Groundwork trees are doing well with a survivorship rate of 92.55%

Summary

	South Providence	Central Falls	Cumberland	Washington Park
Total trees	143 of 230 sites 62.2%	109 of 184 sites 59.2 %	59 of 197 sites 29.9%	62 of 287 sites 21.6%
Planting in available sites	26 of 230 sites 11%	9 of 184 sites 4.8%	27 of 197 sites 13.7%	218 of 287 sites 75.9%
	Ocean St Harriet St	Hunt St Tremont St	Jones St Titus St	Ohio Ave Indiana Ave

- Though there were more trees found in South Providence and Central Falls, there were fewer available tree planting sites identified in those locations
- Washington Park has the greatest potential for tree planting in terms of available planting sites, while Cumberland had the greatest need



Conclusions

How do human and biophysical interactions impact the urban environment and inform urban forestry efforts to create a more resilient and equitable city?



HERO fellows in the field



HERO and Groundwork surveying trees

- Better communication between urban residents and weather and air quality forecasts
- Residents had generally very positive perceptions of trees benefits for air quality and aesthetics and were in favor of more tree planting
- South Providence and Central Falls demonstrate tree planting is possible while there is a lot of opportunity in Cumberland and Washington Park

Acknowledgements

Broad Meadow Brook

Martha Gach

Clark University

Pamela Dunkle

Brenda Nika Hayes

Aidan Giasson

Yaa Poku

Dr. Rinku Roy Chowdhury

Groundwork Rhode Island

Amelia Rose

Jacq Hall

Sarah Hashem

City of Cumberland

Jonathan Stevens

City of Central Falls

Jim Vandermillen

Bob O'Connor



Quotes for Broadmeadow Brook survey

"We looked at the summer camps but it was really restrictive for the times they offer. But even if it was a designated week, even have a walkup thing, or offer some summer camp stuff, teaching what is on woods or take to a new trail. give some kind of lessons 3 hrs long, I'd have done it. More options for kids under 8. That's something they can do to improve."

Future Steps

- Further explore the relationship between extreme heat and air quality
- Impact of tree species on extreme heat
- Expand areas of interest in Woonsocket, Cumberland, Central Falls, and Lincoln



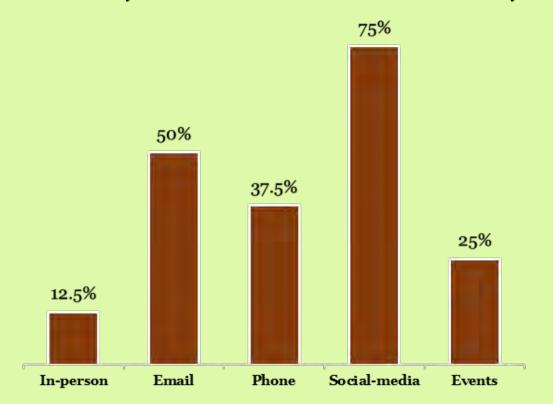
HERO team members in the field

U.S. Air Quality Index

AQI Category	Index Values	PM2.5(μg/m3) 24-hour	PM10(μg/m3) 24-hour	O3 (ppm) 8-hour
Good	o - 50	0.0 - 12.0	0 - 54	0.000 - 0.054
Moderate	51 - 100	12.1 – 35.4	55 - 154	0.055 - 0.070
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 – 150	35.5 – 55.4	155 - 254	0.071 - 0.085
Unhealthy	151 – 200	55.5 – 150.4	255 - 354	0.086 - 0.105
Very Unhealthy	201 – 300	150.5 – 250.4	355 - 424	0.106 - 0.200
Hazardous	301 – 400	250.5 - 350.4	425 - 504	(2)

Residents' Preferred way of Communication with PVD Tree Plan

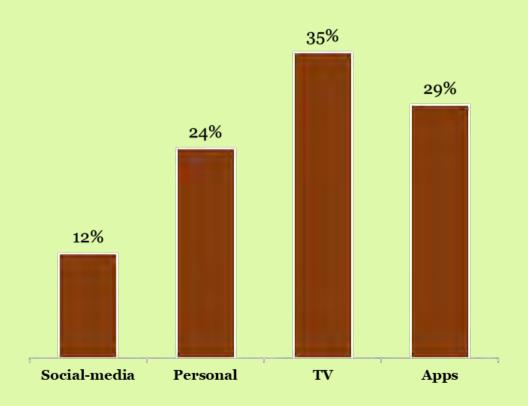
What, in your opinion, are the best ways for the PVD Tree Plan to communicate with you and your community?



67

Most common sources of information about Air Quality

What is your main source of information regarding air quality in the neighborhood?



Comparisor	n between	Survey	and C	City I	Demogra	phics
I	All Cities	1		J	O .	L

	Total Survey	All Cities Census*
Median Age	45-54	34.4
Median Income	\$15,000-24,999	\$59,078
Average Non White	59%	43%
Average Educational Attainment	33%	34%
Average Female	50%	51%

2019 ACS Data			ton Park	Providen ce Census	Central Falls Survey	Central Falls Census*	Cumberl and Survey	Cumberl and Census*	
Median Age	45-54	34.4	45-54	30.6	45-54	30.1	55-64	42.5	
Median Income	\$15,000-24 ,999	\$59,078	\$15,000-24 ,999	\$45,610	\$15,000-24, 999	\$34,689	\$75,000-99 ,999		[£] 2
Average Non White	59%	43%	70%	67%	33%	51%	50%	12%	
Average Educational Attainment	33%	34%	25%	34%	40%	9%	25%	57%	
Average Female	50%	51%	50%	52%	75%	49%	25%	52%	

2019 ACS Data



Tree and Temperature Survey Methods

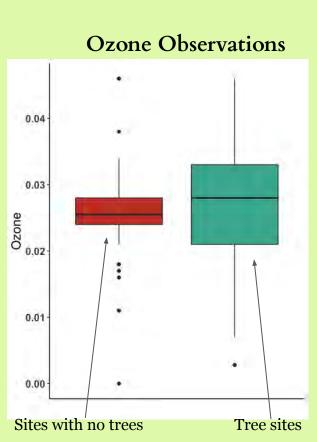
Temp Date	TempTime	Site surface temp (eup)	City and and town (abadem)	Cita Air Town (4 5m)	Site Humidity	Ozone P	Date	Surveyor L	at	Long	TreeID	Shewi			Site_Type	Casrier	DBH	DBH heigh	nt Dist_imperv	Vigor 0	Comments
F050 6/28	12:44	11707	Site surface temp (shadow)	89.48	35.00		101.78	Aus 6		Long				- WER		Species .				- 10	on cott
CFOTA !	2:46	122.7	1/5	85.8	V3.48						CF034									-	
CF 936 V	12:49	113	MP	85.0	34.28			-			6.53	1-4-13	21 C	8 Took	100					- 0	on lewy
CFOLE	2:17			49.7				Lin			CK000	Catton	4 4	14 SER	MANE	Habert a	1.9	36	over 60	1	
F0311		118.3	nia	85.56	35.72			0			CENSU	co House	46	5 560	T4.2	report	1				
CF035	2:30	115.0	1/a	83.69	38.15						CF035	elve. Box	ala 15	5 50	Tas				-		
	12:22	105.5	0/4	94	37.4						CFO36	4	61	36	IMP				-		
F056	2:24	119.3	ola	10.6	31.7						CF037	without	63	7 MFR	KArd		1.3	54	010.00		
4037	3:33	1219	n/a	10.6	35.25						CF034	1	4	1	4		1	54		1	-
CF038	2:30	125	0/4	90.6	35.7						CF031	there	vs 3	7 MFR	JMP				10		
CF031	2:53	111.4	nel	85.8	36.8						CED40	18,000	4 14 9	3 min	50	Black ASL	15.4	54	18		
CF040	2:31	116	99.5		39.2						CF041	+	85	5 SFR FMFA	50					24	ggalte
CF64!	2:37	116.2	95.5	84.5 85.5	36.44		-				Cr042	V	, 5	FMFA	IMR.				-		Bod, but
cfo42	2:42	116.7	0/4	YG.48	37.95						16043	Honts	4 NS	g mar	JMP					10	Hust
		111	1/5	6532	36.62	8	-				CFD44	Fright S	St. 197	1000	=MT					0.0	Links
CF043	2:50		0/2	95.37	77.5						CF045	Run1	9	2 520	IMP FMP						
GF044	2:56	125.5		88.32	34.5					-	CF046	20000	The 10.	9 mg	+MY	reduid	1.9	36	overco		-
CF045	2.51	191	1)~	85.35	36.93		-				150 98	CHOCAL	21. 26	0 -56	342	relless	1.25	43	over Co	(
cfoul	3:01	14.1	n/a	80.00	32.62					-	CF0 19	*	200	N P		Sucet non	1.6	40	DNQ 60		
CF047	3:07	121.3	1/4	813	3266	-					CF050	Share	4 8	SER	1mg	3.	1,	-			
CFO44	307	124.8	1/2			- 3					99051	Same	4 9	3 MET	EMP					0	arins
CFO 89	3:07	124.7	2/0	87.58	31.63	- 8					CF052	V	63	2 MFT	Imp Imp					01	r vin
(FO 50	3:12	17.	nta.	91.38	31.6	3	1				C6053	Whah	54. 14	25 MY	JAP						
		122.4	A/A	91.43	27.03		1				CF054	1 LUBS	. 119	SSAT.	IMP		1				
CF051	3:14	114.7	Ne	90.3	33.19	- 1	91				OF035		à 54. B	25 5C	IMP						
CF052	317	126.2	Na	86.84	40.7	- 1					C8056		V P	11 50	SMR			-	1	-	os
CF057	3:25		nla	87.62	37.2	1	-				CF057	8	113	55 JAANS	Find SC	No. Inches	TS A	54	14	1 3	02
5054	3.27	17.5	N/a	85.11	33.28	-					C\$0.28	8000	0 119	13 TABU	2 26	Honey loss	113.1	1 31		-	
F055	3:50	126.9	1/-	89.78	3442	-															
1056	2:52	125.6	1		36.34																
	3:34	127	n =	85.96	36.34																
K057	3:31	113.3	1 12																		
C805%	1 / 0																				

Air Temperature Survey Sheet

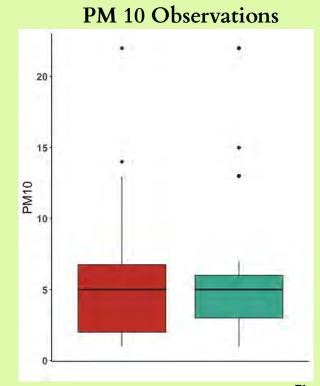
Tree Site Survey Sheet



South Providence



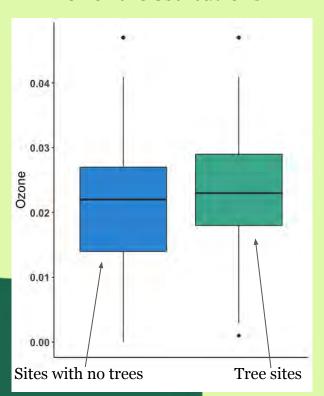
PM 2.5 Observations PM2.5



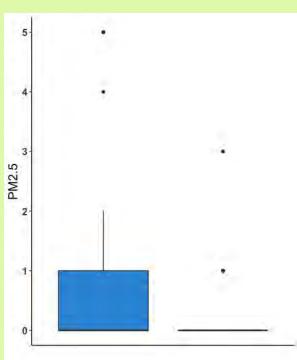


Central Falls

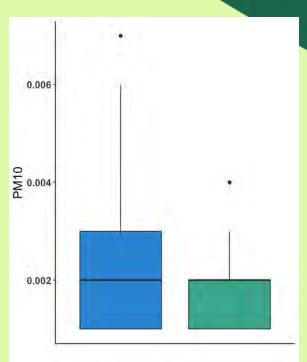
Ozone Observations



PM 2.5 Observations

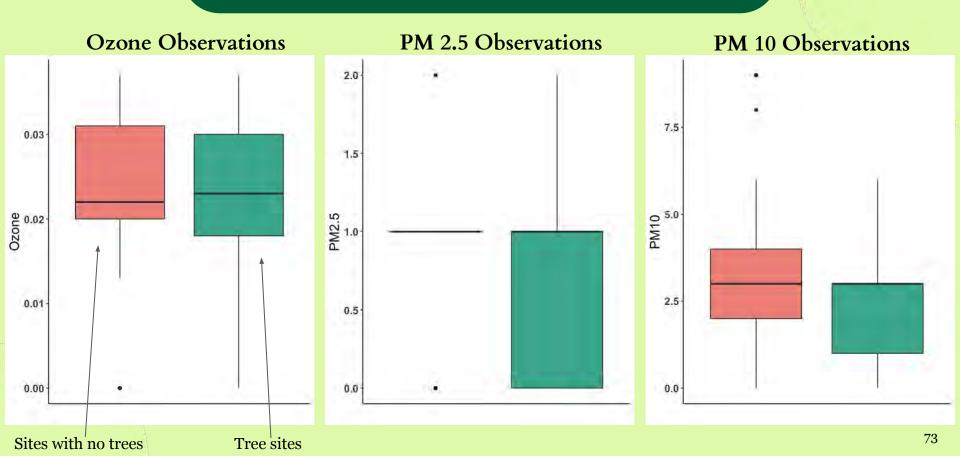


PM 10 Observations



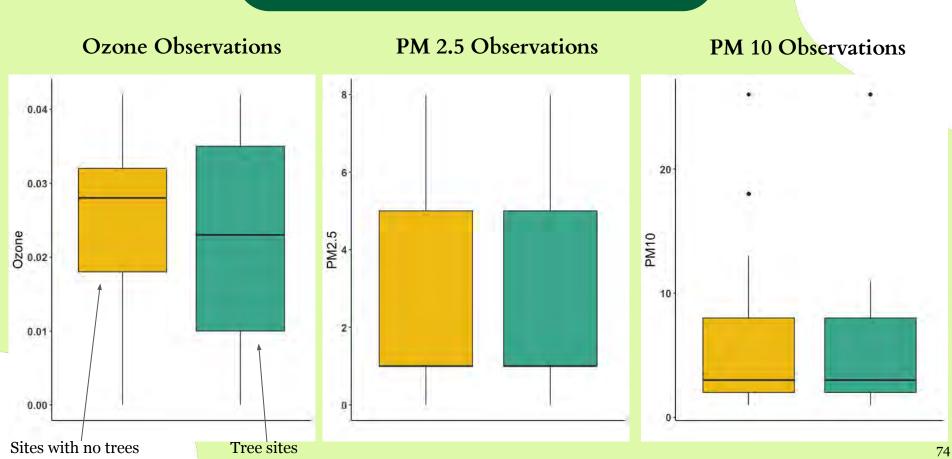


Washington Park





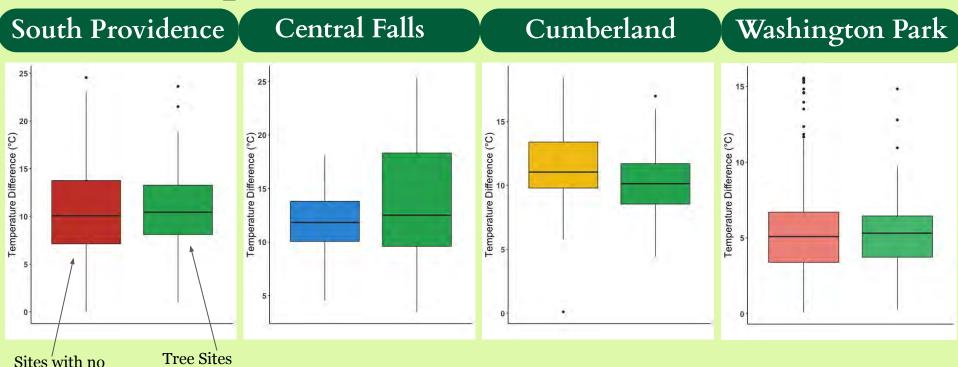
Cumberland





trees

Air Temperature Difference



Cumberland - The landscape of Cumberland allows for larger temperature differences, given it is less densely populated than other locations

References

Air Quality Comparisons:

- Johnson, K., A. Holder, S. Frederick, G. Hagler, AND A. Clements. PurpleAir PM2.5 performance across the U.S.#2. Meeting between ORD, OAR/AirNow, and USFS, Research Triangle Park, NC, February 03, 2020.
- Lin, C., Gillespie, J., Schuder, M. D., Duberstein, W., Beverland, I. J., & Heal, M. R. (2015). Evaluation and calibration of Aeroqual series 500 portable gas sensors for accurate measurement of ambient ozone and nitrogen dioxide. *Atmospheric Environment*, 100, 111-116.