

26th Annual Rhode Island BioBlitz

June 6 & 7, 2025



"The Beetle Guy" Raul
Ferreira (1939-2025)

*Thank you for giving us
your expertise, good spirits,
and encouragement.*

Steere Hill Preserve & Phillips Farm, Glocester

WELCOME to the longest-running bioblitz in the WORLD (begun in 2000, never missed a year)!

The success and future of BioBlitz depends on you, the volunteers. THANKS! And be safe out there!
All participants must check-in upon arrival and must sign Liability and Photo Waivers as a condition of participation.

NO alcohol, pets, firearms, fires, loud music, or drones.

As much as possible, submit lists of species you ID only through the appropriate team representative.

Park and camp only in designated areas. Stay off walls and cliffs and out of water after dark.

Collect only if you need to to identify. Treat animals humanely.

Check for ticks.

All questions, inquiries, and safety issues should be directed to the "People Team" at Science Central

BioBlitz 2025: Notices and Instructions to Participants



By participating in BioBlitz, you agree to follow the rules laid out here, participating landowners' rules, and relevant local, state, and federal laws. Your **compliance** with these rules and the instructions below is **important**.

You will be in a wilderness area with known and unknown hazards.

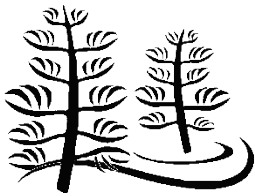
Neither the hazards nor your behavior is in the control of RINHS, landowners, or event sponsors, so **YOU** are responsible for your own safety.

If you have any questions about these rules, please ask.

If you won't follow the rules, please do not participate.

"BioBlitz is a 24-hour effort by volunteers to count as many species of life as possible on a specified parcel of land."

A big THANK YOU to our host and sponsors:



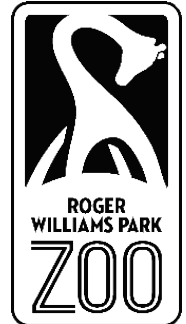
GLOCESTER
LAND TRUST



Payton Family
Lusi Family



LARGESS
FORESTRY



GENERAL

► **Science Central** is the HQ for BioBlitz. It is located in the big tent at the top of Steere Hill, near the end of Steere Hill Trail, accessed via 400 Putnam Pike (Rt 44), Glocester, RI.

► **All participants must sign in at Science Central upon arrival, sign a liability waiver, photo waiver, and receive notices and maps of the BioBlitz.**

► **All enquiries should be directed to Science Central.** Representatives are on duty at Science Central at all times (or nearby during late overnight hours).

► **Camp and park only in designated areas.**

► **Do not un-necessarily disturb animals, plants, or their habitats in the course of counting.** Animals must be treated humanely at all times. Do not handle an animal if you do not need to to identify it. Handle animals carefully and as little as necessary, being sure to put animals back exactly where you found them.

► The BioBlitz site is **owned by Norman Bird Sanctuary**. Specimens remain the property of NBS. If you **NEED** to take specimens off-site to identify or analyze them, record your specimens with RINHS at Science Central before you leave.

► **Please respect the privacy of abutters and stay "In Bounds."** Consult the event map or ask if unsure.

► **You are responsible for personal property you bring to BioBlitz.** Do not leave out microscopes, books, cameras, phones, or anything else valuable.

► **Dinner** Friday, if you signed up for it, is at 6 P.M.

SAFETY

► If you have an emergency, **call for emergency services by dialing 911**. Tell the operator you are participating in a public event at Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown, and give your approximate location so help can be staged from the best access point. Then contact Science Central.

Phone numbers:

Emergency	DIAL 911
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Science Central	401-316-8905
	or 401-742-1176
Glocester Land Trust reps	401 499-3631
	or 401-743-6460

► In case of emergency, phones and first aid kits are located at Science Central. **Organizers' representatives are on duty at Science Central at all times** (except late overnight hours, when they will be nearby). In addition, a designated "Safety Ranger" is on duty and available to go to a location, direct emergency services, or otherwise assist you.

► While Glocester isn't remote on a global scale, nonetheless, **the site and the activities of BioBlitz are likely to have dangers that are beyond the powers of the organizers to know of, warn you about, or control.** Therefore, **YOUR safety at BioBlitz is YOUR responsibility.** Be careful in what you do. If you see someone doing something unsafe, say something to them and/or bring it to organizers' attention.

SAFETY cont.

- Stay aware of your surroundings and the direction to safety. **Have a buddy and keep your phone charged and handy.** Try a “compass,” they’re like a phone but they don’t need a battery in order to point north.
- **Participants must observe all applicable boating laws.** If you are on the water, you must wear a **personal floatation device** and other mandated safety gear.
- Practice **Aquatic Invasive Safety: clean and sanitize boots, nets, and other gear** going into and leaving from swamps and ponds.
- Be careful of **traffic**. Park only in designated places.
- Disease-bearing **ticks** and **mosquitoes** occur in Rhode Island. Wear protective clothing, use repellants, conduct tick checks, and be vigilant for symptoms afterwards. For information on Lyme disease see: www.health.ri.gov/disease/carriers/ticks.
- Protect yourself from **the sun**—wear appropriate clothing and use sunblock (free at Science Central).
- If the weather is hot, **stay hydrated**. If the weather is cold, dress warmly and stay dry.
- Stay away from **poison ivy**. (Ask one of the botanists for a lesson if you don't know what it looks like).
- **Be careful around water and swamps.** People wishing to enter the water, even just wading, should be with a partner or in a group. Stay out of the water at night. Be alert for deep mud. Probe ahead with a stick.
- Use extreme caution around **cliffs, ledges, banks, boulders, tree snags, holes in the ground** and other commonly hazardous features.
- **Stay off of stone walls.** Climbing them could result in serious injury to you and costly damage to the wall.
- Do not handle **wild animals** (snapping turtles, raccoons, etc.) unless you are familiar with appropriate techniques and have appropriate equipment.



Be courteous to the curious. We were all beginners once. That kid who won't stop asking questions might be the next E.O. Wilson or in this case David Attenborough.

SCIENCE

► **THE BOUNDARIES FOR RI BIOBLITZ 2025 INCLUDE Steere Hill Preserve and Phillips Farm.**

It is bounded by Rt 44 on the north, the golf course to the east and south, and private property to the west. It does not include Gloucester Land Trust's Heritage Park that abuts Steere Hill Preserve to the West.

Note that there is a 2.5 acre private property “within” the bioblitz boundary northwest of the big field and south of Rt. 44. It isn't in bounds. Please respect abutters privacy.

See the provided event map for full boundary information

► Count any organism you detect (visually, aurally, olfactorily, etc.) within bounds between 2 p.m. Fri. and 2 p.m. Sat. **You do not have to identify every organism you observe to species.** If you can't, your count should reflect the number of likely taxonomic subgroups within the lowest taxonomic level you **CAN** differentiate (e.g. "two different bees in the genus *Halictus*" or "three beetles of the Staphylinid family").

► For airborne species, count it if you estimate it is approximately above the in-bounds area. Count scat, sheds, tracks, and other sign if it is reasonably fresh, as it constitutes evidence that this site supports that species. **Note what kind of evidence you found.** Count domestic animals and cultivated, perennial plants (see back page for more details).

► Record your results on the pink, official **RI BioBlitz Reporting Form (RIBORF)** and if possible note a **LOCALE** (Area 1 or Area 2, named place (“The Bog”, “the big field” etc.), or another area if you can describe it. You can also “pinprick” and label on the map on the back of the RIBORF. Turn RIBORFs in to the leader of the appropriate team or to Science Central. Include any helpful or interesting notes, too. Also, please note on your form the general taxonomic group (e.g. “crustacea”, “myxomycota”, “phytoplankton”) along with the species name.

► **If you gather live specimens, put them back EXACTLY where you found them.** Do not knowingly collect rare species. Participants wishing to use special trapping techniques are responsible for doing so safely (UV lights, aquatic electro-shocking, swimming, gas-powered equipment, etc.) and for having the necessary licenses (e.g. for mist nets, SCUBA).

► You can set up your own work area at Science Central. **Be careful of expensive books and equipment.** The organizers cannot be responsible for personal property brought to BioBlitz.

► We have many volunteers eager to assist. **Don't hesitate to ask for help.**

► All inventory results must be reported to David Gregg at **Science Central by 3 P.M. Saturday.** The preliminary tally will be announced to the public as soon after 3 P.M. as possible.

What Counts?

Every species of life that can be detected and at least roughly identified (incl. by sound or sign [see below]) within the BioBlitz boundary during the allotted time period.

Bounds (see map):

For surface-dwelling organisms (trees, ants, mice, slugs, etc.), they must be in-bounds (see map). For airborne species (a hawk flying by) or species detected by ear (owl heard hooting in the woods), do your best to ascertain that they are in or passing over the site itself, but you don't have to be absolutely positive.

Domestic and Cultivated Species

Ask yourself, "Without active human intervention, would this species still be here a year from now?" We're trying to record info about this place that would be explanatory of some circumstance or finding. So, if you're trying to explain why the area has dung beetles, it makes sense to count "cow" (or dog, chicken, human). The presence of certain cultivated, perennial plants helps explain the presence of certain insects and fungi, so we count perennial plants and most self-seeding biennials or annuals such as Cleome (spider flower). We do not count typically non-self-seeding annuals like corn, marigolds, or impatiens.

Scat, feathers, sheds, tracks, feeding sign, etc.:

Ask yourself, "Do we have evidence that 'it's still around here somewhere'?" In other words, it counts if it's feeding sign from a species with limited mobility, like a caterpillar, or scat from a species with limited range, like a mouse. If it is sign from a mobile species, count it if it is quite fresh...a scat or print from the last 24 hours or so or a nice, fresh feather. For things found washed up on a beach or riverbank, use your discretion: if this is the right habitat, but you're just not seeing a living specimen, you can count a relatively fresh shell...you might count an oyster shell found dead near a muddy intertidal area with scattered rocks but not a washed up coconut.

Identifications:

Work with your team to agree on one field guide, checklist, or other reference nomenclature for your taxon; it doesn't much matter which you use, just be consistent. For tough taxa or where sufficient expertise is lacking, such as flies, you can organize finds into morpho-species, but be alert for organisms with alternation of generations, hemi-metabolous development, or notable sexual dimorphism.

You DON'T have to ID everything to species. Get as close as you can, and according to the Rule of Least Duplication it might still count. *

Rule of Least Duplication

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a. I saw... an insect | counts as 1 as long as no other insects are seen |
| b. I saw... a bee | "a" is discarded; "b" counts as 1 as long as no other bees are seen |
| c. I saw... a <i>Bombus</i> sp. | "b" is discarded; "c" counts as 1 as long as no other <i>Bombus</i> are seen |
| d. I saw... <i>Bombus affinis</i> | "c" is discarded; "d" counts as 1 |

* Working through the appropriate team is the best way to avoid having finds that were IDed to higher than species discarded as potential duplicates. Teams can lay out specimens to consider morphospecies or so members can help with IDs.

Evidence:

BioBlitz is run on the honor system. Be as sure as you can about detection and ID. Photos are great but not required. Gathering specimens is not encouraged except for small numbers of specimens brought back to Science Central for educational purposes (and which must be returned to their find site) or for taxa where kill traps are typical, where lab examination or tests are required for ID, or museum vouchers are expected.

How do I indicate WHERE I found something? How do I indicate WHO found something?

For many finds, we'll just record the find location as "BioBlitz 2025." There are two sub-locales indicated on the map...Area 1 and Area 2...corresponding roughly to the watershed dividing line. The RIBORF has a place to note the number of the area where you found each species you list.

Is it OK for more than one person to initial a checklist? YES! And this goes for people seeing species in more than one sub-locale, too. Add the Area # and your name or initials, and scribble us notes, too, if you want.