



NOMINATE A LOCALE FOR **RHODE ISLAND BIOBLITZ**

Land trusts, towns, and other conservationists are encouraged to nominate sites. Email your ideas to David Gregg (dgregg@rinhs.org) and we'll contact you for more info.

What is a Bioblitz?

In a BioBlitz, volunteer naturalists, working in teams, have 24 hours to tally as many species of animals and plants as they can on a particular parcel of land. The public goals are several: 1) to demonstrate that biodiversity is important here at home, not just in distant places; 2) by example to show how field biologists and naturalists learn about species and the environment; 3) to encourage communication among people who share a curiosity about the environment; and 4) to survey the species on the property for the benefit of the landowner for planning and conservation purposes.

The idea was pioneered by biologists from USGS, NPS, and Harvard, including E.O. Wilson. The first BioBlitz was in Washington, D.C., in 1996. Now BioBlitzes are held all across the U.S. and around the world. The Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS) organized the first Rhode Island BioBlitz in 2000, in Roger Williams Park, in Providence. There, 31 volunteers found 665 species. It showed that as far as biodiversity is concerned, no parcel of land should be written off. Since then, BioBlitz has been held annually, moving around the state to preserves and refuges, town forests and recreational space, and farms. A typical year now draws approximately 200 participants from throughout the northeast and identifies 900 to 1,100 species. For info on past BioBlitzes go to www.rinhs.org/whatwedo/bioblitz or watch a short video on the 2010 BioBlitz at www.youtube.com/rinaturalhistory.

What Do We Look For in a Site? What Does the Local Host Do? What is the Return?

Rhode Island BioBlitz is held annually, ideally on the second Friday and Saturday after Memorial Day, on sites suggested by RINHS members, fans, and the public. We look for coastal or interior sites. The ideal site is between 100 and 800 contiguous acres and includes at least field, forest, and aquatic habitat (fresh and/or salt water). Overnight camping, power (can be via generator), water (can be bottled), parking, event tent(s) or suitable building, tables, and chairs, and catering are required. Every BioBlitz relies on an energetic local host organization, usually one of the land owners, who provides substantial support in addition to land access. BioBlitz typically requires a budget of \$10,000-\$15,000 (not including staff time) depending on site, an amount raised from RINHS members, the local host(s), registration fees, and event sponsorships. BioBlitz produces a significant biological inventory and written report, good statewide visibility, and opportunities for the local host(s) to engage local and statewide constituencies. RINHS staff are available to the local host(s) and major sponsors before, during, and after the event to meet with donors, give presentations to staff, members, or the public, or interpret the results.

About the Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS)

The Rhode Island Natural History Survey connects people knowledgeable about Rhode Island's animals, plants, and natural systems with each other and with those who can use that knowledge for research, education, and conservation.

RINHS is an independent non-profit, founded in 1994, that manages data documenting the state's species and natural communities, publishes books and articles, and hosts public events, including the annual Rhode Island BioBlitz. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Rhode Island's plants and animals. For more information about RINHS, visit www.rinhs.org.

Images from 2010 (Block Island), 2014 (Rocky Pt), 2015 (Little Compton), 2016 (Hopkinton), 2017 (Johnston)



See more photos at www.rinhs.org/whatwedo/bioblitz