

PARKS AND RECREATION

Despite being an urban capital city, Providence offers an impressive array of green space and recreational opportunities. Nearby Warwick owns some of the state's best-kept coastline and is replete with natural and manmade beauty.

Nationally recognized for its outstanding design, **WaterPlace Park** is the focal point of Providence's revitalized downtown. This four-acre urban park surrounding a tidal basin features an amphitheater, landscaped terraces, boat landings, a clock tower and an outstanding restaurant. The river is edged by cobble-stoned pedestrian walkways, park benches, trees and flowering plants. A series of Venetian bridges connects downtown Providence to the city's historic East Side. From here, guests can ride a water taxi down Providence's redesigned rivers, stroll the scenic Riverwalk or idle in the gazebo and enjoy the view. WaterPlace Park is also the site of special events such as outdoor concerts and one of the best views for the acclaimed WaterFire.

Cited by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of America's premier urban parks, **Roger Williams Park** was designed by noted American landscape architect Horace Cleveland. With more than 430 acres, the Park is comprised of waterways, walks, outdoor gardens, a Carousel Village, Museum of Natural History and Planetarium, the Temple to Music and the park's crown jewel, Roger Williams Park Zoo. The Carousel Village features a vintage carousel, pony rides, a themed miniature golf course and kiddie go-boats. The Tennis Center has Rhode Island's only clay courts available for public use. The boathouse has paddle-boats and mini-speed boats.

The **Roger Williams Park Zoo** is the third oldest zoo in the country (since 1872) and has been cited as "one of the outstanding reasons to visit New England" by the *Yankee Magazine Travel Guide to New England* and the "finest zoo in New England" by *Boston Globe*. Visitors to the 40-acre zoo see some of the world's most fascinating animals roaming through natural settings. The zoo's population totals nearly 1,000 animals, with some 165 species on display at any given time, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects.

A tiny jewel of a park on Providence's East Side, **Prospect Terrace** is the burial place of Rhode Island Founder Roger Williams and boasts a city view nonpareil. Located on Congdon Street, the park is also home to an iconic statue of Roger Williams.

India Point Park is currently transitioning to an architectural focal point of the city. An 18-acre city park overlooking Narragansett Bay, and includes bike paths, playgrounds and waterfront views amidst lush lawns and a pedestrian bridge.

Rhode Island's most popular metropolitan park, **Goddard Park** in Warwick, attracts thousands of visitors each year. The 472-acre park offers a beautiful natural environment with spacious lawns, fields and forested areas with a variety of trees from all over the world, including 62 deciduous and 19 evergreen species. Visitors can make use of a newly renovated saltwater beach and bathhouse, a nine-hole golf course, an equestrian show area, 18 miles of bridle trails, 355 picnic tables, 11 game fields and a new performing arts center for weddings, concerts, picnics and special events.

Located in the Buttonwoods neighborhood, **Warwick City Park** includes a beach area, three baseball fields, picnic areas and tennis courts. A three-mile path offers cyclists, walkers and runners lovely views of Narragansett Bay.

A waterfront park, Warwick's **Oakland Beach Park** has a beach tended by a lifeguard during the summer and is surrounded by restaurants.

Nestled in Warwick's historic Pawtuxet Village, **Pawtuxet Park** is a waterfront park with a charming reproduction of a Victorian gazebo, picnic sites and park benches for resting and gazing at the beautiful view.