HERO 2022 Stakeholder Presentation



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



Mass Audubon





The Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) Program

Program Vertical and the second seco

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

Previous Research

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

Meet the Research Team



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

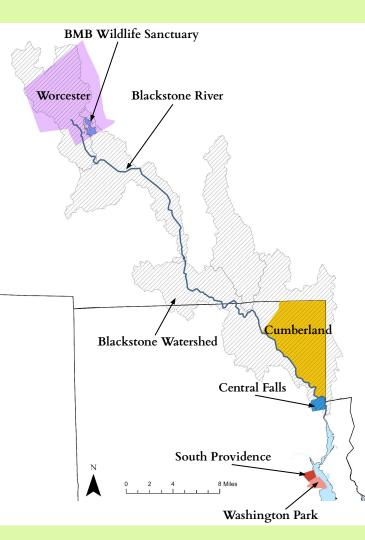
BMB Team

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

Team Managers/Graduate Mentors Nicholas Geron, Veronica Apple Gould-Schultz, and Madeline Regenye

Directors

Dr. Deborah Martin and Dr. John Rogan



Outline

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



Broad Meadow Brook–Worcester, MA





Cumberland, Central Falls, and Providence, RI





Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife

Sanctuary

What are the nearby residential perceptions of conservation and interactions in and around the sanctuary?



Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary



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

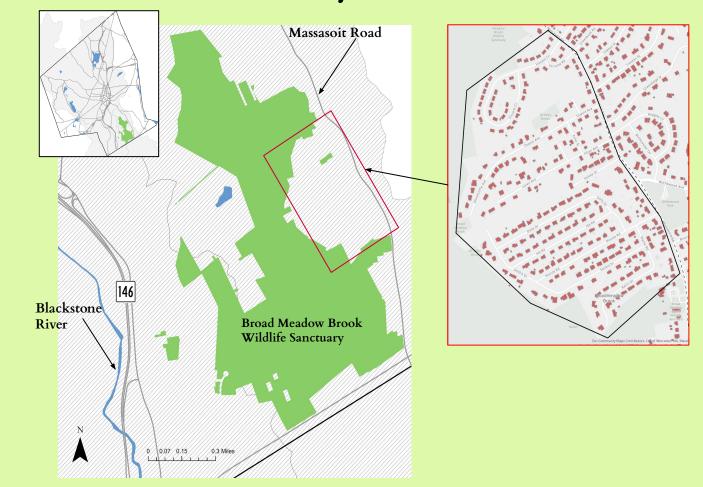
- BMB Wildlife Sanctuary is a a 400-acre conservation area that opened to public on June 20, 1991.
- **Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary** is fed primarily by urban storm drainage from its surrounding neighborhood.
- The sanctuary is currently undergoing ecological restoration, aiming to improve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



Sarah and Shradha interviewing a resident



Study Area





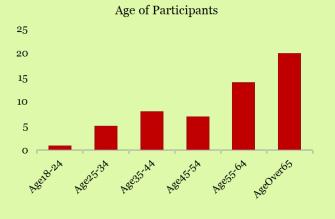
Broad Meadow Brook Neighborhood Survey

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



Pictures of front and back yards in Broad Meadow Brook Neighborhood

Broad Meadow Brook: Participant Demographics



Race of Participants

6

RaceNatAm RaceAfriAm RaceWhite RaceOther

42

5

50

40

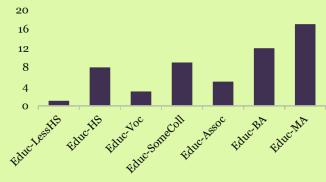
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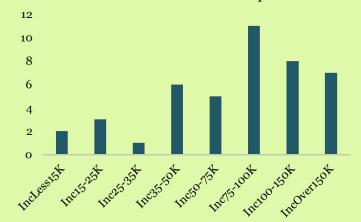
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Highest Education Level Attained by Participants



Household Income of Participants



Gender of Participants 38% 62% Gen-M Gen-F



Worcester Demographics

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



Resident Interactions with Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

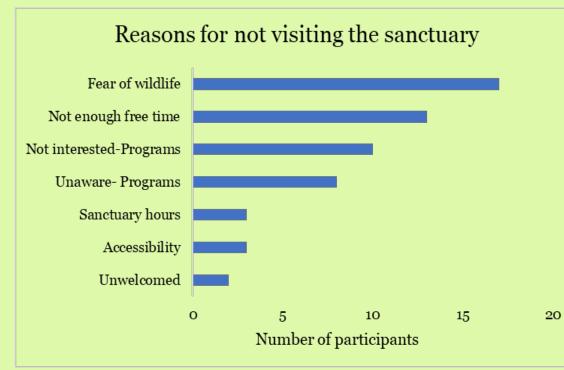


52% of participants visit the sanctuary at least once a month.

Hiking is the most popular activity, followed by birdwatching



Resident Interactions with Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

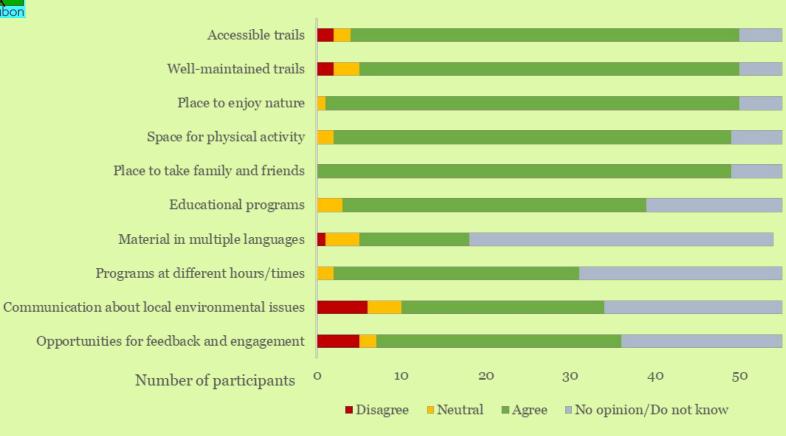


"We looked at the summer camps but it was really restrictive for the times they offer. [...] Give some kind of lessons 3 hrs long, I'd have done it. More options for kids under 8. That's something they can do to improve."

~ Resident, Broad Meadow Brook



Perceptions of Mass Audubon/BMB Wildlife Sanctuary





87%

Climate

Change

85%

Water

Pollution

50

45

40

35

30 25 20

15

10

5

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Participants Perception of Environment and Stowardship, Down think the way way

63%

Flooding

4%

Not

Concerned

Which environmental issues are you concerned about?

74%

72%

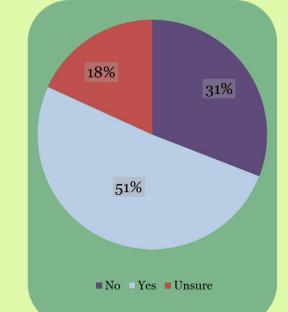
Severe

Storms

81%

Air Pollution

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



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

Extreme

Temperatures

Roughly half believe residents' lawn and home care affect water pollution ¹⁴



Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Survey Summary and Future Work

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

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

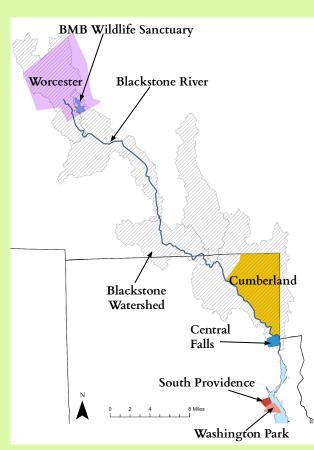
Residents are generally concerned about global environmental issues, especially climate change and pollution.



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

Future Work

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



Urban Tree Canopy Analysis in Rhode Island

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

Groundwork Rhode Island

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

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

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



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

Environmental Justice

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

Criteria for Environmental Justice:

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



Street with few trees in South Providence



Street with a Tree Tunnel in Washington Park

Urban Tree Canopy Services and Disservices

Services

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



Callery Pear in Cumberland, RI

Disservices

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

Research Goals



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

Residents' Perceptions of Urban Trees

Objectives:

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

Survey of Trees and the Urban Landscape

Objectives:

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



Types of Sites

Tree Site



Sidewalk Cutout



Planting Strip



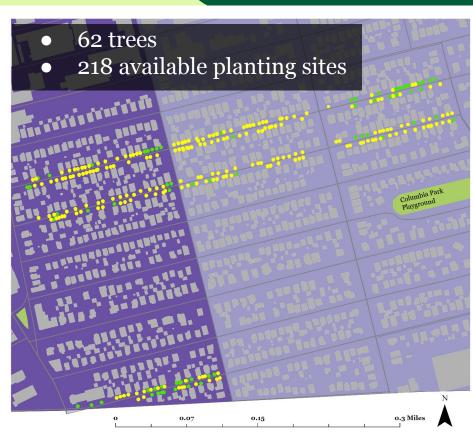
Impervious Site

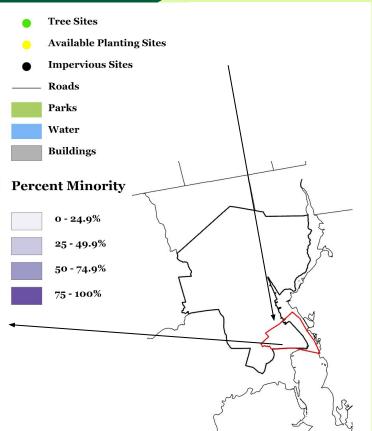


Available Planting Sites

©Surveyed **287** Sites

Washington Park





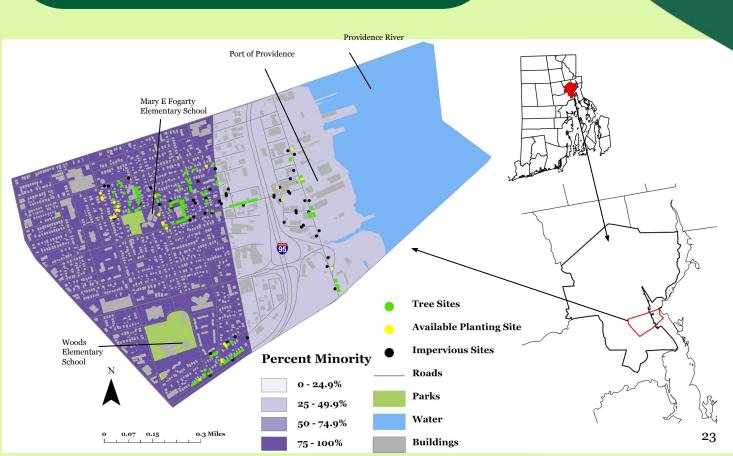
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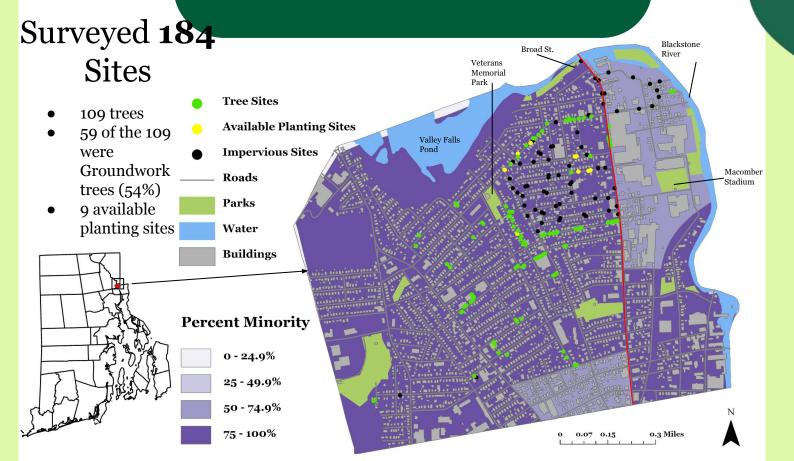
South Providence

Surveyed 230 Sites

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



Central Falls



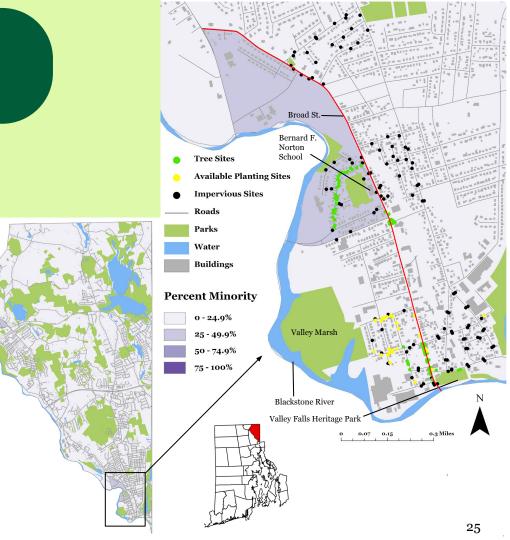
Cumberland

Surveyed **197** Sites

- 59 trees
- 27 available planting sites



Recent Tree Planting a<mark>t Valley Falls Heritage Park</mark>





Residents' Perceptions of Urban Trees

Objectives:

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



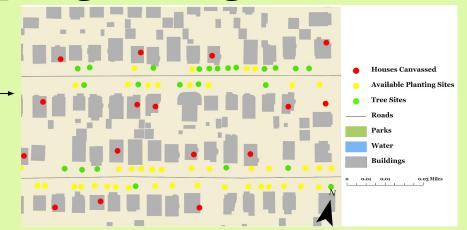
Shradha leaving a flyer at a resident's door

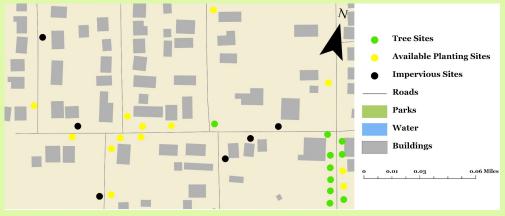


Interview Sampling Strategies

Washington Park

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

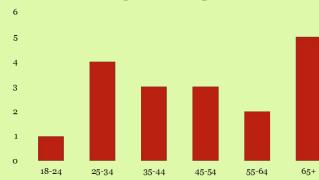




Central Falls and Cumberland

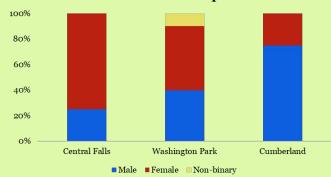
Strategy: Convenience Sampling 4 Interviews in Cumberland 4 Interviews in Central Falls

Demographics of Residents Interviewed



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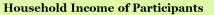
Age of Participants

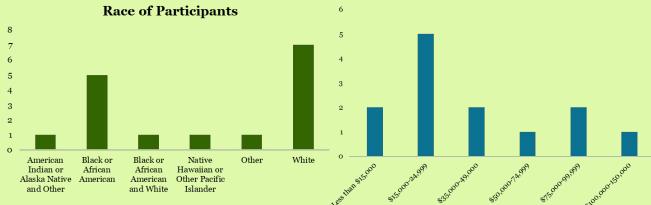


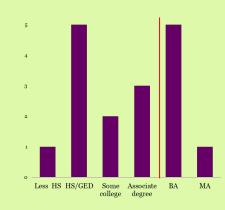
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Gender of Participants

Highest educational level attained by participants







28

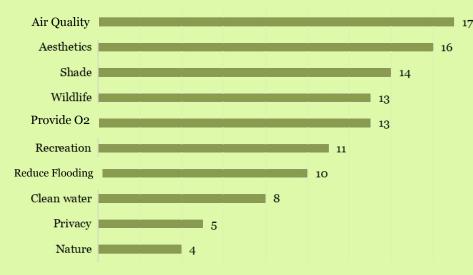
Comparison between Survey and City Demographics

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



Positive Perceptions about Trees

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



6 Do trees bring more air? yeah that they do!?? ~ Resident, Washington Park

⁶ I think trees help a lot between cooling the earth and [providing] oxygen, obviously. So yeah, they're a good thing. ~ Resident, Cumberland

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

I think [trees] are better for air quality, it makes it look better. And the better the neighborhood looks, the more pride, hopefully, people will take in it and stop doing this to it. (referring to the litter)?? ~ Resident, Central Falls 30



Negative Perceptions about Trees

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



The biggest concern that stood out was property or car damage from mature trees. ⁶ Uh, yeah, they're starting to lift up the brick.⁹

~ Resident, Cumberland

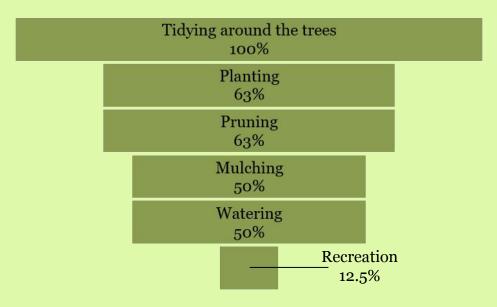
⁶ ⁶ I don't have trees, originally, because I don't want the damage.⁹ ⁹ ~ Resident, Central Falls

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

~ Resident, Washington Park

Positive Interactions and Experiences with Trees

Have you engaged in tree stewardship before?



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

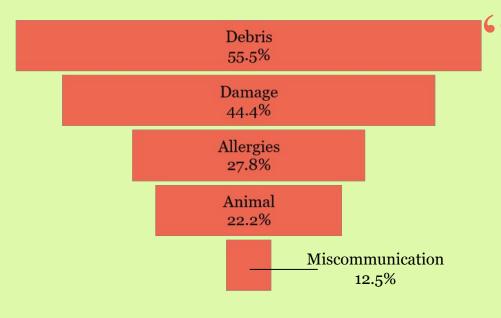
~ Resident, Cumberland

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

~ Resident, Central Falls

Negative Interactions and Experiences with Trees

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



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

⁶⁶ This tree right here drops like sap all over your car. So you can't park under it.??

~ Resident, Washington Park

6 6 I got one crabapple tree and it just does nothing but drop the crab apples everywhere. ??

~ Resident, Central Falls

Most common environmental concerns

What are the most pressing environmental issues your neighborhood faces?

⁶ Because there's a lot more traffic here than it used to, noise pollution due to all the traffic
 ^{75%} from the construction is an issue. And people with their loud radios in the car too.??

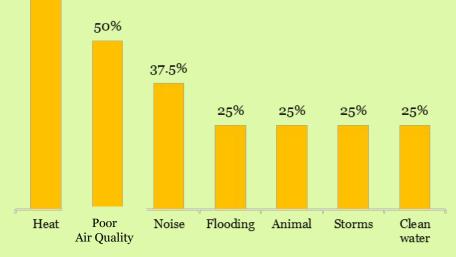
~ Resident, Central Falls

⁶⁶ I think [temperature and air quality] are important everywhere, to be honest with you.??

~ Resident, Cumberland

⁶⁶There have been increases in flooding though. [Trees] might help with some of the flooding.⁹

~ Resident, Central Falls



Residents' desired allocation of resources

How should resources for trees be prioritized?

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

~ Resident, Washington Park

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



6 6 If it was up to me, there will be trees everywhere.??
~ Resident, Central Falls

6 6 I do think it would be cool if there were more environmental regulations, that people had to follow to keep trees, not just chop them down and more education, definitely.??

~ Resident, Washington Park

Survey of Trees and the Urban Landscape

Objectives:

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



Tree and Temperature Survey Methods

Air Quality and Temperature

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



Nicholas taking air temp and humidity



Apple and Prof. Martin surveying a tree

Street Tree Survey

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



Danielle and Lucy taking DBH



Sidewalk Cutout



Planting Strip



Impervious



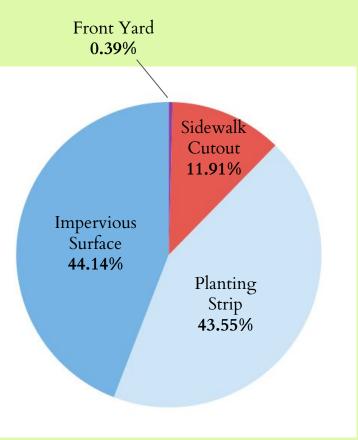
Potential Planting Site Types



513 potential tree

planting sites identified

Potential planting site in Washington Park

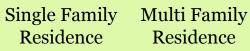




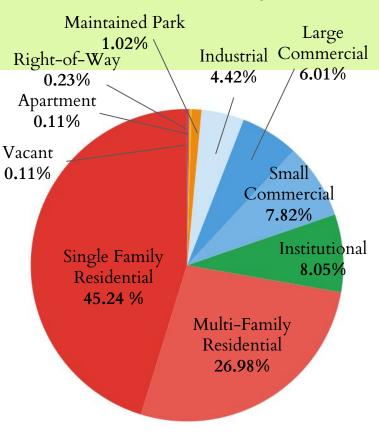
Potential planting site covered with trash in Washington Park



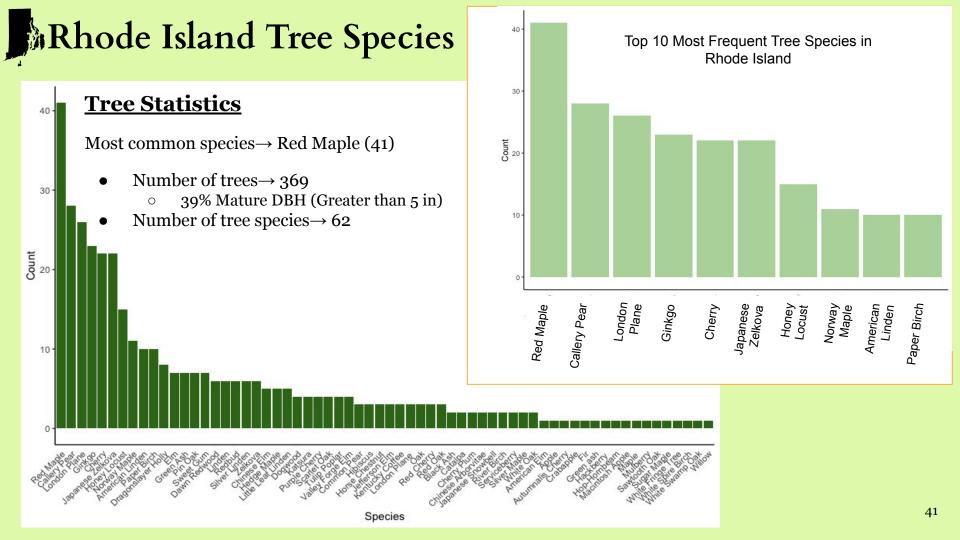
Land Use Types













Groundwork Tree Survey

126 Total Trees Planted by Groundwork

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

94 Total Surveyed by HERO

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





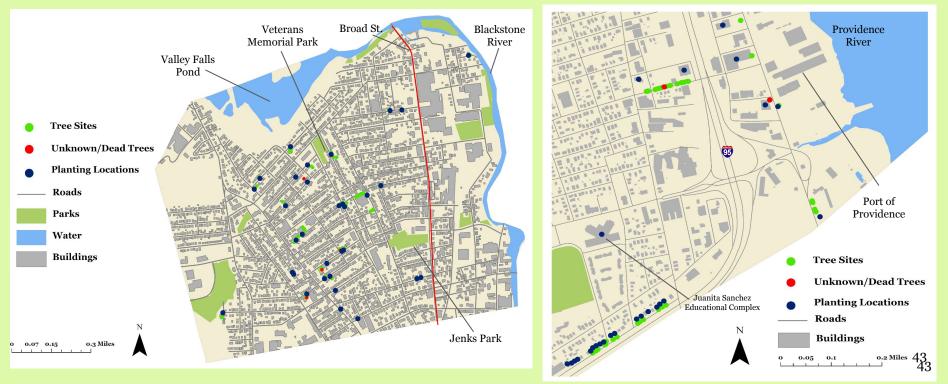
Groundwork Tree Survey

Tree Survivorship

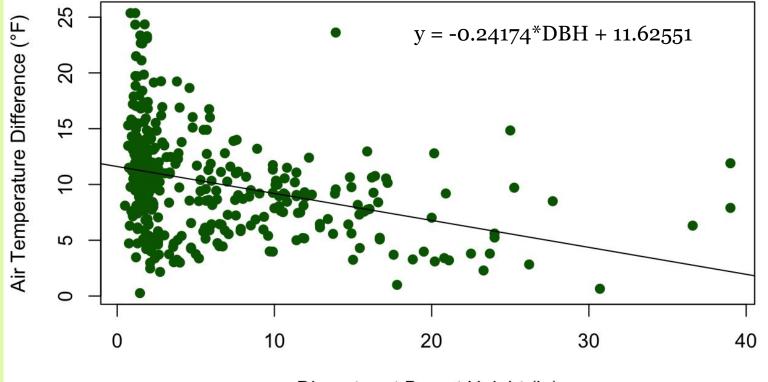
92.55%

Central Falls 54 Trees, 1 Unknown, 4 Dead

South Providence 33 Trees, 1 Unknown, 1 Dead

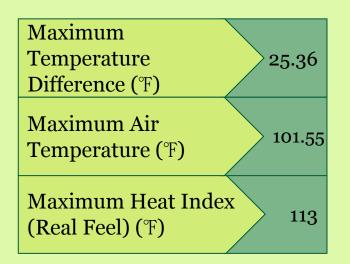


Impact of Trees on the Urban Heat Island Effect



Diameter at Breast Height (in)

Temperature and Air quality

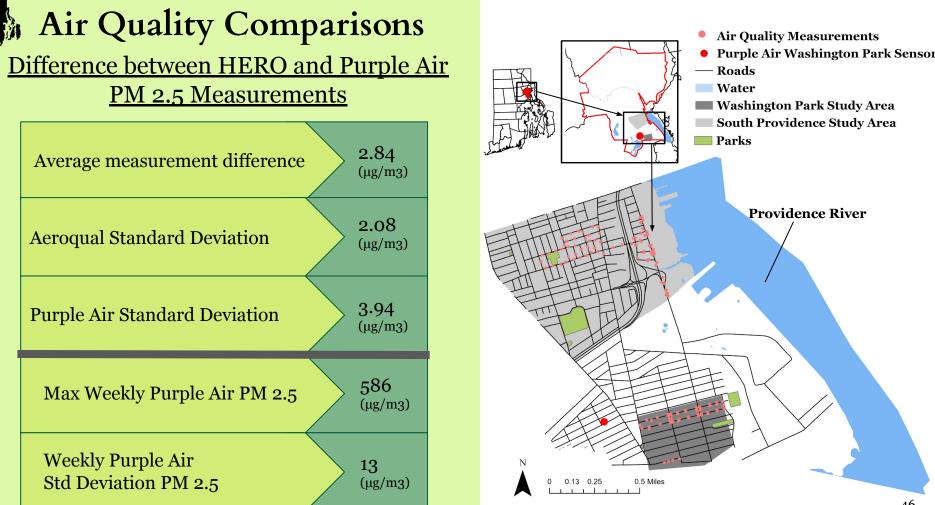


All of our measurements of ozone and particulate matter were within the EPA's healthy standards

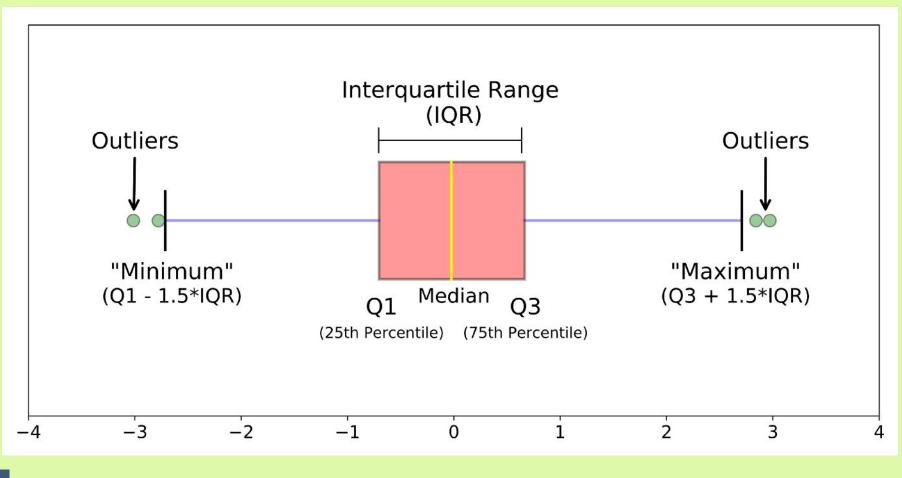


Regs taking an ozone measurement

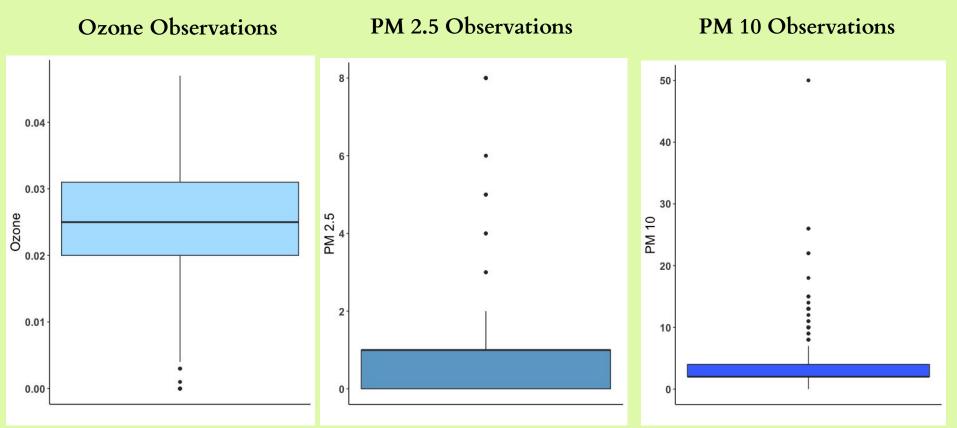
- Central Falls had the max temperature difference
- Washington Park had the maximum temperatures along with the maximum heat index



*On average, Purple Air reports higher PM measurements than collected by HERO using Aeroqual



Air Quality Statistics- All Sites





Neighborhood and City Summaries



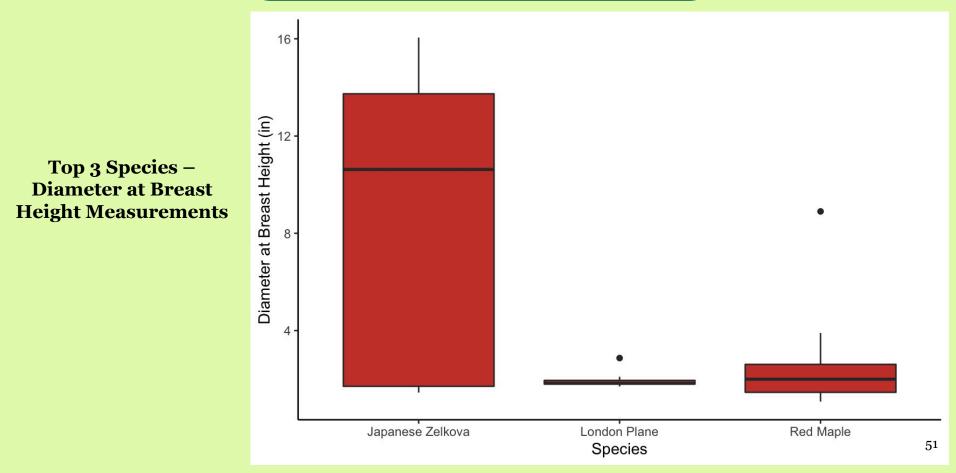


South Providence

143 trees surveyed 35 trees planted by Groundwork (24%) 15 **46** tree species 104 trees with less than 5 in DBH (73%) Count 10 Ginko⁰ Green Ash Red Maple Callery Pear Pin Oak Hedge Maple London Plane Aspanese Leikova VLOCUST Sweetgum 50 Specie

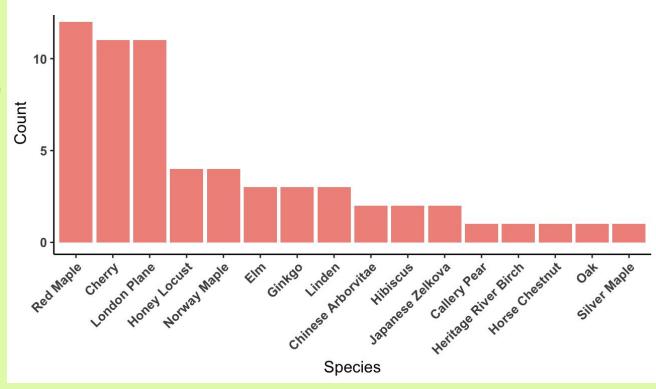


South Providence

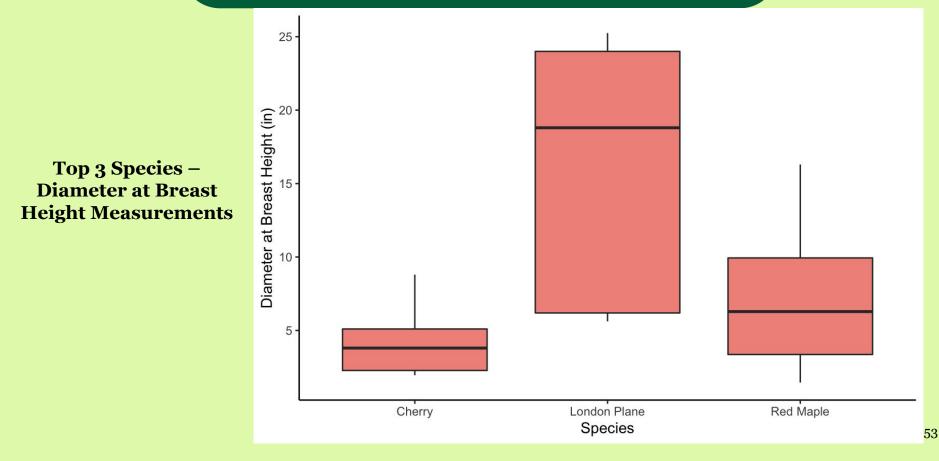


Washington Park

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

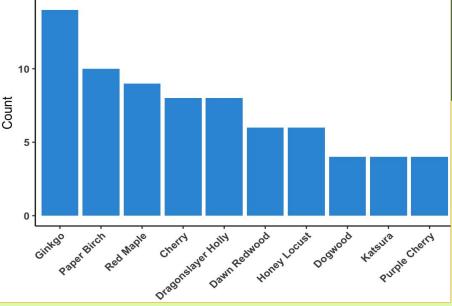


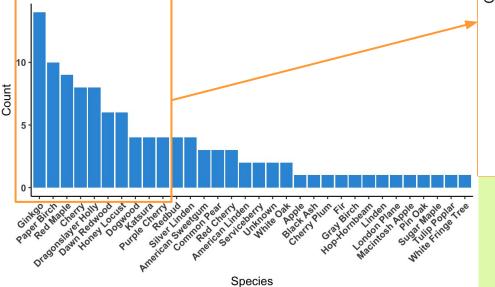
Washington Park



Central Falls

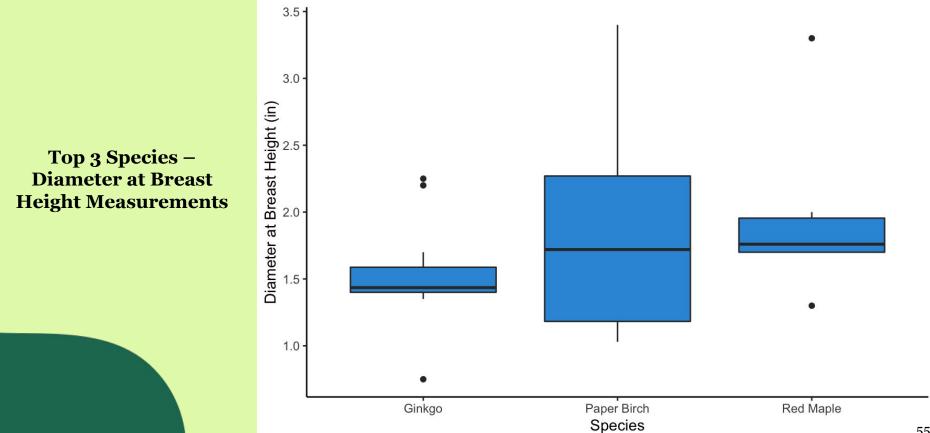
- **109** trees surveyed
- **32** tree species
- **8**7 trees with less than 5 in DBH (80%)
- **59** of the 109 were Groundwork trees (54%)





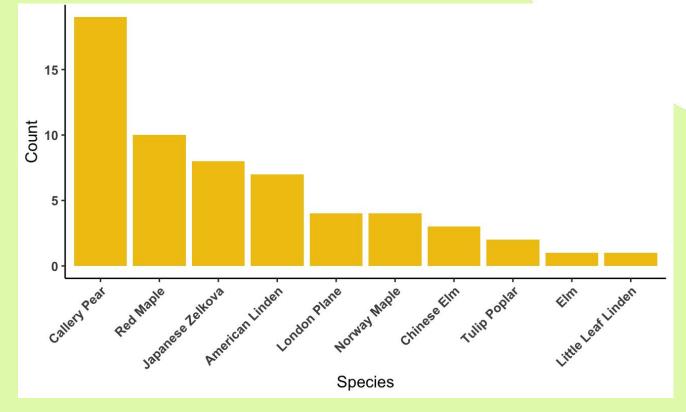


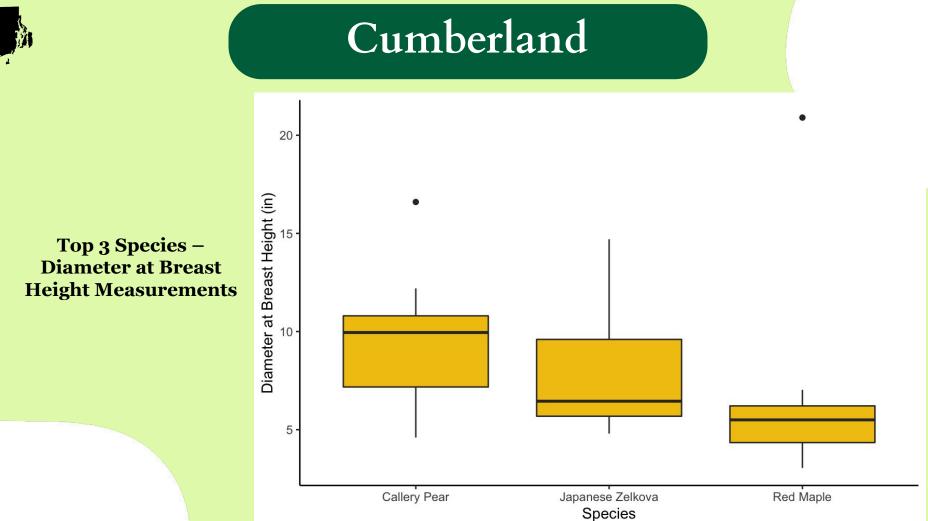
Central Falls



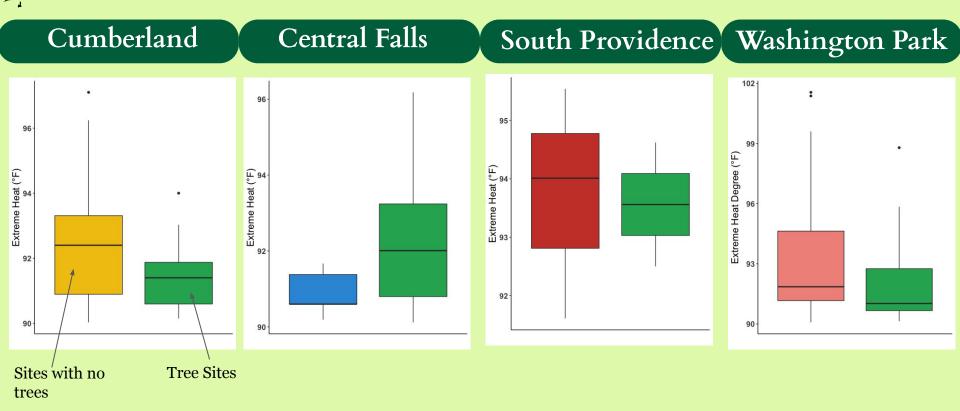
Cumberland

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





Extreme Heat



Extreme heat was observed more frequently in sites without trees

In Cumberland, fewer extreme heat observations were seen because 83% of trees are older, and larger

Survey of Trees and the Urban Landscape Takeaways



Paper Birch in Central Falls, RI

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

Summary

	South Providence	Central Falls	Cumberland	Washington Park
Total trees	143 of 230 sites 62.2%	109 of 184 sites 59.2%	59 of 197 sites 29.9%	62 of 287 sites 21.6%
Planting in available sites	26 of 230 sites 11% Ocean St Harriet St	9 of 184 sites 4.8% Hunt St Tremont St	27 of 197 sites 13.7% Jones St Titus St	218 of 287 sites 7 5.9% Ohio Ave Indiana Ave

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



Conclusions

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



HERO fellows in the field



• Better communication between urban residents and weather and air quality forecasts

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

Acknowledgements

Broad Meadow Brook

Martha Gach

<u>Clark University</u>

Pamela Dunkle

Brenda Nika Hayes

Aidan Giasson

Yaa Poku

Dr. Rinku Roy Chowdhury

Groundwork Rhode Island

Amelia Rose

Jacq Hall

Sarah Hashem

City of Cumberland

Jonathan Stevens

<u>City of Central Falls</u>

Jim Vandermillen

Bob O'Connor

Questions?

Thank you!

Quotes for Broadmeadow Brook survey

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

Future Steps

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



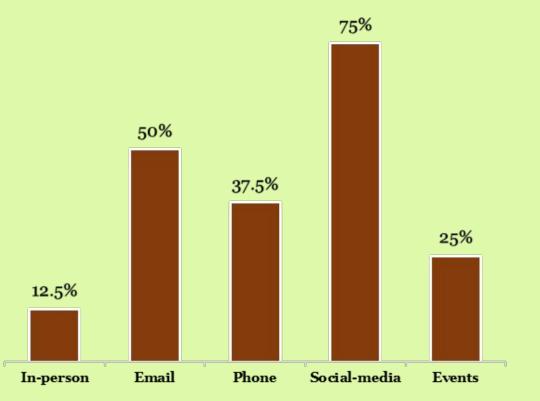
HERO team members in the field

U.S. Air Quality Index

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

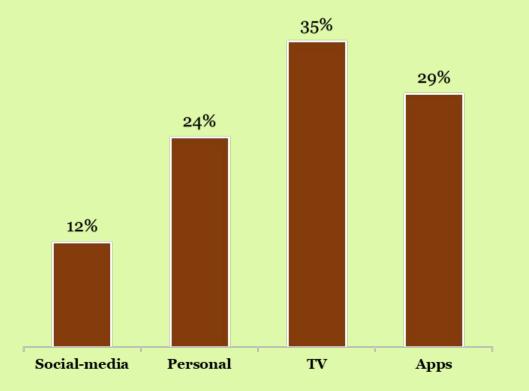
Residents' Preferred way of Communication with PVD Tree Plan

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



Most common sources of information about Air Quality

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



Comparison between Survey and City Demographics

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

2019 ACS Data	Total Survey	All Cities Census	ton Park	Providen ce Census*	Central Falls Survey	Central Falls Census*	Cumberl and Survey	Cumberl and Census*	
Median Age	45-54	34.4	45-54	30.6	45-54	30.1	55-64	42.5	
Median Income	\$15,000-24 ,999	\$59,078	\$15,000-24 ,999	\$45,610	\$15,000-24, 999	\$34,689	\$75,000-99 ,999	\$96,936	^t 2019 ACS
Average Non White	59%	43%	70%	67%	33%	51%	50%	12%	
Average Educational Attainment	33%	34%	25%	34%	40%	9%	25%	57%	
Average Female	50%	51%	50%	52%	75%	49%	25%	52%	

S Data



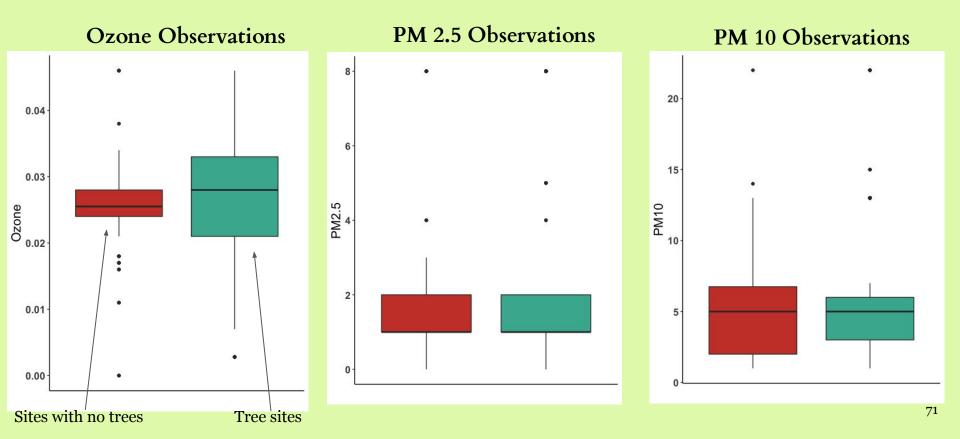
Tree and Temperature Survey Methods

T					Day				ALEWIS	sto			1				
Tree ID Temp Date	TempTime Site surface temp (sun)	Site surface temp (shadow)	Site Air Tomp (1 5m)	Site Humidity Ozone	P	Surveyor Lat	Long	TreeID	Slewin	10. 11 111	SE Site_Typ	Engline	DBH	DBH height	Dist imperv	Vigor Comment	
	12:44 1170F	Site surface temp (snadow)	59.78	35.09	PI GIN	8 Pego	Long	05030	10-	- 2 V	FR IND					- on cot	rege
C.FOZAL	12:46 122.7	ALA	95.8	42.48				0702	1 PINIST OF	20 M	FF IMP FR SMAN FR SMAN FR JAP					-	1
CF032	12:49 117	NA	89.98	34,78		Luch		-F032	Hadwins	t. 68 t	St IMP			10.		- on lew	Estrect
CFOZO	2:17 118.3	Na	85.56	35.72				61033	Cottage St	1 42/40 51	FR SAME	o hatsura	1.9	36	over 60		F
cF03U	2:20 115.0	NGA	83.64	38.85				CF034	co Hage	45 5	FA JMP	-					
CF035	2:22 105.5	n/a	84	31.4 31.7				04036	oben barn In.	15 5	SC IMP						
CF056	1:24 119.3	MA	87					(\$031	attage	67 0	FR YARD		1.3	54	000 GO	I	F
CF037	2:27 1219	nla	10.6	35.25				CF034	1	V	V V		1	54		1	*
CF038	2:30 123	0/4	90.6	35.7				CF037	Hodyren	37 0	AFR TAP				18		
CF031	2:33 111.4	0.001	85.8		0			C1040	Trement 2	N. 93 M	FR SC FR SC FR IMP	Black ASL	15.4	54	10	bigyweite	
CF040	2:37 116	99,3	84.3	39.2				CF041		85 S	EN THO						
CFOUL	2:37 116.2	98.9		36.44				66943	Hantsta	\$ 15G T	DIS IMP IMP IMP IMP FR IMP FR IMP FR IMP					TON BOOND, Sat	about
CEOMO	2:42 116.7	0/4	86.48	37.95				CEOYA	Aigh St.	128	I IMP					onthurt	
CF043	2:50 (11	1/2	65.37	36.62				CF045	Hunt.	8 N	IFR IMP						
CF044	2:56 125.8	n/a		34.5 34.5 36.83				CF046	Samoset W	12.63 5	FR FMP		(.4	36	overto		st I
CF045	2:51 121	nja	88.32	37.792				0F047	Grown St.	29 1	11 B 44	reduid		26	over Co	(×
cfouc	3:01 114.1		80.00	32.62				CF0 48	1 V	st n	1 240	rebbod Jucet gum	1.0	40	04560		X
CF047	3:07 12.3	1/2	813	32.66				CF050	Sansat	8 5	FB FMP FB FMP AFR FMP	John John	1, 4				
CFD44	307 124.8		87.58	31.63				00051	Samoset	93 M	FR IMP					ON YING	
2FD 99	3:07 124.7	2/0	91.38	21.6				CF052	V	52 M	AFR IMF	>				or your	
(FO 50	3:12 17.1	Na	91:43	27.03				CF053	High St.	1425 1	MP JMF	,					
CFDSI	3:14 122 4 3:15 119.7 3:15 126.2	<u>^/a</u>	90.3	33.19				CEDSY	451.	1705 6	PT. IMP C IMP	,					
CF052	3:15 119.3	Na	86.84	40.7				CFOSS		251 1	SC IM						
CF057	3:25 126.2	1/9	87.62	37.2				CF057	J.	1159 J	NAUSK IME					BOS	
CF0 54	3:25 126.2 3:27 17.5	<u>0/a</u>	85.11	33.28				Ct028		1193 T	nousk Imt	Honey Louist	15.9	54	14	1	
CFDSS	3:50 26.9		89.78	24.42			AND					0					
CP056	3:152 125.6	1/-		36.34													
CE057	3:34 127	n a	90.6 85.96	378.27													
08036	3:31 13.3	<u>Na</u>															
LCRUIT																	

Air Temperature Survey Sheet

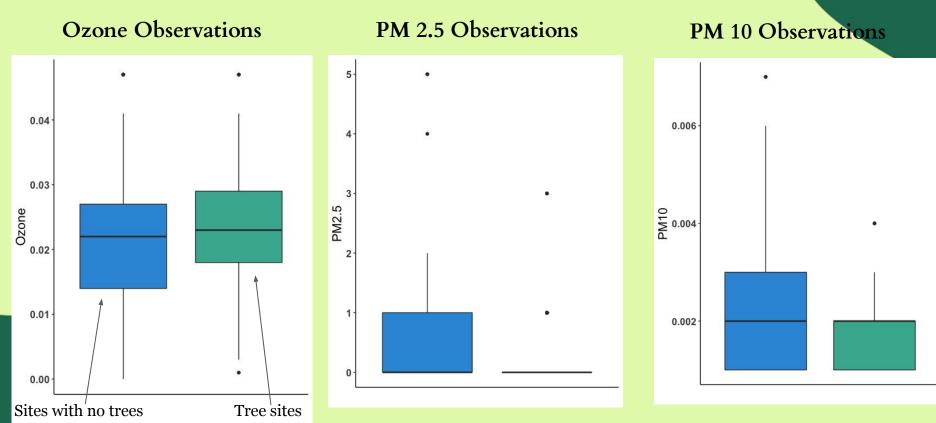
Tree Site Survey Sheet

South Providence

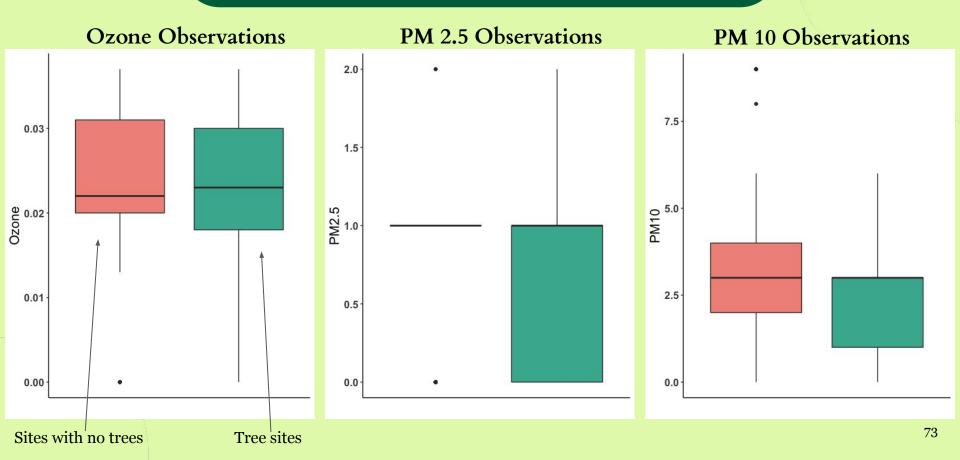




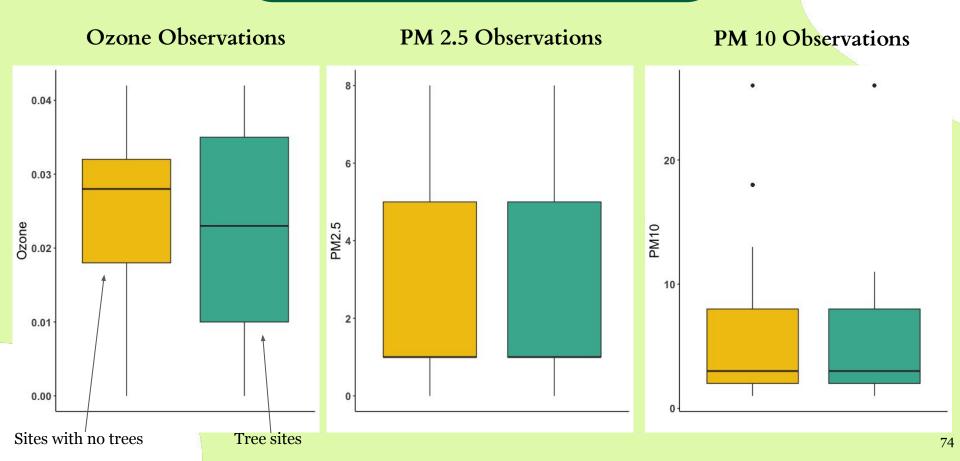
Central Falls



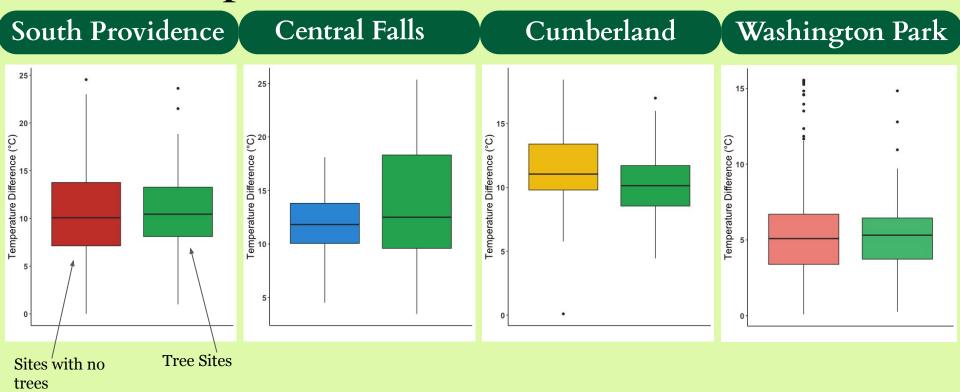
Washington Park



Cumberland



Air Temperature Difference



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

References

Air Quality Comparisons:

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