

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT AT HILLSDALE PRESERVE: RIFCO'S SUMMER TWILIGHT SESSION**

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization is conducting its annual Summer Twilight Woods Walk at the site of a research project being set up at the Hillsdale Preserve in Richmond, RI on Thursday, August 8, 2024, from 6 to 8 pm. The evening hike will feature a walk through the study area off Old Mountain Road, led by Christopher Riely, URI Natural Resources Research Associate and Extension forester, for a look at ways RI's forests can be made more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The [Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change \(ASCC\) project](#) is a collaborative effort to establish a series of experimental silvicultural trials across a network of different forest ecosystem types throughout the United States and Canada.

According to Mr. Riely, "The Hillsdale Preserve is the location of the [ASCC study site in Rhode Island](#). It is dominated by oak-hickory forest and is experiencing forest health issues exacerbated by climate stress." On 40 acres, three different types of forest management treatments are being implemented. The results of the three treatments (as well as an unmanaged no-action control) will be compared to determine the effectiveness of each approach.

Researchers are conducting annual monitoring to analyze how forest conditions change. To implement the initial treatments, a timber harvest and then tree planting were carried out over the winter and spring of 2023-24.

We will meet at the entrance to the site at (approximately) [47 Old Mountain Road, Richmond, RI 02898](#), where there is a small pull-off on the southeast side of the road and an entrance to an old woods road. We will be walking both on skid trails and off-trail through the woods.

The RIFCO Summer Twilight Walk is free of charge, and no registration is necessary. For directions to the site, or if you have any questions about the event, visit our website ([www.rifco.org](http://www.rifco.org)), or contact us at [info@rifco.org](mailto:info@rifco.org), or call us at (401) 568-3410.

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's forest resources. RIFCO is also a co-sponsor of the RI Tree Farm Program, and an affiliate of the National Woodland Owner's Association. To sign up for RIFCO's monthly e-news, visit us at [www.rifco.org](http://www.rifco.org).

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