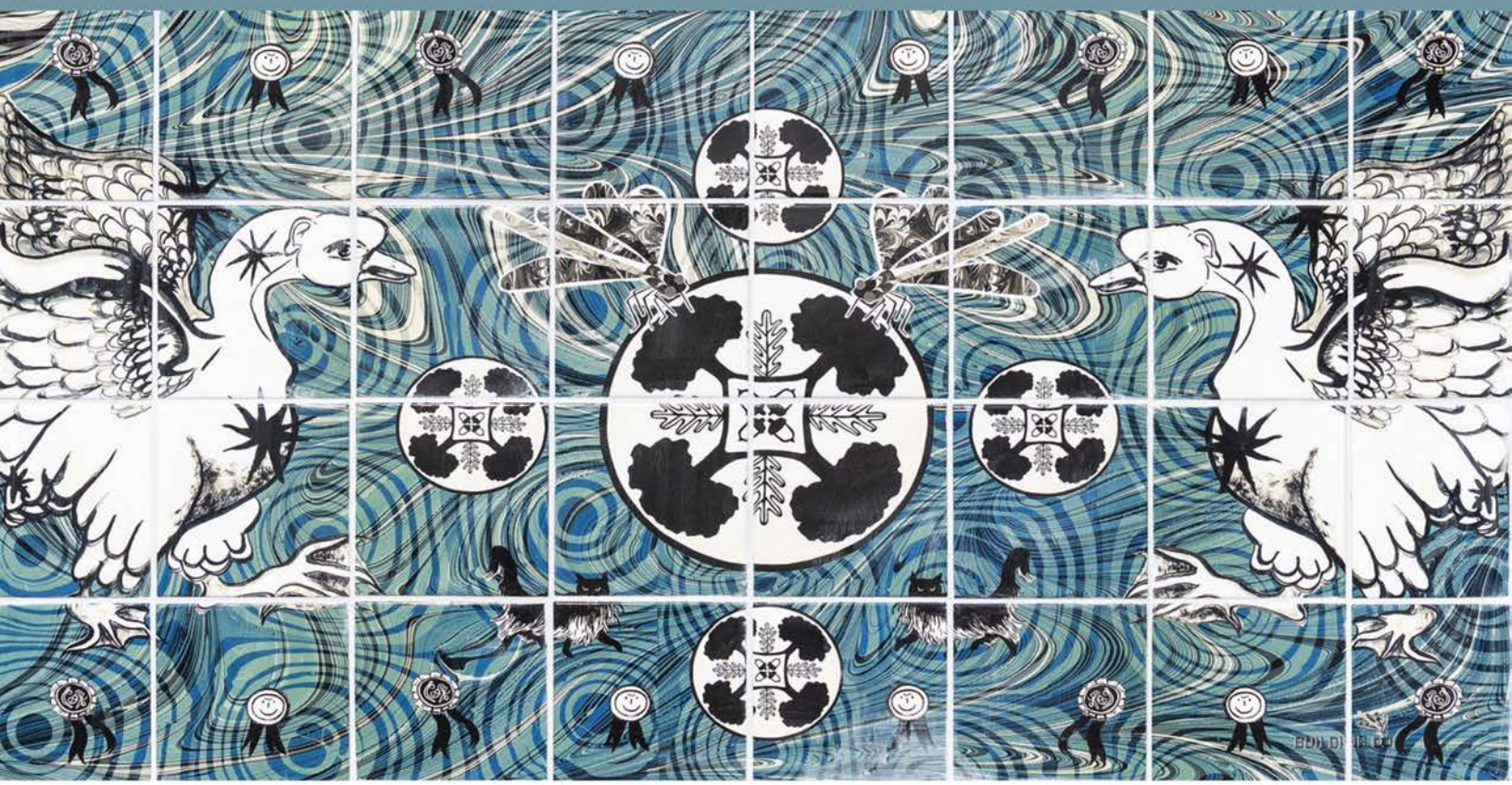
Providence Parks

A Legacy of Investment in Providence Parks

Four Years of Transforming Parks, Public Spaces, and Opportunities for Providence



January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2027

Prepared as a legacy report of the Smiley Administration, Board of Park Commissioners, Providence City Council, and Providence Parks Department

Wendy Nilsson, M.Ed, CPSI
Superintendent of Parks



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under Mayor Brett P. Smiley, the Board of Park Commissioners, the City Council, and the Providence Parks Department made an extraordinary commitment to Providence parks and public spaces. Over four years, the Smiley Administration committed nearly 38.5 million dollars to park renovations, completed more than 81 projects, and advanced more than 150 additional projects across Providence. The scale of this work reached neighborhood parks and citywide destinations, playgrounds and athletic facilities, historic buildings and new infrastructure, waterfronts and schoolyards.

The investment transformed India Point Park, added the Doreen Salk Boardwalk and Dock, opened the Urban Wood Depot, installed circular waste bathrooms, brought new life to the historic Dalrymple Boathouse through the Boathouse Café, made significant investments in the Providence Rink. Downtown parks and Waterplace Park, expanded playgrounds and waterparks, improved athletic facilities, strengthened Green Schoolyards, advanced climate resilience and stormwater infrastructure, invested in public art, and strengthened the systems and workforce behind the parks.

The legacy is therefore larger than a list of projects. It is a stronger parks system with more opportunities for children to play, families to gather, young people to compete, residents to connect with nature, communities to celebrate their identity, and people of all ages and abilities to thrive.

Strategic Plan and Rebranding

The work of this four-year period was guided by a Department wide strategic planning process and rebranding effort developed with the entire team. The process helped define a clear vision for Providence Parks and created a shared framework for how the Department invests, designs, maintains, programs, and communicates about public space. It centered the importance of connecting children and families to nature, advancing equity and consistency across neighborhoods, treating maintenance as a matter of dignity and public trust, and creating innovative and inspiring parks for people. The Department also embraced a renewed commitment to uplifting one another, our neighbors, and our spaces. The result is that the projects and programs described in this report are not a collection of individual improvements. They are part of a deliberate, connected approach to building a stronger parks system and a stronger relationship between Providence residents and the places that belong to them.



STRATEGIC PLAN

Purpose – *Why we exist*

We are the essence of Providence, where every park is not just a space, but a shared moment of connection in the lives of our community.

We create and maintain exceptional, accessible, responsive spaces that serve as the foundation for wellbeing, quality of life, and environmental stewardship. Providence parks are where lasting memories are made—reaching out through generations as part of our city's living legacy.

Vision – *What we are striving to accomplish*

To be the city's most cherished asset, creating parks that are more than spaces—they are living parts of Providence that reflect our shared history, our diverse present, and our future aspirations.

Strategy – *How we will achieve our vision; our roadmap for the future*

Priority 1 – Maximize Our Parks' Value.

Maximize the value of the investments we have made in our parks by transitioning from new construction to ongoing excellence, ensuring that our parks continue to feel fresh and valuable overtime.

- Plan for the lifecycle of park assets and amenities by developing holistic proactive strategies to ensure long-term functionality and sustainability.
- Highlight the value of past investments through visible, high-quality upkeep that excites and engages the community.
- Build on our foundation with upgrades and programming that adapts to evolving community needs, enhances accessibility, and increases the value and impact of parks over time.

Priority 2 – Share our Story.

Foster a deep sense of ownership and pride by building a compelling narrative around the parks' importance to the community and their role in enhancing public wellbeing.

- Inspire community pride and build momentum by celebrating our natural assets, park investments, and venues, while engaging residents and welcoming visitors from near and far.
- Create consistent, unified messaging to showcase how parks serve as community anchors and contributors to well-being.
- Evaluate and demonstrate the impact of the Parks department by using meaningful data to highlight outcomes to the public, policymakers, and funders.

Priority 3 – Build a Generative Future.

Cultivate strategic partnerships, diversify revenue streams, and plan proactively to ensure long-term sustainability and continuing meaningful impact.

- Plan for long-term sustainability by diversifying budgets for park upgrades ensuring financial nimbleness for future needs.
- Collaborate effectively to amplify resources and support iconic projects while laying the groundwork for future initiatives
- Expand revenue through diverse sources that align with the department's mission.



ETHOS & REBRAND

Seeds of Stewardship

We see the land as a partner—not a backdrop. We care for our parks in relationship with the environment and the community, making decisions that support both ecological health and personal wellbeing, now and into the future.

Roots of Providence

Our parks* are the roots of our city. They provide places where people connect, grow, and find respite, enriching the city across generations.

Rings of Reliability

Our work builds year after year, like the rings of a tree steady and enduring. This reliability is the foundation of public trust and the continued success of Providence's parks.

Branches of Belonging

We believe parks should reflect the diversity of Providence. We are committed to equity and inclusion —ensuring that everyone, in every neighborhood, has access to welcoming, vibrant, and safe public spaces.

Leaves of Innovation

We embrace creative, forward-thinking approaches to caring for our parks. From sustainable practices to new technologies and evolving methods, we grow through continuous learning and improvement.

Canopy of Care

Just as a forest canopy offers shelter and connection, our Parks Department nurtures the city. By investing in our teams and offering programs that support our neighbors, we show that when we care for Parks, our city thrives.

*parks, venues and spaces under the purview of the Board of Park Commissioners



Design Thinking

a tree combined with the letter P for Providence and Parks

The Parks Department is a tree with our community at the center as the roots that ground us. Each circular bough represents collaboration, trust, and the exchange of ideas. Together, these overlapping circles create a broad, interwoven canopy that supports and strengthens our city. We are resilient, always growing, anchored in service, and reaching toward a shared future.



I. INVESTING IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

Providence is a city of neighborhoods, and its parks are among the most important places where those neighborhoods come together. The Smiley Administration approached parks investment as a citywide responsibility. The goal was not simply to improve the most visible destinations, but to strengthen neighborhood parks while continuing to invest in facilities that serve the entire City and, and im many cases, the State. This work was guided by the Department's strategic commitment to equity and consistency, with an emphasis on ensuring that every neighborhood has meaningful access to unique, high-quality parks and public spaces.

This approach reflects an important principle: equity does not mean every park receives the same improvement. It means every neighborhood has a meaningful opportunity to benefit from investment, and that quality, safety, accessibility, and care of public spaces are treated as essential City responsibilities. The result is a parks system that is more consistent in quality while still reflecting the unique character of each neighborhood.









II. PLAYGROUNDS, WATERPARKS, AND PLAY FOR EVERY AGE

During this period, Providence made significant investments in playgrounds, splashpads, water features, shade, seating, pathways, accessibility, and spaces designed for children and families. Major playground investments included India Point Park, Brassil Park, Brown Street Park, Donigian Park, Paterson Park, Paul Grande Park, Davis Park, Joslin Park, George J. West Park, Miguel Luna Park, Cabral Park, James Ahern Park, Davey Lopes Park, Neutaconkanut Park, and Richardson Park.

Waterplay investments expanded opportunities for children to cool down and play outdoors during increasingly hot summers. New spaces included Father Lennon Park, Obediah Brown Park, Lippitt Park, and complete redesigns were made at General Street Park, Joslin Park, Miguel Luna Park, George J. West Park, Cabral Park, James Ahern Park, and Richardson Park. These investments support childhood development, physical activity, social connection, imagination, and independence while helping communities respond to extreme heat.

Providence also continued to move toward more inclusive and nature-based play environments, incorporating accessible routes, varied play experiences, natural elements, shade, seating, and spaces that encourage children to explore. The City's investment in play reflects a simple idea: every child deserves a safe, welcoming, inspiring and inclusive place to play close to home.







III. COURTS, FIELDS, FUTSAL, SKATE, AND ACTIVE RECREATION

Providence parks are places where people compete, exercise, practice, gather, and build community. Investment during this period expanded and improved basketball, pickleball, futsal, fitness, skateboarding, ballfields, lighting, and other active recreation opportunities. The work included improvements at Joslin Park, Ninth Street Courts, Conlan Park Junior Recreation Center, James Ahern Park, Roger Williams Park, Donigian Park, Neutaconkanut Park, Tim O'Neill fields, Gano Park, Richardson Park, Obediah Brown Park, Veazie Street Field, Paul Grande Park, Joe Williams Field, and Davis Park.

The City also continued investing in non-traditional sports, including the Neutaconkanut Skatepark and Woonasquatucket Adventure Park. These investments create opportunities for athletic and creative expression while supporting informal recreation and community gathering.











IV. INDIA POINT PARK: A TRANSFORMED WATERFRONT

At 14 acres, with approximately three quarters of a mile of shoreline at the head of Narragansett Bay, India Point Park is the City's most significant waterfront park. It is also one of its most vulnerable, located within the 100-year flood zone and exposed to coastal flooding, erosion, and severe weather.

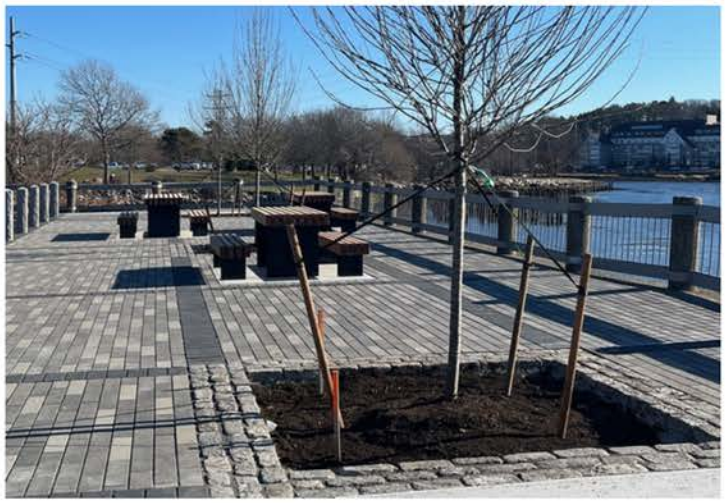
The City's investment has transformed the park while recognizing that recreation and resilience must work together. Improvements have included the promenade and playground, accessible circulation, permeable surfaces, trees, site infrastructure, fencing, waterfront amenities, and improvements to the eastern shoreline.

The eastern shoreline resiliency project represents the next chapter in that transformation. It includes shoreline stabilization, regrading and raising of the multi-purpose field, stone revetment repairs, an armored vegetated slope, improved drainage, adaptive landscape strategies to maintain and increase shoreline habitat, and improvements to circulation and the surrounding landscape. A gathering space with access to the intertidal zone is part of this phase. Construction mobilized in September 2026, with substantial work targeted for completion by the end of 2026. Additional planting and landscape establishment will continue into spring 2027 to allow the new landscape to fully grow in.

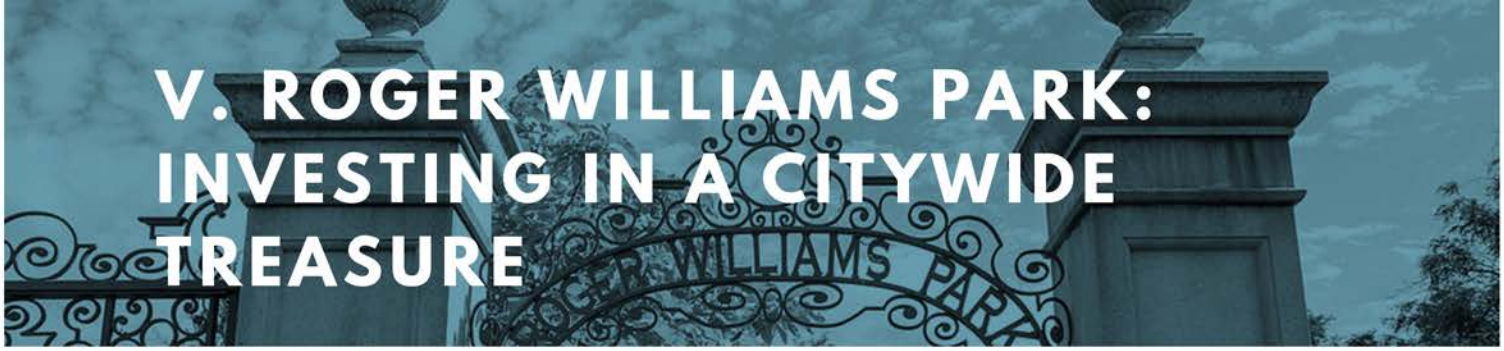
India Point demonstrates what is possible when a park is treated simultaneously as recreation infrastructure, waterfront infrastructure, environmental infrastructure, and community infrastructure.











V. ROGER WILLIAMS PARK: INVESTING IN A CITYWIDE TREASURE

At approximately 435 acres, Roger Williams Park serves residents from every neighborhood and attracts visitors from throughout Rhode Island and beyond. During this period, Providence continued investing in the Park's historic buildings, cultural institutions, recreational facilities, landscapes, roads, stormwater systems, and public spaces.

Major improvements included the Doreen Salk Boardwalk and Dock, the historic Boathouse and Boathouse Café, the Botanical Center, the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium, the Casino, stormwater infrastructure, road striping and crack sealing, landscape improvements, and other critical park systems.

The Doreen Salk Boardwalk and Dock created an accessible connection to the water and expanded opportunities for fishing, paddling, boating, walking, and gathering. The project also incorporated shoreline stabilization, habitat improvements, stormwater management, seating, circulation, lighting, and permeable parking. The Boathouse Café brought new activity to the historic Dalrymple Boathouse, connecting preservation with public use and economic activation.









VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS

The investment extended beyond neighborhood playgrounds and athletic facilities to some of Providence's most important historic, cultural, and civic assets. Together, these places tell the story of Providence, provide opportunities for learning and recreation, and serve as gathering places for residents and visitors from across the city and region.

North Burial Ground

North Burial Ground is a 110-acre cemetery that opened in 1700 and contains more than 100,000 interments. It is an active cemetery as well as a public history and cultural resource. Over the past four years, Parks expanded tours, educational programs, cultural events, and preservation efforts. The City is advancing a $1.25 million Master Plan to establish a long-term framework for preservation, infrastructure, access, programming, and stewardship.

In 2022, The City approved the purchase of CIMS-a cemetery information management system to transform the record keeping at North Burial Ground. Over the last four years, the North Burial Ground team and the CIMS mappers have built a GIS-based database of every currently mapped lot and single grave in North Burial Ground, and their associated records. There are 17,000 mapped spaces, with associated records totaling over 900,000 records, all hand transcribed by NBG staff.

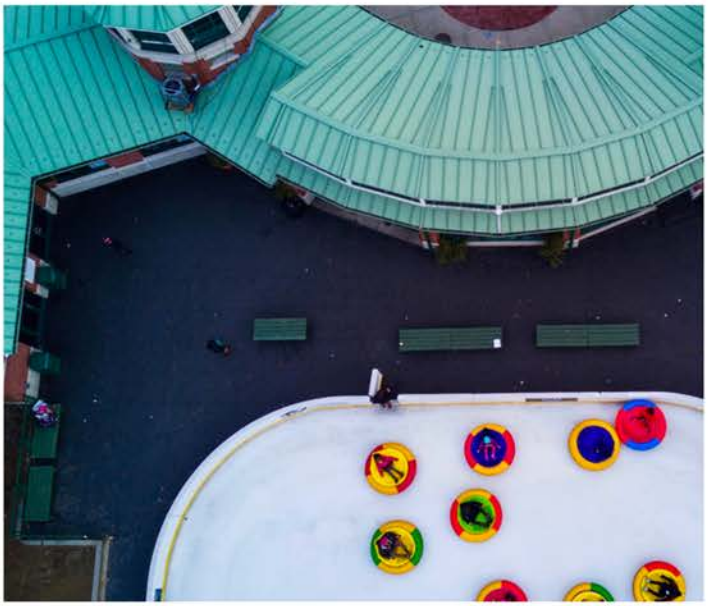
North Burial Ground significantly expanded our higher education partnerships in the last for years. The North Burial Ground Documentation Project was a partnership with Dr. Jordi Rivera Prince, (originally at Brown University, now Tulane University) to assist with the digitization of the record of burials books, document all headstones predating 1848, and develop public programming around archaeology and the cemetery. This project brought in around 60,000.00 in grants and student employees. Though Dr. Rivera Prince has transitioned to Tulane University the program continues. We have rekindled a relationship with Dr. Erik Christiansen, a professor of public history at Rhode Island College where RIC students serve as interns for an upper division Public History methods class, and contribute to NBG public programming and research. We also maintain a relationship with Dr. Bernard Brennan at Johnson and Wales University who leads research on NBG's Prescott Post, honoring Black veterans of the Civil War, and who developed NBG's annual Juneteenth Honor Ceremony.

NBG was selected as a site for a Gateway Landmarks Public Art Installation-a 250,000.00 sculpture selected by an art selection committee appointed by Arts Culture & Tourism. This new piece of art will transform North Burial Ground's pedestrian entrance on North Main Street and serve as a welcome to people entering Providence from the north side of town.





VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS



Providence Rink

Approximately $3.7 million was invested in the Providence Rink's infrastructure, cold floor, and chiller system. The investment protects the future of a downtown public recreation facility that supports skating, recreation, events, and community activities. The Rink also added its iconic shade sail and an in-house-designed lighting package, creating a more distinctive, comfortable, and visually engaging space for summer programming, evening events, and year-round activation.

Winter skating remained one of Downtown Providence's largest seasonal recreational attractions. Over the past four years, the Rink has averaged more than 35,000 skating admissions, 31,000 skate rentals, 4,000 Ice Bumper Car rides, and 75 birthday parties each winter season. At the same time, programming expanded beyond the traditional winter skating season.

By 2026, the Rink was operating spring through fall programming that included public roller skating and Roller Disco, adult volleyball, dodgeball and pickleball leagues, movies, roller hockey, community programs, and special events. Adult recreational leagues operate four nights per week from May through October, with approximately 350 registered participants each week.

The Rink also became an increasingly important venue for Downtown cultural programming and major City events, including PVDFest performances and other concerts, festivals, and community activations. Together, these investments and programming expansions transformed the Rink from a primarily seasonal ice-skating facility into a multi-use public space that supports recreation, events, Downtown activity, and community gathering throughout the year.



VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS

Roger Williams Park Gateway Center

Since opening in 2022, the Gateway Center has become an important front door to Roger Williams Park, connecting the Broad Street corridor and surrounding neighborhoods to the Park's more than 435 acres and more than 1.5 million annual visitors. It provides information about free programs, events, amenities, and services while also serving as a venue for community gatherings, wellness activities, educational programming, and cultural events.

In a 4-year span, the Roger Williams Park Gateway Center has welcomed more than 30,000 visitors, quickly establishing itself as a vibrant community hub and welcoming gateway to one of Providence's most treasured public spaces.

The Gateway Center's growing impact has been recognized at the local, state, and federal levels. Since opening, the Center has received a Certificate of Recognition from U.S. Representative Gabe Amo, a State of Rhode Island Citation presented by Representative Scott A. Slater, a Cranston City Council Citation, National 2025 AIA Small Project Award (American Institute of Architects) for its design excellence, sustainability and inclusive placemaking, the Gateway Center is Providence's first net-zero building, and the Community Supporter Award from The MUSE Foundation of Rhode Island. These recognitions highlight the Gateway Center's commitment to community service, collaboration, and creating meaningful opportunities for Rhode Island residents.

The Gateway Center has also developed a signature event designed specifically around the needs of the surrounding community. Its annual Halloween celebration has grown into one of the Center's largest community traditions, welcoming approximately 500 residents and families each year.

The free event provides families with a safe and accessible alternative to traditional neighborhood trick-or-treating, transforming the Gateway Center into a festive community gathering space filled with decorated trick-or-treat stations, family activities, and opportunities to connect with City departments, community organizations, local partners, and volunteers.

Beyond providing an afternoon of entertainment, the event represents the Gateway Center's broader mission: removing barriers to participation, creating welcoming experiences, strengthening community partnerships, and ensuring that residents feel connected to Roger Williams Park and the resources within it.



VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS

Roger Williams Park Botanical Center

The Botanical Center continues to be a major destination for horticulture, education, wellness, family programming, and community events. During this period, Parks completed approximately $723,000 in site improvements. The Center supports horticultural workshops, seasonal celebrations, family activities, educational experiences, wellness programs, and community events.

- Visitor Growth: 30% increase in overall attendance, with a notable 40% rise in children's visits.
- Membership Surge: Memberships increased from 77 to 480, highlighting a strong boost in community engagement.
- Expanded Programming: 78% increase in year-round programs that connect families with nature. New offerings include preschool programs, seasonal exhibits, specialized plant workshops, family walks, and complimentary experiences such as Ask the Horticulturist Saturdays, Drop-in and Play Sundays, and Story Hour Saturdays.
- Admission Revenue Boost: A 175% increase in admission revenue, rising from $95,000 in 2020 to $259,000 in 2025.
- Facility Upgrades: The grounds have been transformed with a new Rose Maze, goat enrichment area, Dia-Log exhibit, and custom-designed Lakeside Pavilion.
- Enhanced Infrastructure: The gardens are now equipped with a new irrigation system, and the Botanical Center has been revitalized with fresh flooring, vibrant art murals, and an upgraded sound system. Significant repairs were also made to the glass houses, and improvements to the overall aesthetic continue.





VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS





Museum of Natural History and Planetarium

Approximately $853,000 in renovations supported improvements to the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium while programming continued to connect children, families, students, schools, and lifelong learners with science, nature, and astronomy. Programming includes planetarium shows, school field trips, hands on workshops, homeschool programs, family programs, outdoor education, Scouts programs, and lifelong learning opportunities.

- Increased attendance at the Museum and Planetarium by 23%; including a 27% increase in education programming.
- Created and produced 10 new planetarium shows and 6 exhibits.
- Completed major building renovations to the interior and exterior.
- Developed Museum-to-Go boxes to bring the museum to the community.
- Introduced Innovative collaborative programming in Providence Parks including Moon walks; Sunset strolls; Eclipse View Days; music and family days at the Betsey Williams Cottage; Fresh-Air Museum; and Moon in the Park.





VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS

Roger Williams Park Zoo and Shared Stewardship

The relationship between Providence Parks and Roger Williams Park Zoo reflects a unique model of shared stewardship. The Zoo is owned by the City of Providence and operates under a long-term agreement with the Rhode Island Zoological Society, which manages day to day operations, while the Parks Department has responsibility for the larger park and public landscape. Parks and the Zoo work together on landscape stewardship, infrastructure, events, public access, safety, transportation, programming, and long-term planning. Together, they help ensure that Roger Williams Park functions as one interconnected public asset where conservation, recreation, education, culture, and community life can thrive side by side.

Recognition and Celebration

- Celebrated 150 years with a time capsule burial beneath Sentinel Dog, set to be opened on July 4, 2072, marking the Zoo's Bicentennial.
- Named Best STEM Summer Camp in Providence in 2024.
- Achieved 100% retention of all Docents for 2023, the first year on record with full recommitment to the program.
- Earned continued accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) through 2027.

Conservation and Wildlife

- Welcomed new African bird species, including trumpeter hornbills, superb starlings, speckled mousebirds, Lady Ross' turacos, and blue-bellied rollers.
- Introduced new African mammal residents, including a serval (a medium-sized African cat) and a male Masai giraffe.
- Noteworthy births included endangered Matschie's tree kangaroos and golden lion tamarins, as well as a black howler monkey, sloths and tamanduas.
- Continued support of Project Selva in Bora, Peru, assisting an Indigenous Amazonian tribe by selling fish print art and crafts to provide essential funds for food and medicine.
- Reached a 30-year milestone in the endangered American burying beetle conservation and breeding program.
- Expanded and improved breeding success in the New England Cottontail Collaborative, including US Fish & Wildlife Service, three regional state wildlife agencies, University of Rhode Island, the State University of New York and Queens Zoo.
- Lead the AZA SAFE Jaguar program, which funds two wildlife rangers at the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary in Belize.

Events

- The Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular continued as a signature event with record numbers of attendees.
- Added seasonal experiences such as Holiday Lights Spectacular, Mythical Creatures, and Dinosaurs, to rave reviews and attendance.

New Exhibits and Capital Improvement Projects

- Opened the new Connection Corner exhibit, featuring complimentary animal encounters with armadillos and tortoises.

VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS





- Unveiled the serval habitat and African aviaries in Savanna Stroll.
- Completed over 30,000 square feet of paving throughout the zoo.
- Opened the new state-of-the-art Red Panda habitat.
- Opened new Humboldt Penguins exhibit, scheduled for completion by summer 2025.
- Opened new Education Center and Events Pavilion in 2026.

Planning and Community

- Continued to Provide free Saturday admission to Providence families and weekday admissions to Providence Schools.
- Developed new Strategic Plan.
- Participated in all Roger Williams Park partner events and programs.
- Supported Parks Department summer programming and free USDA meals with animal experiencing at over 15 City parks annually.
- Engage over 200 community members in Co-Design Project to gain a deeper understanding of how Roger Williams Park Zoo can align its programs and initiatives with community priorities.
- The Zoobilee Gives Back program raised $6,000 for the RI Hospitality Association's Emergency Relief Fund.



VI. HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC ASSETS

Additional Co Managed and Partnered Public Assets

Providence Parks also co manages or maintains contracts with a range of public, recreational, cultural, and waterfront partners. These relationships extend the reach of the Parks system and help connect residents and visitors with more ways to experience Providence.

- Boathouse Café provides a welcoming destination in Roger Williams Park where visitors can enjoy food and refreshments while gathering and taking in the park's scenic ponds and surrounding landscape.
- Community Boating Center provides opportunities for people of all ages to learn, enjoy, and connect with Providence's waterways through boating and water-based recreation. Increased access for PVD Recreation families.
- La Gondola creates a distinctive way to experience Providence's waterways while adding a unique recreational and tourism experience to the park system.
- Providence River Boat offers opportunities to experience Providence from the water and discover the city's rivers and waterfront from a new perspective. Increased access for PVD Recreation families.
- Providence Tennis Academy expands access to tennis instruction, skill development, and recreation for youth and players of all experience levels. Increased access for PVD Recreation families.
- Subway at Kennedy Plaza provides convenient food and service options in a central public location while supporting the activity and accessibility of Kennedy Plaza.
- Swan Boats remain a beloved Roger Williams Park tradition, offering visitors a peaceful and memorable way to explore the park's historic ponds and enjoy its landscape from the water.
- Triggs Memorial Golf Course provides accessible public golf and recreational opportunities at this historic Donald Ross course. Increased access for PVD Recreation families.
- Wood Depot supports Providence's urban forestry program by providing a place for the public and Parks' design team to access wood generated through tree maintenance and removal to be processed, stored, and put to productive use. Open for public use and urban agriculture, including community gardens.







VII. DOWNTOWN PARKS, PUBLIC SPACES, AND PUBLIC ART

During this period, Providence invested in Waterplace Park, Providence River Park (Riverwalk), Station Park, Burnside Park, Biltmore Park, and other downtown public spaces. Waterplace Park received a new stage and public amenities, including circular waste public bathrooms. Biltmore Park received a new kiosk, amenities and park activation. Station Park was renovated with new landscape elements, seating, planting, and meadow improvements. The Riverwalk continued to serve as both a transportation connection and a public space, with new seating and public art contributing to the experience of the riverfront.

Public art projects included the Billy Taylor Park bridge art installation, two My Home Courts featuring nationally recognized artist Trenton Doyle Hancock and Samuel Biggers, the Brassil Park mural, the Memorial Park art installation, the Neutaconkanut Park Skatepark mural, and public art installations along the Providence Riverwalk in partnership with ACT and ChromaCouncil featuring more than 14 local artists as well as benches made from wind turbine featuring a national and a local artist. These projects demonstrate that art can be integrated directly into landscape, architecture, recreation infrastructure, and the everyday experience of a park.









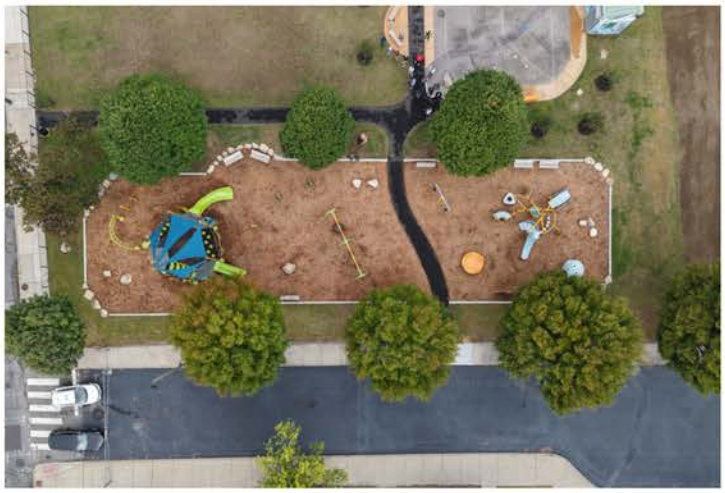
VIII. GREEN SCHOOLYARDS AND CONNECTING CHILDREN TO NATURE

Providence has emerged as a leader in the movement to connect children with nature through Green Schoolyards. Recently, The City has invested in over $2 million in schoolyard improvements, transforming school grounds into places for play, learning, environmental education, recreation, and community connection.

Green Schoolyards have included projects at Harriet and Sayles, Joslin, Father Lennon, Richardson, Cabral, and other school and park environments. These projects incorporate nature play, outdoor classrooms, gardens, shade, accessible play, trees, stormwater management, and opportunities for children to experience nature as part of everyday life.

The work reflects a broader philosophy that children should not have to leave their neighborhoods to experience nature and further our mission with the Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership. Providence's Green Schoolyard work has informed work with the Trust for Public Land and the Connecting Children to Nature network, and Providence has shared its approach through local, regional, and national presentations.









IX. CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND STORMWATER





Providence Parks increasingly functions as part of the City's climate resilience infrastructure. Parks absorb stormwater, reduce heat, support biodiversity, protect waterways, provide shade, and create landscapes that can respond to changing environmental conditions.

During this period, Providence invested in the Roger Williams Park Stormwater Treatment Train, additional stormwater retrofits, Green Schoolyards, permeable surfaces, tree planting, naturalized landscapes, the India Point Park eastern shoreline resiliency project, and developed our own materials reuse lot. The Stormwater Treatment Train demonstrates how stormwater infrastructure can be integrated into a public landscape while providing environmental education and visible community benefit. The Doreen Salk Boardwalk and Dock similarly demonstrate how a recreational project can incorporate shoreline stabilization, habitat, drainage, and stormwater strategies. Our continued role as founders in the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center ensures that each project has a broader impact for training, development, community engagement and education. Most importantly, we follow best practices in sustainable urban landscape management, including Leave the Leaves, low- and no-mow areas, adaptive reuse, native plantings, urban meadows, and chemical-free maintenance practices that support biodiversity, strengthen urban ecosystems, and promote healthier public spaces. This is an important evolution in the way Providence thinks about parks. A park is not simply a place where infrastructure is located. The landscape itself can be infrastructure.



X. THE INFRASTRUCTURE BEHIND THE PARKS

The visible transformation of Providence's parks depends on infrastructure and stewardship that most residents never see. Maintenance facilities, equipment, storage, irrigation, drainage, roads, utilities, lighting, buildings, digital systems, operational systems, and a highly trained workforce are all essential to keeping parks safe, functional, and welcoming.

The Parks Department manages approximately 123 parks and outdoor spaces encompassing approximately 1,600 acres. The system includes playgrounds, waterparks, athletic fields, skate and bike features, outdoor fitness centers, courts, historic buildings, natural areas, gardens, waterfronts, and downtown public spaces.

During this period, investment also strengthened the systems behind daily operations, including ArcGIS, warehouse and attic stock management, specialized training, team development, equipment, grounds, forestry capacity, and maintenance operations, as well as storm preparedness and response. These less visible investments are what allow the Department to respond to daily needs while also managing an increasingly sophisticated and diverse parks and public space system.

Maintenance is not separate from investment. Maintenance is what protects the value of every investment the City makes. A newly renovated playground, a newly planted tree, a restored landscape, a stormwater system, a historic building, or a new waterfront improvement all require ongoing care to deliver their intended value over time. This principle is central to the Department's strategic plan and rebrand, which recognizes maintenance as a matter of dignity, trust, and long-term stewardship. The added bonus is we are able to reinvest about $700,000 of cost-savings a year for the past 4 years directly into park projects.

That commitment is reflected in the people and systems behind the work. The Department has personnel dedicated to training and professional development, 11 Certified Playground Inspectors, specialized forestry expertise, and an ongoing commitment to staying at the forefront of best practices in urban park management. It is also why the Department continues to perform a significant amount of work with its own teams. In-house delivery provides greater quality control, builds institutional knowledge, creates significant cost savings, and gives our employees a direct sense of ownership and pride in the spaces they maintain.

Grounds, also known as Neighborhood Parks Services/Grounds, is the front line of daily care for Providence's neighborhood parks. The division has strengthened its organizational structure and chain of command, with extensive training and support for foreman and a renewed emphasis on the role of the Foreman throughout the year. This structure provides greater consistency, accountability, and support for the employees responsible for caring for individual parks and neighborhoods. The division also prioritizes sustainable practices and the use of current best practices in urban park management, including low and no mow strategies, Leave the Leaves, reduced chemical use, and practices that support soil health and biodiversity, are combined with ride-alongs and continued professional development and training. Park audits are the priority of every park visit, ensuring that teams begin with a systematic assessment of conditions, safety, cleanliness, and maintenance needs before addressing daily work. This division also leads an extemsive storm team that addresses snow and significant debris from extreme weather events. Together, these practices have created a more intentional, knowledgeable, and sustainable approach to caring for Providence's neighborhood parks. Based on this, we have seen a significant reduction in the amount of PVD311 calls.

With the launch of the new PVD311 on 3/11/2025, an increased quantity of individual service requests has been noted. Requests for Park-related issues have doubled from a 2023-2024 average of 7 requests per



X. THE INFRASTRUCTURE BEHIND THE PARKS

month to a 2025-2026 average of 14 requests per month. As a request-based system, significant thought was placed into the solutions of these cases which vary widely in substance. Many 311 requests received for Parks issues were previously reported by Parks or other city staff. Other 311 requests were more of an inquisitive nature asking for information or expressing aesthetic preferences. The Forestry side saw a 30% increase in PVD311 requests when comparing 2023-2024 and 2025-2026 with the system update and publicity. 70% of the total 311 requests received by Parks Department and Forestry are considered lower priority tree pruning requests. Since the current City Forester was hired in January 2024, Forestry has completed 169 more PVD311 work orders than it has received, making significant progress on the wait list for request-based tree pruning. But the Department's responsibility extends beyond the boundaries of individual parks. Through its Forestry Division, the Department also cares for approximately 27,000 street trees throughout the City, as well as trees and other landscape resources located in parks, public spaces, along roadways, and throughout the broader public realm.

This is a significant public infrastructure system. Trees require ongoing inspection, pruning, planting, removal when necessary, pest and disease management, emergency response, and long-term planning. Caring for the urban forest is both an operational responsibility and an investment in the City's future. Healthy trees provide shade, reduce heat, manage stormwater, support wildlife, improve air quality, contribute to neighborhood character, and make public spaces more comfortable and inviting. The work of Forestry impacts virtually every neighborhood in Providence, not only those with a designated park. Planted an average of 1,091 trees per year across the city

Increased the number of tree pruned from 2200 trees/year to 2550 trees/year. Total work orders completed have increased year over year- from a low of 1611 work orders in 2023, 1850 in 2024, 2109 in 2025, to a projected high of 3000 in 2026. The city's canopy is steadily and equitably increasing. The age of the specimens are increasing, requiring dynamic and thoughtful resource management. The average condition of an individual tree in the city is classified as "good," signaling maximum benefits for more involved tree care services. As trees mature, maintenance requirements decrease while benefits remain steady or increase.

The infrastructure of care also extends to the people responsible for the City's living collections. At Roger Williams Park Zoo, the City's zookeepers and veterinary technicians provide specialized, highly skilled care for the animals entrusted to the City. Their work includes daily husbandry, nutrition, behavioral observation, preventive care, medical treatment, emergency response, record keeping, and coordination with the Zoo's veterinary and animal care teams. This is specialized public service that requires significant training, experience, and a deep understanding of animal health and welfare. The Zoo's animal care staff are an important part of the broader Parks Department workforce and of the stewardship responsibility that comes with managing one of the City's most significant public institutions. Working in partnership with the Rhode Island Zoological Society, over the past 4 years we have added several positions, updated job classifications and positions and better integrated the zoo into the Parks milieu.

The result is an infrastructure of care that extends well beyond what residents see when they visit a park. It is the daily work of maintaining fields and playgrounds, caring for trees, managing buildings and landscapes, responding to storms, inspecting equipment, repairing infrastructure, supporting public events, maintaining waterfronts and natural areas, and ensuring that Providence's public spaces remain safe, healthy, and welcoming. These are the investments that allow the physical improvements made during this period to endure and continue serving Providence residents for generations to come.



XI. IN HOUSE DESIGN AND PROJECT DELIVERY

One of the less visible but most important accomplishments of this period has been the continued development of Providence Parks' in-house capacity to design and deliver projects. The Parks Department's professional team includes landscape architects, designers, project managers, construction administration staff, building expertise, and graphic design capacity.

This in-house model provides continuity from concept through construction and closeout. It allows the Department to respond quickly to site conditions, coordinate directly with operations and maintenance staff, incorporate institutional knowledge, and maintain a consistent understanding of City standards and priorities. It also allows the City to retain more control over the quality and character of public spaces while reducing reliance on outside consultants. This control also allows us to value engineer projects and determine what cost savings can be realized by doing the work such as demolition or playground builds with our grounds and maintenance teams.

The City's ability to move projects from ideas to construction to completed parks is itself a significant part of this legacy.









XII. WORKFORCE, TRAINING, AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF PARKS PROFESSIONALS

A strong parks system depends on people. During this period, Providence continued investing in the knowledge, skills, leadership, and professional development of its Parks workforce. The Parks Academy reached its tenth year in 2026. The Department continued its Parks Conference-All Hands In, professional development, technical training, and opportunities for staff to learn from one another.

The Department also expanded apprenticeship opportunities through partnerships with Building Futures and Local 1033, creating pathways connected to forestry, stormwater, and maintenance. We continued our four-year partnership with the Esek Hopkins Homestead and Providence Preservation Society, using the historic home as a living example of sustainable revitalization while creating job training opportunities for community members and Parks Department staff. Together, these efforts demonstrate that the future of Providence Parks depends not only on what is built, but on the people, who design, construct, maintain, program, preserve, and care for these places.



XIII. PARTNERSHIPS THAT MULTIPLIED THE CITY'S INVESTMENT

The transformation of Providence's parks was not accomplished by the Parks Department alone. The work was made possible because of the Board of Park Commissioners, City Council and partnerships with the, neighborhood associations, schools, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic partners, state and federal agencies, private partners and donors, community organizations, recreation providers, contractors, artists, volunteers, and residents.

These partnerships brought additional funding, expertise, ideas, relationships, and community ownership to projects across the City. In many cases, public investment served as the foundation for additional private and philanthropic support. The result was a multiplier effect: City investment created opportunities for partners to contribute, and those partnerships made it possible to accomplish more than any one organization could accomplish alone.



XIV. PUBLIC PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY, AND ACCESS

A parks system is more than the places people visit. It is also the programs, opportunities, relationships, and experiences that make those places meaningful. During this period, Providence Parks expanded the ways people could learn, play, work, connect with nature, and access free or affordable opportunities throughout the City.

Free Fitness in the Parks

Fitness in the Parks provides year-round access to fitness and movement classes designed for people of all ages and abilities in parks throughout Providence. In addition to our core classes, we provide free access to park spaces for instructors offering one-time or short-series classes. This expands the range of fitness opportunities available to residents, activates more parks, and provides local instructors with a platform to build an audience and grow their programs.

We also installed and maintain fitness equipment in 19 city parks, creating free, and unique, high-quality outdoor fitness centers that are available to all.

Many of our Fitness in the Parks instructors have been part of the program for five years or more. Their continued participation has helped build consistent programming and a supportive and committed participant base. Classes are offered on consistent days, times, and at the same park locations whenever possible, making it easier for people to establish a routine, reliably access fitness opportunities, and build community with other participants. Class attendance ranges from approximately 10 to 125 participants, depending on the type and format of the class. Overall, we average 40 free classes a year.

Core offerings include yoga, chair yoga, tai chi, step aerobics, bachata, salsa, line dancing, strength building, and running and walking programs. During the fall, winter, and spring seasons, indoor classes are offered at the Gateway Center at Roger Williams Park and the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center, providing year-round opportunities for movement and wellness regardless of weather.

Education and Connecting People to Nature

Providence Parks serves as an outdoor classroom for people of all ages. Educational programming connects children, families, students, teachers, and community members with nature, wildlife, horticulture, environmental stewardship, recreation, and history. Through Green Schoolyards, nature play, outdoor learning, environmental education, and programming in parks, Providence has created more opportunities for children to learn through direct experience. This year to date, the Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership has directly engaged 1,140 community members in our free school and public programs. 398 Providence Public School students and 16 PPSD teachers were able to utilize the Providence Parks as outdoor classrooms throughout each school year. An additional yearly cohort of 6-10Providence educators was trained using Providence Parks as their outdoor classroom through the Teacher Institute, a week-long professional development program hosted by the Roger Williams Park Zoo and the Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership.



XIV. PUBLIC PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY, AND ACCESS

Friends Groups and partners

The Parks Department coordinates with and supports the work of 40+ park friends' group and community partners that provide a crucial bridge between the park itself and how it is activated within the community. These groups work closely with park staff to provide feedback related to design and use so that they best reflect the priorities of the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, they work collaboratively with each other to promote "cross pollination" of resources and best practices. The Parks Department provides monthly updates, disseminates resources, notices of upcoming events and calls to action communications throughout the year

Earth April

Over the past four years, the Parks Department has expanded its traditional Earth Day activities into Earth April, a month-long celebration of stewardship and community engagement across Providence's public green spaces. In partnership with Partnership for Providence Parks (P3), the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP), the Urban Wildlife Partnership, Friends groups, community partners, Providence Public Schools, and recreation centers, Earth April brings together thousands of volunteers for hands on projects and park activations throughout the city.

Activities include tree plantings, park spruce ups, gardening projects, bike rides, shoreline cleanups, habitat improvements, and other stewardship projects. The Parks Department provides the workforce, equipment, materials, and coordination needed to make these projects successful and rewarding experiences for participants. By expanding Earth Day into a month-long effort, Parks is able to activate more parks, engage more residents and volunteers, and build relationships that extend well beyond April. The goal is not simply to celebrate our parks for one day, but to create a culture of stewardship, shared responsibility and appreciation for Providence's public spaces all year long.

Home School and Family Learning

Parks, gardens, natural areas, museums, cultural facilities, and recreation spaces provide places where families can learn together through exploration and hands-on experiences. These opportunities demonstrate the unique role of public parks as informal learning environments. We also continued our partnership with the Met School to use Roger Williams Park as a learning base for a 4-year cohort of students who graduated in 2025.

In the winter of 2025, the Providence Parks Dept. joined forces with the Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership, NOAA and the Nature Conservancy to map out a series of events, conversations, tours and passive educational opportunities (signage and flyers) to inform the public about the removal of the Point Street piers. This effort will run for the duration of time involved in prepping and removing of the piers and will engage community partners (mainly the Providence Riverboat Company and Department of Recreation) in free spring and summer boat tours that will raise



XIV. PUBLIC PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY, AND ACCESS

awareness and enthusiasm for the improve quality of life for people, vegetation and aquatic life that calls the Providence River home. This exciting partnership will also include a series of 9 Jr. Birder programs, and 9 all ages community Birding Outings to expand on the PUWCP's current educational offerings. These free programs are laying the groundwork to sow the seeds of stewardship for the next generation of birders while connecting content to learning about critical conservation work happening locally. Community members will learn how by actively cleaning up our water, all life will benefit, but especially the birds and the fish.

Performing Arts and Cultural Programming

Through the support of the Edward Ely Fund, Parks has partnered with Art Culture and Tourism (ACT) to support performing arts programming that brings music, theater, dance, and cultural experiences into neighborhood and citywide public spaces on a micro-theater scale each year, we fund over 40 artists and host over 60 community performances annually. Parks and facilities have also served as venues for larger performances, cultural presentations, community celebrations, and artistic events. This reflects a broader vision for Providence Parks as places where people gather, celebrate, create, perform, and experience one another. We continue to support Pops in the Park, PVD Fest, Waterfire and the various cultural festivals that make Providence so vibrant.

Food Security and Community Support

Through partnerships and community-based programming, parks and public spaces serve as places where children and youth can access fresh food, participate in community growing and gardening, learn about healthy food, and connect with organizations working to address food insecurity. These opportunities support awareness, education and empathy around food growers, consumers and our city's green spaces.

As one of the few free spaces to gather, Providence Parks are essential locations for administering the Free Youth Summer Meals Program (SMSP). During summer months (Early July to end of August), we serve over 65,000 youth meals at over 30 park sites and 40 Enrolled Sites, including meal service on Saturdays and rain/heat advisory days.

Additionally, from October to June we manage the CACFP after school meals program to provide free youth snacks and suppers at recreation centers and libraries as well as access to healthy shelf-stable meals during school, program closure and weather emergencies. We have averaged about 60,000 meals a year for the past 4 years.

The meals program includes monthly menus and opportunity for consumer (youth) feedback. The Parks Department and our community partners understand that serving tasty menu items and encouraging youth to voice their preferences about meal choices helps to both engagement in the program and reduce stigma associated with accessing free meals. Serving fresh, desirable, free meals in accessible, safe, beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces is the cornerstone of the City's free youth meals program.



XIV. PUBLIC PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY, AND ACCESS

Teen Employment and Youth Opportunity

Providence Parks is also a place where young people can gain their first work experience, develop skills, build confidence, and contribute to their communities. Teen employment and youth programming such as summer meals, Playcorps Ambassadors, rink attendants and Gateway hosts provide opportunities to develop professional skills and explore career paths in recreation, environmental stewardship, landscaping, forestry, maintenance, design, and public service.

In 2026, the Free Summer Meals program hired 38 middle and high school students as well as college students to staff the program to support the meals program.This opportunity provides outdoor work experience that builds self-confidence, organizational skills and empathy. In addition, we hire staff who may also benefit from accessing the free meals themselves, both to encourage staff to sit with park visitors during mealtime and to provide enjoyable, well-paying jobs to kids most in need of summer employment. Over the past 4 years, we have seen both an increase in returning staff, sibling recruits and professional advancement as hires move from the Ambassador role into one of Director.

Free Recreation and Community Opportunities

Providence Parks offers free opportunities for recreation, play, fitness, nature exploration, community gatherings, cultural experiences, and seasonal activities. Each year we offer free classes at over 20 sites with about 100 classes a summer.

These opportunities are particularly important in a city where not every family has access to private recreation, transportation, organized activities, or large private yards.

We create opportunities for the community to build their outdoor recreation skill levels for activities such as fishing, birding, hiking and general fitness. At our fishing and birding events, community members have access to high-quality equipment and top tier instruction. This messaging is further supported by linked programs at our major venues like the Rink, Gateway, Museum, Zoo and Botanical Center.









XV. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, RECOGNITION, AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Over the past four years, Providence Parks has increasingly shared its work beyond the City, contributing to regional and national conversations about parks, nature, climate resilience, public health, equitable access, and innovative park design. The Department's work has been featured through professional conferences, university programs, local, regionals national networks and publications, and community presentations. This body of work reflects an important shift: Providence Parks is not only building and maintaining parks but also contributing to the broader professional conversation about the role, design, maintenance and future of urban Parks.

Publication / Presentation / Recognition	Focus	Scope and Timing
Presentation: Brown University Nature and Health Workshop	Parks, nature, health, community engagement, and urban wellbeing. Presented Providence parks as vital hubs for urban wellbeing and community connection.	Local, Sep 2024
Presentation: Rhode Island Stormwater Innovation Conference / Stormwater Expo	Stormwater management, climate resilience, nature-based infrastructure, and parks as green infrastructure. Featured India Point Park shoreline	Local, Multiple years
Presentation: Connecting Families to Nature Network	Nature based play, Nature Exploration Areas, equity, biodiversity, outdoor learning, and children's connection to nature.	Local, Four plus years
Presentation: Roger Williams Park: History and Renewal, Lifelong Learning Collaborative	History, revitalization, stewardship, and the future of Roger Williams Park.	Regional
Recognition: Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Awards	Rhode Island Landscape Society Awards: Merit Award for Jacqueline Clements Park Design 2024 and Merit Award for Amtrak Station Park Meadow 2024.	Regional
Recognition: Providence Preservation Society, Betsey Williams Sycamore	Historic landscape preservation, legacy trees, horticulture, workforce knowledge, and innovative conservation.	Local
Presentation: Rhode Island Stormwater Innovation at the University of Rhode Island	Green infrastructure, stormwater management, climate resilience, and innovative approaches to managing water in public landscapes.	Regional
Presentation: National Recreation and Park Association and national parks presentations	Park leadership, nature-based recreation, connecting children to nature, workforce development, park design, and equitable access.	National
Presentation: National Wildlife Federation Conference	Connecting children and families to nature, nature-based play, biodiversity, environmental education, and conservation.	National
Presentation: City Parks Alliance	Urban park leadership, equitable investment, climate resilience, community engagement, and public spaces as essential civic infrastructure.	National
Presentation: Parks Conference: All Hands In	Workforce development, professional learning, collaboration, operations, maintenance, design, and stewardship.	Local, Annual
Green Schoolyards / Providence Green Schoolyards Initiative	Nature based play, outdoor learning, environmental education, stormwater management, equity, and children's connection to nature.	Ongoing
Recognition: Roger Williams Park Gateway: Recognized by U.S. Congress and local/state organizations for community development and engagement 2024.	For free public programs	Regional



XV. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, RECOGNITION, AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Publication / Presentation / Recognition	Focus	Timing
Presentation: EPA Stormwater Maintenance Practices 2024.	Cape Cod	Regional
Recognition: US Coastal Institute Senior Fellow 2023.		National
Presentation: NE Society for Landscape Architecture 2024.	Best practices in Urban Parks Design	National
Presentation: 28th Annual Non-Point Source Pollution Conference 2023.		Regional
Recognition: Participated in the Harvard Bloomberg Institute 2024.		International
Recognition: Newport Flower show	Bulkley Medal	National
Recognition: Outstanding commitment to Diversity Equity and Inclusion	2026 Economic Development MBW/WBE	National, 2026
Recognition: Tree City USA	4 years	National, 4 years
Presentation: New England Cemetery Association Annual Meeting	Instructional Presentation on building cemetery programming as part of a cemetery's operations	Regional, June 2026
Presentation: American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting	Presentation and report on Academic and community projects focusing on the North Burial Ground Documentation Project	National, November 2025
Recognition: Selected as a founding leader for the Historic and Garden Cemetery Committee of the ICCFA (International Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association).	Selected to serve as a founding member/organizer of the ICCFA's committee to support stewards of active historic cemeteries	International, 2025
Recognition: 40 under 40 in Death Care, ICCFA	City Cemetery Director honored as a leader in the Death Care industry for her work at the North Burial Ground	International, 2026



XV. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, RECOGNITION, AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Selected News and Social Media Coverage, 2022 to 2026

The following articles and features document public coverage of Providence Parks projects, design work, programming, and broader impact. The list is intentionally selective rather than presented as a complete media archive.

Article Title	Publication	Date	Focus
Providence's downtown skating rink is getting a $4.2 million facelift. When will it open?	The Providence Journal	Nov. 14, 2024	Providence Rink renovation, infrastructure, cooling system, shade, public use
The Providence ice rink is open for business. Here's what's new and improved.	The Providence Journal	Dec. 24, 2024	Rink reopening, new cold floor and chiller, recreation and programming
India Point Park's new paved pavilion opens. What makes it special.	The Providence Journal	May 23, 2025	India Point Park pavilion, permeable paving, trees, waterfront access
How the central Providence community made public bathrooms in their parks a priority	The Providence Journal	Jul 24, 2025	Merino Park, community engagement, public bathrooms, sustainable infrastructure
Four Providence parks undergo renovations with children in mind	The Providence Journal	Jul 16, 2026	Playgrounds, waterparks, children, neighborhood investment and design
Underused Providence park space now has coffee, ice cream and chess	The Providence Journal	Jun 16, 2026	Biltmore Park kiosk, activation, programming and public space
New boardwalk and dock at Roger Williams Park are a labor of love	The Providence Journal	Jul 2026	Doreen Salk Boardwalk, Cunliff Lake, accessibility and waterfront recreation
Providence Parks design team is improving the community's playgrounds	The Providence Journal	Sept. 3, 2025	In house Parks design team and playground design
Photo gallery: Providence playgrounds: city parks designers are serious about fun	The Providence Journal	Sept. 3, 2025	Parks design team and playgrounds
Providence Parks Department improves, maintains, builds outdoor city spaces	The Providence Eye	2025	Overview of Parks improvements and operations
Telling Their Stories: Inside Providence's North Burial Ground	Rhode Island Monthly	2025	North Burial Ground history, preservation, tours and public history
Public Helps Maintain Providence's Public Gardens	ecoRI News	2025	Public gardens, volunteers and stewardship



XV. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, RECOGNITION, AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Article Title	Publication	Date	Focus
10 weekend getaways you can do from Boston without a car	The Boston Globe	Jul 2, 2025	Roger Williams Park and Botanical Center as a regional destination
Nature Everywhere Community: Providence, Rhode Island	Children & Nature Network	Ongoing	Nature based design, Green Schoolyards and equitable outdoor play and learning
Tile by tile, artists are revamping the Providence Riverwalk	The Providence Journal	Sep 15, 2026	Public art and Place-Making
Providence Officer Gifts New Saxophone to well known Busker	The Providence Journal	Sep 15, 2026	Foreman of Parks gifts saxophone
Narragansett ceremonial place and urban oasis: Neutaconkanut Hill is Providence's newest National Historic District	Providence Journal and PPS	Jun 23, 2026	
North Burial Ground: Featured in Motif Magazine 2023, Rhode Island Monthly and Yankee Magazine 2024.	Featured in Motif Magazine, Rhode Island Monthly and Yankee Magazine	2023 and 2024, 2024 respectively	NBG as a destination for historical tourism

Providence Parks has undertaken a coordinated effort to modernize its website, social media, and overall public communications as part of the Department's broader strategic planning and rebranding work. The goal has been to create a clearer, more welcoming, and more accessible digital presence that reflects the breadth of the Parks system and makes it easier for residents to find information, participate in programs, and understand the work happening in their neighborhoods.

The website has been reorganized to better connect residents with parks, amenities, programs, events, projects, employment opportunities, and Department resources. Social media has evolved beyond basic announcements to become an important storytelling tool, highlighting capital investments, community partnerships, staff, maintenance and stewardship, environmental initiatives, and the transformation of parks across the city.

Together, these efforts have strengthened how Providence Parks communicates its work and its values. They provide a consistent platform to celebrate completed projects, explain the work behind the scenes, connect residents to opportunities, and demonstrate that parks are essential public infrastructure and community spaces.



XVI. PROJECTS UNDERWAY AND THE NEXT CHAPTER

The investment in Providence Parks continues. A new group of 14 projects totaling an additional $6.6 million is moving forward, extending the work of the past four years into additional neighborhoods and advancing long term plans for some of the City's most significant parks.

Ardoene Park. Under construction in winter 2027, additonal pathways with seating areas and site entry gates, improvements to concession / field house. $100,000.

Adrian Hall Way Pavilion. The merging of a skatepark, public pavilion, and walkway into a vibrant public plaza is under contract, with construction anticipated in spring 2027. $650,000

Billy Taylor Park. Work continues on improvements to the park and its public spaces, including new playgrounds, gathering spaces, and upgrades to the splash pad. $886,957.

Bucklin Park. The project is anticipated to go out to bid for site mitigation to prepare for a new playground space that will serve three schools, a recreation center, a community center, and the surrounding neighborhood. $1-2 million.

JT Owens Park. New fencing is coming to the park. $118.219,

North Burial Ground. Implementation of the $1.25 million Master Plan is advancing a long term framework for preservation, access, infrastructure, programming, and stewardship.

Peace and Plenty Park $400,000, Kerry Kohring Park $350,000. Projects are fully designed and out to bid.

Pleasant Valley Parkway. Work continues as part of the next group of park investments, including the replacement of two iconic pedestrian bridges. The project is under contract for design and engineering. $650,000.

Prete-Metcalf Splashpad. This long-awaited project has been designed and bid and is under permitting and will be ready for summer 2027. $450,000.

Riverside Park. Playground improvements are moving forward to create new opportunities for children and families. $475,000.

Roger Williams Park Master Plan. The Master Plan is under contract and will guide improvements to historic buildings and stormwater infrastructure. $114,000

Sessions Street Park. The project is out to bid for winter construction. $450,000.

Warren Avenue Park. Construction is underway. $235,237.



XVII. A DIFFERENT KIND OF PARKS LEGACY

The legacy of this period is not simply a collection of completed projects. It is a different way of thinking about parks. It is the implementation of a strategic vision that gave the Department a common language and direction for how Providence Parks should serve people, neighborhoods, and the future of the City. The City did not simply build more parks infrastructure. It strengthened the idea that parks are essential infrastructure. Ultimately, a well-trained Parks workforce is an investment in the City's ability to sustain all of these improvements.



XVIII. THE LEGACY OF THE SMILEY ADMINISTRATION

The Smiley Administration leaves Providence with a stronger, more resilient, inclusive, and ambitious parks system. Over the four-year period, more than 64 projects were completed and more than 170 additional projects were advanced, with investment reaching neighborhood parks, citywide destinations, recreation, waterfronts, historic buildings, public art, Green Schoolyards, climate resilience, stormwater, maintenance infrastructure, design, workforce development, and partnerships. The Department's strategic plan and rebranding helped give this work a common direction and identity, connecting capital investment with stewardship, equity, nature, community, and the everyday experience of the people who use Providence Parks.

But perhaps the most important accomplishment is the expectation these investments created. The people of Providence should expect their parks to be safe, welcoming, high quality, and accessible. They should expect investment in every neighborhood and parks that reflect and serve the people who use them. And they should expect the City to care for these public spaces today and for generations to come. That expectation, and the commitment behind it, is part of the legacy.



CLOSING: THE WORK CONTINUES

A parks system is never finished. Every project creates something to care for, an opportunity for people to connect, and a place for children, nature, and community to thrive.

The investments made between January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2027 provide Providence with a stronger foundation for the future. The work now is to protect that investment, continue to build thoughtfully, care for every park with dignity, and ensure that every resident can experience the benefits of a great parks system.
Providence Parks is more than a collection of places. It is part of the infrastructure of a healthy, equitable, connected, and resilient Providence.

What is next:

The work continues. The Department has outlined its recommended priorities in the Annual Capital Improvement Plan, providing a framework for continued investment across the parks system. We look forward to working with the next administration to refine these priorities, respond to changing needs, and ensure that future investments continue to strengthen Providence parks and serve residents across the city.





APPENDIX A. PROJECT INDEX, 2023 TO 2027

81 projects - $38,489,451.23 total investment

Major Recreation Investments:

Playgrounds: India Point Park; Brassil Park; Brown Street Park; Donigian Park; Paterson Park; Paul Grande Park; Davis Park; Joslin Park; George J. West Park; Miguel Luna Park; Cabral Park; James Ahern Park; Davey Lopes Park; Neutaconkanut Park; Richardson Park.

Waterparks and Splashpads: Father Lennon Park; Obediah Brown Park; Lippitt Park; General Street Park; Joslin Park; Miguel Luna Park; George J. West Park; Cabral Park; James Ahern Park; Richardson Park.

Courts and Fitness: Joslin Park Basketball Court; Ninth Street Courts; Conlan Park Junior Pickleball Court; James Ahern Park My HomeCourt; Gateway Adult Fitness; Joslin Park Fitness; Paul Grande Park Fitness; Donigian Park Fitness; Neutaconkanut Park Basketball Facilities.

Skate and Action Sports: Neutaconkanut Skatepark expansion; Woonasquatucket Adventure Park.

Ballfields and Athletics: Tim O'Neill Complex; Gano Park; Richardson Park; Donigian Park Futsal Field; Conlan Park Junior Futsal Field; Joslin Park Futsal Facilities; Obediah Brown Park Field Improvements and Irrigation; Veazie Street Park Futsal Field; Veazie Street Softball Fields; Paul Grande Park Multi Use Courts; Joe Williams Field; Davis Park Field Improvements.

Park / Location	Project	Category	Cost	Notes
Ascham Street Park	Playground Improvements	Playground	$194,500	Embankment slide and accessible pathways
Ascham Street Park	Ballfield Improvements	Field	$50,000	Ballfield Improvements, fencing
Billy Taylor Park	Fencing	Park Improvement	$59,600	
Billy Taylor Park	Overpass artinstallation		$60,884	
Biltmore Park	Kiosk and Activation	Park Improvement	$50,000	Kiosk and park activation
Brassil Park / Carolyn F. Brassil Memorial Park	Comprehensive Park Redesign	Playground / Park	$528,926	Accessible embankment slide, boulder scramble, nature sand
Brown Street Park	Playground Addition	Playground	$80,410	Ages 2 to 5 play area and fencing
Bucklin Park	Splash Pad Improvements	Splash Pad	$521,859	Low flow splash pad, infiltration and artful tile



APPENDIX A. PROJECT INDEX, 2023 TO 2027

Park / Location	Project	Category	Cost	Notes
Bucklin Park	Site Amenities (graniste seating and trash receptacles	Park Improvement	$32,786	Bench improvements
Burnside Park	Imagination Center Removal Grounds Restoration, and	Historic / Park Improvement	$452,500	Conversion of fountain to saline cleaning
Cabral Park	Playground, field, court and Splash Pad Improvements	Playground / Splash Pad	$1,062,804	Green Schoolyard improvements
City Center/Providence Rink	Shade Sail and Cold Floor	Site Amenities	$3,701,054	
Clarence Street	Mini Futsal Field	Court	$65,000	
Conlan Junior Recreation Center	Futsal Field	Field	$246,135.91	
Conlan Junior Recreation Center	Pickleball Court	Court	$96,700	
Corliss Park	Basketball Court	Court	$65,000	
Davey Lopes Park	Playground Expansion	Playground	$100,000	
Davis Park	Playground Expansion	Playground	$75,000	
Davis Park	Ballfield Improvements	Field	$211,295	
Diamond Street Park	Fencing	Infrastructure	$20,000	
Donigian Park	Playground and Fitness Improvements	Playground / Fitness	$115,170	
Donigian Park	Futsal Field	Field	$100,000	
Father Lennon Park	Playground Addition	Playground	$125,000	Ages 2 to 5 play, spinners, playhouse, log steps and
Father Lennon Park	Splash Pad Addition	Splash Pad	$382,000	
Gano Park	Ballfield and Court Improvements	Field / Court / Public Art	$730,000	
General Street Park	Playground and Splash Pad Improvements	Playground / Splash Pad / Outdoor Fitness	$662,120	
George Araujo Park	Playground and site improvements	Playground and Entry	$285,000	
George J. West Park	Playground, Waterpark and Field Improvements	Playground / Splash Pad / Field	$580,000	



APPENDIX A. PROJECT INDEX, 2023 TO 2027

Park / Location	Project	Category	Cost	Notes
Harriet and Sayles Park / Mary E. Fogarty Green Schoolyards	Comprehensive Park Redesign	Green Schoolyard / Playgounds and Splashpad	$2,036,645	Two playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, field and splash
Hopkins Square	Pathways, amenities and landscaping	Public Plaza	$187,500	
India Point Park	Promenade and Playground Improvements	Park / Playground	$2,250,608	Resiliency
India Point Park	Eastern Shoreline Resiliency	Climate Resilience	$2,227,305	Shoreline, paths, stone revetment and planting
Jacqueline Clements Memorial Park	Park Improvements	Park Improvement / Fitness Center	$359,344	Adult fitness, circulation and seating
James Ahern Park	Park Improvements	Playground / Court / Splash Pad	$595,000	
Jennifer Rivera Memorial Park	Comprehensive Park Redesign	Playground	$390,961	Cliff Rider ages 5 to 12
John O'Brien Park	Playground Improvements /	Playground	$116,016	
John O'Brien	Playground – Adult Fitness	Playground	$133,000	
Joslin Park	Playground and Fitness Improvements	Playground / Fitness Center	$125,000	Ages 2 to 5 play and outdoor fitness
Joslin Park	Splash Pad / Water Park	Splash Pad	$550,678	
Joslin Park	Futsal Field	Field	$100,000	
Lippitt Park	Playground, Mist Feature and Landscape Improvements	Playground / Landscape / Cooling	$372,471	
Locust Grove	Park Improvements	Park Improvement /Lighting and Entry	$175,483	
Memorial Park	Public Art Installation	Public Art	$64,450.65	Under the Cobbles, the beach
Memorial Tunnel	Tunnel Lighting and Improvements	Infrastructure	$347,013.67	Artistic lighting and infrastructure improvements
Merino Park	Playground Addition	Playground	$75,000	
Merino Park	Bathrooms and Guardrails	Park Improvement	$223,319	Circular Wast Bathrooms with ONB
Miguel Luna Park	Playground, Court, Paths and Splash Pad Improvements	Playground / Court / Splash Pad	$1,249,932	Cost requires reconciliation with $1,249,943
Mt. Pleasant Park	Concession Stand Ballfields and Dugouts	Fields	$203,677	



APPENDIX A. PROJECT INDEX, 2023 TO 2027

Park / Location	Project	Category	Cost	Notes
Neutaconkanut Park	Comprehensive Playground Redesign	Playground	$828,098	Fully ADA Accessible for mobility devices
Neutaconkanut Park	Skatepark Expansion	Skatepark / Mural	$655,400	
Neutaconkanut Park	Basketball courts	Court	$50,000	
North Burial Ground	Master Plan	Planning	$1,250,000	
Ninth Street Courts	My Home Court and Court Restoration	Court	$96,462	
Obadiah Brown Park	Splash Pad and Field Irrigation	Splash Pad / Field	$349,200	
Park Fencing	Multiple Parks	Infrastructure	$263,700	Diamond, Kerry Kohring, Brown Street Candace Street
Pastore Park	Playground Addition	Playground	$83,000	
Paterson Park	Playground Redesign	Playgrounds	$520,000	
Paul Grande Park	Comprehensive Playground Redesign	Playgrounds /Fitness / MUGA/	$835,750	
Pearl Street Park	Playground Addition	Playground	$180,000	
Providence Riverwalk	Canvus Wind Turbine Benches	Site Amenities	$40,000	
Providence Riverwalk	Public Art Installations	Public Art	$100,000	More than 14 local artists
Prospect Terrace	Historic Restoration and Improvements	Historic / Park Improvement	$413,763	Retaining wall, lighting, crosswalks and parking
Richardson Park	Playground and Splash Pad Improvements	Playground / Splash Pad /Fitness /fields	$1,555,000	
Roger Williams Park	Botanical Center Improvements	Historic / Facility	$722,722	
Roger Williams Park	Casino Beam Repair	Historic / Facility	$17,780	
Roger Williams Park	Gateway Adult Fitness	Fitness	$49,138	
Roger Williams Park	Mounted Command	Facility / Site	$692,460	Paddocks, grazing and fencing
Roger Williams Park	Museum of Natural History / Planetarium Renovations	Historic / Facility	$853,035	



APPENDIX A. PROJECT INDEX, 2023 TO 2027

Park / Location	Project	Category	Cost	Notes
Roger Williams Park	Museum Education Center Renovations	Historic / Facility	$100,000	
Roger Williams Park	Road Striping	Infrastructure	$150,000	
Roger Williams Park	Stormwater Treatment Train	Climate Resilience	$885,507	
Roger Williams Park	Stormwater Retrofits	Climate Resilience	$67,000	
Roger Williams Park	Tim O'Neill Field Lighting	Field	$186,786	
Roger Williams Park	Cunliff Lake Boardwalk and Dock / Doreen Salk Boardwalk	Waterfront / Accessibility	$2,222,600	
Station Park Meadow	Renovations	Park Improvement	$75,000	In house
Veazie Street Field	Field and Futsal addition	Field / Futsal	$753,162	Futsal field, lighting and softball field
Viscolosi Park	Comprehensive Park Redesign	Playground	$547,875	Hillside playground
Waterplace Park	Stage	Event Infrastructure	$306,000	
Waterplace Park	Southern Path Restoration and bathroom	Infrastructure	$125,000	
Woonasquatucket Adventure Park	2 Skate Ramps biking and picnic	Skatepark / Recreation	$977,866	Upper pavilion and skate/bike features
Wood Street Depot	New Wood Lot	Operations	$100,000	In kind/vendor investments



APPENDIX B. SIGNATURE CITYWIDE INVESTMENTS

- India Point Park Promenade, Playground, and Eastern Shoreline Resiliency
- Doreen Salk Boardwalk and Dock
- Boathouse Café
- Providence Rink Infrastructure and Shade Sail
- Waterplace Park Stage and Public Amenities
- Wood Street Depot
- Biltmore Park Kiosk and Activation
- Providence Riverwalk and Public Art
- Green Schoolyards
- Roger Williams Park Stormwater Treatment Train and Stormwater Retrofits
- Roger Williams Park Botanical Center Improvements
- Roger Williams Park Museum and Planetarium Renovations
- Roger Williams Park Casino Improvements
- Citywide Waterpark and Splashpad Expansion



APPENDIX C. INVESTMENT ACROSS THE PARKS SYSTEM

Waterfronts: India Point Park; Doreen Salk Boardwalk and Dock; Boathouse Café; Riverwalk.

Roger Williams Park: Doreen Salk Boardwalk and Dock; Boathouse and Boathouse Café; Botanical Center; Museum of Natural History and Planetarium; Casino; Stormwater Treatment Train; Stormwater Retrofits; road improvements; landscape improvements.

Downtown Parks and Public Spaces: Waterplace Park; Biltmore Park; Riverwalk; Station Park; Burnside Park; Memorial Park; Memorial Tunnel.

Green Schoolyards: Harriet and Sayles; Joslin; Father Lennon; Richardson; Cabral.

Climate Resilience: India Point Park Eastern Shoreline; Roger Williams Park Stormwater Treatment Train; Roger Williams Park Stormwater Retrofits; Green Schoolyards; permeable surfaces; tree planting;



APPENDIX C. INVESTMENT ACROSS THE PARKS SYSTEM

naturalized landscapes; Circular waste bathrooms.

Operations and Infrastructure: Wood Street Depot; Providence Rink Infrastructure; Memorial Tunnel Lighting; Roger Williams Park Road Infrastructure; Roger Williams Park Casino Infrastructure; Park Fencing; Park Lighting; Maintenance and Equipment Infrastructure.

Public Art and Cultural Expression: Billy Taylor Park Bridge Art Installation; Brassil Park Mural; Memorial Park Art Installation; Neutaconkanut Park Skatepark Mural; Providence Riverwalk Public Art Installations featuring more than 14 local artists; Riverwalk repurposed wind turbine art; My HomeCourts; Roger Williams Park cultural facility improvements.

Workforce Development: Parks Academy; Parks Conference and All Hands In; professional development; local, regional, and national presentations; Building Futures Apprenticeship; Local 1033 Apprenticeship; forestry training; stormwater training; maintenance training.



APPENDIX D. KEY SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES

Measure	Scale
Parks and outdoor spaces	Approximately 123
Park acreage	Approximately 1,600 acres
Playgrounds	70
Waterparks and splashpads	14
Roger Williams Park	Approximately 435 acres
Roger Williams Park annual visitors	More than 1.5 million
North Burial Ground	110 acres; opened 1700; more than 40,000 gravestones
Green Schoolyards investment since 2019	More than $3 million
Projects completed during period	More than 81
Additional projects advanced	More than 150
Smiley Administration park renovation commitment	Approximately $38,489,451



APPENDIX E. COMMUNITY VOICES

Perhaps the clearest measure of the impact of this work is the response from the people who use and care for Providence's parks. Residents, volunteers, event organizers, coaches, neighbors, and visitors have consistently recognized the professionalism, responsiveness, care, and dedication of the Parks Department team.

Community members have expressed appreciation for crews caring for athletic fields and neighborhood parks, staff supporting community events, improvements to paths and landscapes, the new Cunliff Lake boardwalk, and the everyday work of keeping parks clean, safe, welcoming, and cared for.

These comments are a reminder that a parks legacy is not measured only in capital dollars or completed projects. It is also measured in whether people feel welcomed, whether they see themselves reflected in their public spaces, whether a park is cared for, and whether residents know that the people responsible for their parks are listening and responding.

"I just want to send my Thanks from me and both teams that took part in our annual Winter Classic game. Your staff was excellent as usual and everyone that came to watch head a great time. We love the new renovations and we all look forward to next year. Keep up the excellent work!"

"Thank you and I appreciate the empathetic and human touch from the City of Providence today!!"
"I am touched by your professionalism and dedication to caring for the park and also the hereby Neutaconkanut Park. I think your commitment to staying on top of things is refreshing."

"I am writing this letter to you because I want you to know that Heather Manning was an important part of our fabulous experience. From my first contact with her she was professional, collaborative and a pleasure to work with. Heather's expertise made us feel confident and comfortable. She represents Roger Williams Park and the City of Providence well."

"I wanted shout out and let you know (as a volunteer Elmwood Little League coach at Niantic Park) the good work your parks crew are doing there. The fields are looking really good and their work is appreciated. Please pass on my gratitude."

"Tony Levoie at Parks is amazing. No matter what I need, whether it's supplies for clean-ups, guidance on an issue, fixing a light fixture or removing graffiti, he is right there, and I mean, in like 10 minutes. He is always so helpful, kind, respectful, and knowledgeable and I wanted you to know how much I appreciate him. He is truly a great asset to your Department!"

Dear Wojo, Many thanks to you and your crew for laying gravel and a stone border on the lower path of the park! It looks fabulous!! Plus, the stone border along the fence should help with some of the runoff issues."

"I wanted to take a moment to recognize the exceptional support Ron Baptista provided during the Juneteenth event this past Sunday. His professionalism and ability to think on his feet made a meaningful impact."



APPENDIX E. COMMUNITY VOICES

"Your crews were wonderful and very kindly helped me set up and break down the tent and misting set up and they diligently monitored the water barrel and refilled it 4 times over the course of the event. It was easily at least heat index of 100 during the celebration and the misting tent got a TON of use, so THANK YOU for making this event as safe as possible for attendees!"

"Hi Wendy, It's been so nice to see the Lippitt Park fountain up and running! Quick note of gratitude to you and the Parks team!"

"Ms. Nilsson: I live on Edgewood Blvd in the city, a street that abuts Roger Williams Park. As the Park's neighbor, we often observe the staff taking care of the property; mowing, picking up leaves and trash, and plowing in the winter. We think they do a fabulous job. They deserve a special shout out today."

"I just wanted to call out what a fantastic job Alex did, and how great he was to work with on this project. Leading up to the project, he provided clear and detailed information regarding what we'd be doing, where to park, what we might need to bring and so forth, and also provided an excellent map of the Center for our team to use."

"Hi Wendy, Our sincerest apologies for the delay in sending you the biggest thank you ever for your support at our event. The technician you sent for electricity was AMAZING. He was attentive and quite flexible which we appreciated considering the DJ was running behind schedule."

"Dear Mayor Smiley, I am writing to thank and give recognition to the great assistance and work from the Providence Parks Dept in beautifying our city."

"The work was completed this week, and once again, your department has exceeded my expectations. The crew was conscientious, thorough, neat, and friendly. I would especially like to recognize the foreman, Anthony, who led the project with efficiency and thoughtfulness, treating the area as if it were his own yard. In summary, please extend my sincere thanks to you and your entire team, especially Joe and Anthony. Your excellent work is both noticed and deeply appreciated."

"I am one of a small group of regular volunteers who help maintain Station Park Meadow. I am writing to express my gratitude for the support Tony and the "downtown crew" have given to the Station Meadow volunteers."

"Just wanted to let you know how much it warmed my heart to see at least a couple dozen people of all ages on the new board walk—half of them were fishing, they all looked so happy!"

"Every single staff member we encountered was pleasant, professional and helpful. The zoo and park were impeccably clean, easy to maneuver and find our way, and we felt safe at all times. Thank your staff, and thank YOU for a job well done. We made good memories and I so appreciate it."



APPENDIX F. FUND DEVELOPMENT AND ADDITIONAL REVENUE

Grants, Philanthropy, and Direct Outside Funding

More than $5,427,400 in grants, philanthropic support, private contributions, filming revenue, permit revenue, and event revenue was generated or leveraged during the four-year period.

Funding Source	Amount
Helen Walker Raleigh Trust, Block Pruning and Tree Planting Match	$100,000 × 4 = $400,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Urban Wildlife Partnership	$55,000 × 4 = $220,000
NASA Space Grant	$5,000 × 4 = $20,000
Gilmore Memorial Fund Grant	$6,000 × 4 = $24,000
Haffenreffer Fund	$5,000
Litter Free RI Grant	$2,000
Private Donor, Roger Williams Park	$318,000
RIDEM Outdoor Recreation Grant	$400,000
OSCAR Grant	$400,000
RIIB Grant, Roger Williams Park	$450,000
MRP Grant, India Point Park	$750,000
RIDEM Tier I Dock Grant, India Point Park Design and Engineering	$75,000
MIGP Grant, Roger Williams Park Ponds Treatment Train	$650,000
Petri Foundation Grant for recreational programming	$25,000
Roger Williams Park Filming Grant	$20,000
CRMC/NOAA Marine Debris Removal Education	$23,400
Congressionally Directed Spending, Neutaconkanut Park	$500,000
Mashapaug	$900,000
My Home Court (In-kind): $200,00	$200,000
Canvus Benches direct donation	$45,000
Total Grants, Philanthropy, and Direct Outside Funding	$5,427,400

Revenue Generated Through Permits and Events

Revenue Source	Annual Average	Four Year Total
Permits	$90,000	$360,000
Events	$250,000	$1,000,000
Total Permit and Event Revenue	$340,000	$1,360,000

Four-Year Total - Grants, philanthropy, and direct outside funding: *$5,427,400*



DREAMING BIG

What if we thought even bigger about what our parks could be? What if:

Our largest parks had thoughtfully designed circular waste restrooms with attendants, making them welcoming, safe, and accessible places so people could enjoy parks longer and with more comfort?

Our Forestry Division could expand its ability to attract and retain highly skilled professionals, building on the expertise of our existing team and ensuring we have the capacity to care for Providence's urban forest for generations to come?

Our apprenticeship program could continue to build a pipeline of highly skilled and specialized City workers, strengthening our existing workforce while creating opportunities for professional growth and long-term career development?

The Riverwalk mural project could engage 20 additional local artists, transforming more interstitial spaces into places of creativity, beauty, and community expression?

There was a way to navigate around Deep Spring Lake in Roger Williams Park and connect people to the water through a new boardwalk and trail system, creating another place to experience Providence's waterfront?

Every building, bridge and road in Roger Williams Park was ready to withstand the weather, climate, and other challenges of the next 25 years, while continuing to serve the people of Providence?

One Finance Way became one of the City's premier destinations for events, culture, and public life?

The India Point Park shoreline project were fully realized, creating a resilient, accessible waterfront that connects people to the bay while protecting the shoreline for generations to come?

Every child in Providence felt welcome to grab a free meal in their neighborhood park?

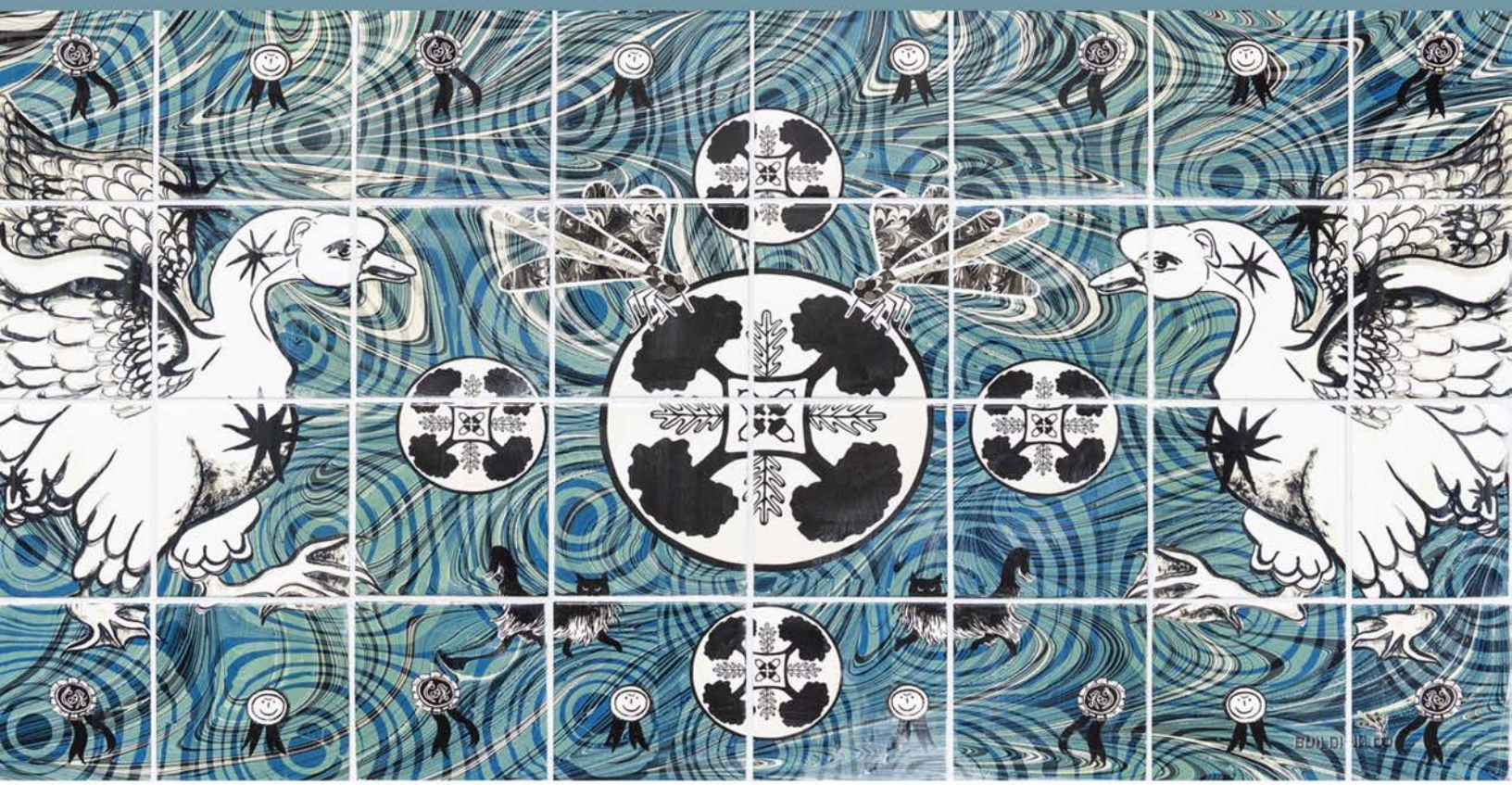
People did not need to join a gym because their neighborhood park offered access to fitness classes, equipment, opportunities to walk, run, exercise, play, gather, and connect with nature?

The needs of Providence's bereaved families are met with care at City Cemeteries and the families and small businesses that rely on North Burial Ground are supported while NBG transitions away from offering as-need full burial?

The Roger Williams Park Botanical Center became a premier destination in New England for horticulture, education, and unforgettable experiences, setting a new standard for botanical excellence and event programming?

The Museum of Natural History and Planetarium became a premier destination for science, discovery, education, and memorable events, inspiring visitors of all ages to explore the natural world and the universe beyond?

...Continuing to build a park system that meets the needs of Providence today while preparing our parks, people, and public spaces for the next generation.



Providence Parks

Providence Board of Park Commissioners: Chairman Mayor Brett P. Smiley, Council President Pro-Tempore Juan M. Pichardo, Commissioner Randall Rice, Commissioner Justin Holland, Councilor Sue R. AnderBois, Commissioner Sara McConnell, Commissioner Elizabeth Gordon-Martin.

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