



MARCH/APRIL 2025

WILDROOTS NATURE PLAY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

“Inch by inch by
foot by foot by
step by step by mile.
We're takin' it inch by inch by
foot by foot
'till we find ourselves
in the wild.”

-FROM “WALKING WITH SPRING” BY THE OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS

Welcome Spring! It's been one whole year of WildRoots, and it has been a huge year for growth, learning, and change. As I reflect on the year, I am filled with gratitude for all of the ways in which this community of families has shown up with joy and support for one another. We have braved the coldest and windiest days, the wettest and hottest days, the days we just didn't want to go outside. We have done this for our children, of course, but we have also done this for ourselves. We have gotten outside, joined by other families, and nature has given us the space to breathe. We need connection, we need time in nature, and we have learned so much about how important being in community is for each of us. As we move into another spring, the “roots” of our organization continue to establish themselves, and new plans are emerging. Growth is often invisible and gradual, happening beneath the surface, but shifting things all the same. Here's to our second year of growing together! ♡ Anneke



Upcoming Events

We have our first Ramble planned for April 10 at 10:00 AM at Grills Preserve in Westerly. This Ramble is open to new and returning families. To register, please fill out the Google Form on our website. If this is your first WildRoots program, we will ask you to sign a Liability Waiver and Photo Release. We are excited to gather with our community again after a long winter apart!

Nature Highlights

Male *red-winged black birds* have returned to the region to prepare for the arrival of the females and nesting. Their distinct trill can be heard from wetland areas or from groups high up in trees. You may spot a flash of red as the males take flight!



Skunk cabbage is pushing out of the ground in the wetlands.



Hibernating *amphibians and reptiles* are emerging. Look for a large migration of salamanders on a rainy, warm night, and listen for the spring peepers.



Red maples (the Rhode Island state tree and also called the swamp maple) are putting on their spring show with red buds and flowers opening.



Black Bears emerge from their dens in April and begin to look for food - bird feeders should be removed to avoid attracting them.



As the days continue to warm, spring wildflowers will be taking advantage of the still leafless trees. With the sun able to reach the forest floor, *trout lily*, *bloodroot*, *hepatica*, and *spring beauty* are among the early bloomers that provide nectar for the first pollinators of the season.