



Forest Values

The Ocean State is well known for stunning beaches and rocky shores. However, what the state nickname does not reflect are the critical forested uplands, comprising more than half of Rhode Island's land area. In fact, **368,373 acres** or **56%** of the state's land area is covered by forests.

Within our state forests, **213,000 acres** or **58%** of that land is considered core forest, defined as areas with over 250 acres of continuous woodland.

Approximately **125,000 acres** of this forested land is considered permanently protected from development by Audubon, land trusts and government ownership.

To protect the rest, we have work to do.



Rhode Island's forests provide significant air quality benefits to the state by absorbing hazardous air pollution.

Our trees provide more than

\$30

million

**annually in pollution
removal benefits**

DONATE

Support Audubon efforts to lobby for forests and woodlands.



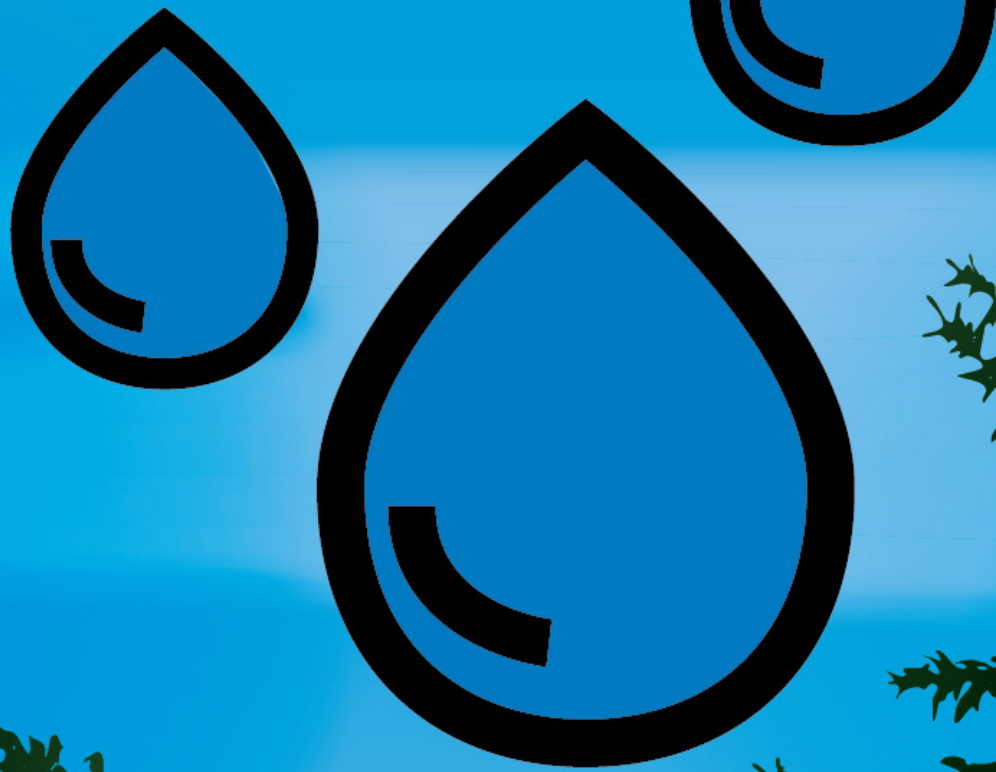


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Barred Owl

This owl species looks to nest in large tracts of mature forest with tall trees. It prefers habitat that offers tree cavities in which to nest and a diversity of small prey.



80%
**of clean
drinking water**

**for the Rhode Island population
is supplied by reservoirs that are
mostly surrounded by forested
watersheds.**

Our forests play an important role
in keeping these waterways safe
and clean.

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Receive Action Alerts to help advocate to state representatives and senators.



Scarlet Tanager

This bird prefers mature oak forests in sizable tracts of woodland with 80% canopy cover.

The Scarlet Tanager is classified as a species of greatest conservation need.



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Rhode Island forests
sequester nearly

500,000
metric tons of CO²
each year.

Our forests offset the
emissions of more than
100,000 passenger
vehicles annually.

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Engage with our Facebook and Instagram pages to share your love of forests.





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Rose-breasted Grosbeak

This bird species breeds in moist mixed deciduous and coniferous forests. It prefers second growth forests, common in regenerating woodlands.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak classifies as a species of greatest conservation need.

An illustration of a woodpecker with a prominent red crest and black and white body, perched on a tree trunk. The background shows a lush green forest with a blue sky and a body of water in the distance.

Rhode Island's forests provide
unique habitats that support

**thousands
of species.**

Mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish,
invertebrates, and close to 2,900 plants
require core forests for their survival.

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Black-Throated Green Warbler

This bird prefers large, continuous tracts of closed-canopy forests. They have a decreasing population in New England and mid-Atlantic states

Research studies have connected access to trees and other natural environments with

**better physical
and mental
health.**

These studies have shown that outdoor recreation including wildlife viewing can alleviate symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression.

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Eastern Wood-Pewee

This species nests usually 15-70 ft off the ground in hardwood forests with open canopy cover and open midstory.

They have a decreasing population in New England and the Mid-Atlantic States.

Rhode Island's trees and forests protect our communities

from dangerous urban heat,
flooding from extreme
weather events, and the
frontline impacts of climate
change.



SHARE

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Wood Thrush

This species prefers to live in forests with a diversity of hardwood trees, high shrub density, shade, fairly open forest floor, moist soil, and decaying leaf litter.

They are currently listed as a species of greatest conservation need in Rhode Island.



Audubon Society of Rhode Island

<http://asri.org/protect-forests>

Resource: RI Forest Advisory Committee and RI Tree Council