



# East Providence Comprehensive Plan

## TOPIC WORKSHOPS:

Recreation - Open Space - Natural Resources -  
Climate Change - Resiliency

October 7, 2021



# Agenda

City Snapshot

What We've Heard So Far

What's Happening Now

Some Ideas to Consider

Small Group Discussions



Source: Alltrails.com



# City Snapshot





# Recreation

Parks

Playgrounds

Ballfields

Courts

Multi-use Paths

Boat/kayak launches

Senior Center

Programs for all ages



# Natural Resources

*Natural areas and features on  
public and private lands*

## City's Tools

Stormwater management  
standards

Zoning ordinances

EP Urban Forestry Program

RI Wildlife Action Plan

## Partners

EP Conservation Commission

EP Land Conservation Trust

East Providence Urban Forest

Ten Mile River Watershed Council

RI DEM



# Conservation Lands

*Land protected for its ecological  
value*



Source: East Providence/Seekonk Rotary



Source: Kenneth C. Zirkel



Source: Alltrails.com

## Partners

EP Conservation Commission

EP Conservation Land Trust



# Climate Change & Resiliency

*Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural hazards*

## Priorities

Hurricanes and storm surge  
Severe storms (ice, wind, snow)  
Flooding  
Drought, heat waves  
Sea level rise



# Climate Change & Resiliency

*Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural hazards*

## What's Impacted?

Infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.)

Neighborhoods

Parks and public spaces

Vulnerable residents

## City's Tools/Partners

Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017)

Community Resilience Workshop (2021)

Stormwater management standards

Zoning ordinances

EP Urban Forestry Program

The Nature Conservancy



Source: Alltrails.com



# What We've Heard So Far



# Assets & Opportunities

Parks, playgrounds,  
bike paths

Waterfront and  
public access

Great spaces like  
Brigham Farm,  
Squantum Woods

Recreational  
programming,  
sports, activities

Programs/funding  
that help  
communities be  
more resilient



# Challenges

Balancing natural  
resources/open  
space with  
development

Adding more green  
space/trees

Impacts of climate  
change on the  
waterfront

Planning for the  
impacts of climate  
change on city's  
infrastructure

Promoting more  
environment-friendly  
programs and  
practices

Environmental  
cleanup of the  
waterfront and other  
former industrial sites

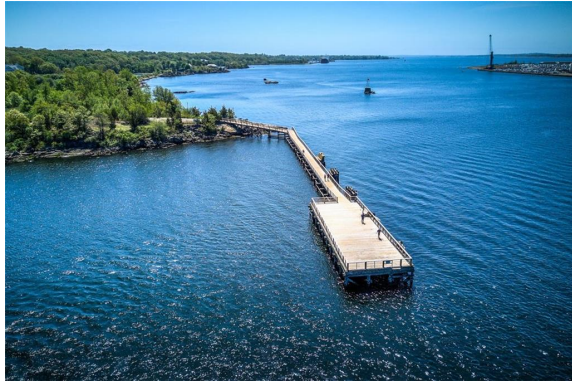
Source: Alltrails.com



# What's Happening Now





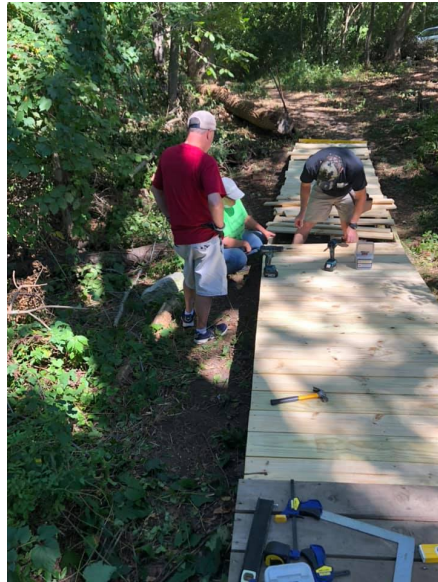


## Upgrades and improvements to parks

- *Pierce Field*
- *Grassy Plains Park*
- *Hull Street Playground*
- *Willet Pond trail enhancements*



Source: Friends of Grassy Plains Park



Source: East Providence Conservation Commission

## Urban Forestry Program and Tree Inventory

## Footbridge at Hunts Mill

## New waterfront public access

Source: Alltrails.com



# Moving Forward





# Recreation

## Support Maintenance and Upkeep

- Continued investment in parks, playgrounds, public spaces

## Provide Equitable Access to Resources

- Public spaces in the Waterfront District
- Accessibility for people with disabilities (ADA and Universal Design)
- Distribution of resources city-wide
- Connecting resources with walking and biking amenities

## Create New Recreation Opportunities

- New community/recreation center
- New programming, equipment, amenities

# Natural Resources

## **Protect and maintain important landscapes, wildlife corridors, and natural features**

- Identify important areas for future protection and how they can be protected
- Manage and enhance existing protected areas
- Regulatory needs

## **Enhance the City's green infrastructure**

- Use “nature-based solutions” to address impacts of rain runoff, flooding, urban heat island effect, etc.
  - Increase tree canopy
  - Reduce pavement and other impervious surfaces



# Sustainability and Resiliency

## Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change

- Identify and monitor areas vulnerable to frequent flooding, sea level rise
- Prioritize infrastructure for upgrades, investments
- Identify where City operations/practices can be more environment-friendly

## Educate residents and businesses on how they can be more resilient

- Guidance on resources for best practices for businesses
- Outreach to residents to be environmental stewards at home  
*Lawn and garden care, use of native plant species, rain gardens*



# Tonight's Conversation

1. Confirm the Issues – Now & Future
  - Agree? What's missing?
2. Are we headed in the right direction?
  - What could be better?
  - New ideas!
3. How do we get there?
  - Who's involved?





# Ground Rules

---

Everyone should have an opportunity to talk

Focus on the group's discussion

Be concise

Listen, be honest, and avoid criticizing other's ideas

Think big!

Have fun!

[eastprovidenceri.gov/community](http://eastprovidenceri.gov/community)

**Thank you!**