

STATEWIDE PLANNING e-NEWS

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program • One Capitol Hill • Providence, RI 02908 • 401.222.7901 • fax 401.222.2083 • www.planning.ri.gov

Comprehensive Plan Review Standards and Guidance Handbooks Adopted

It is with great pleasure that we announce the adoption of the new Comprehensive Planning Standards and the associated Guidance Handbook Series by the State Planning Council. The standards and guidance handbook series represent the culmination of over three years of effort by Statewide Planning Program staff, which integrated the expertise of over sixty topical experts. In addition, the process was overseen by the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee, a dedicated group of twelve planning, land use, legal, and community professionals who worked diligently to develop content on the comprehensive planning process and in reviewing proposed guidance on topical contents. A sincere thank you to all who participated in this momentous effort.

The comprehensive plan review standards set forth the requirements for the review of comprehensive plans by the Division of Planning for state approval. Comprehensive planning in Rhode Island is governed by the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act (“the Act”), which outlines the process and criteria for state review of comprehensive plans. Additionally, the Act requires that the Division “develop standards to assist municipalities in the incorporation of the state goals and policies into comprehensive plans, and to guide the chief’s review of comprehensive plans and state agency activities” [RIGL 45-22.2-10(b)]. The standards, which have been adopted as Rule 4 – Part 2 of the State Planning Council’s Rules and Standards, satisfy this requirement. To access the standards and guidance handbooks, please visit <http://www.planning.ri.gov/statewideplanning/compplanning/handbook>.

The comprehensive plan review standards are accompanied by sixteen guidance handbooks, which provide helpful information on all of the topics that are required to be included within a plan, as well as general information on comprehensive planning, mapping and the process of crafting a plan. The guidance handbooks provide recommended resources and methodologies, sample goals, policies and actions, and a myriad of other useful information.

Staff of the Statewide Planning Program stands ready to assist municipalities throughout their comprehensive planning process. One of the ways that we can be of service is to review draft comprehensive plan materials as they are produced, providing comments on the satisfaction of the standards. If you would like to send a draft to the Statewide Planning Program, please contact Kevin Nelson at 222-2093 or kevin.nelson@doa.ri.gov.

The Statewide Planning Program would also like to come and chat with you about the new standards, the process for review, and anything else that is on your mind relative to comprehensive planning. We are also happy to provide a workshop for your Planning Board or Commission on comprehensive planning and state review if you feel that would be beneficial. If you are interested in a meeting or a workshop, please contact Chelsea Siefert at 222-4721 or chelsea.siefert@doa.ri.gov.

Additionally, the Statewide Planning Program has resource materials available online for your use. In the near future, Municipal Data Fact Sheets will be published that include all of the State and Federal data points that are required for state approval. Please check <http://www.planning.ri.gov/statewideplanning/compplanning/> for more information.





Statewide Planning's Committee Meetings

State Planning Council, Thursday, February 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m., One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

Technical Committee, **CANCELLED**

Friday February 5, 2016 One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

Transportation Advisory Committee, Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6:30 p.m. One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

RIGIS Executive Committee, Thursday, March 17, 2015, 1:00-3:00 p.m. USDA-NRCS, Main Conference Room 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886

URI Landscape Architecture Lectures 2016

- **March 3**, Toby Wolf, Principal, Wolf Landscape Architecture Westwood, MA. Title: Just enough wildness: Designing places that connect people with the natural world”
- **March 31**, Chris Reed, STOSS Landscape Urbanism, Boston, MA. April 14 Emily McCoy, Andropogon, Philadelphia, PA. Title: Craft, Research, and Practice: performance-based design in landscape architecture.
- **April 28**, Catherine Seavitt, ASLA, AIA LEED-AP, Catherine Seavitt Studio, NY, NY. Title: “Shifting Sands: Sedimentary Cycles for Jamaica Bay”

Lectures begin at 7:00 P.M. and are held in the Weaver Auditorium on the Kingston Campus of URI. This series is co-sponsored by The College of Arts and Sciences, and the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Catherine Seavitt lecture is being co-sponsored by Rhode Island Sea Grant. All lectures are free and open to the public. The lecture halls are handicapped accessible. General questions about the series may be directed to 874-2983 or to wagre@uri.edu.

State of Rhode Island
Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

Presents

“Building and Preserving South County”—the 31st Annual R.I. Statewide Historic Preservation Conference on Saturday, April 30 in North Kingstown and Exeter.

Rhode Island's South County has a distinctive sense of place and culture. It is home to several early grassroots historic preservation efforts, including the state's first local historic districts (established in Kingston and Wickford in 1959) and one of the state's first historic house museums (Gilbert Stuart Birthplace, opened in 1931). The 2016 conference will explore the development and preservation of South County--and the social, economic, and cultural history expressed by the built environment. The Keynote Speaker will be historian Dr. Joanne Pope Melish whose work on slavery, emancipation, and their legacy incorporates extensive research in Rhode Island. Tours will visit local farms, seaports, mill villages, museums, and artists' communities that make this place called South County.

CEUs for architects and CM credits for planners will be available. Programs will be available in March. Check www.preservation.ri.gov/conference/ for details.

We're Here to Help

One of the central missions of the [Statewide Planning Program](#) is to enable cities and towns to create great communities.

The staff of the Statewide Planning Program is here to help, with everything from document review to data gathering, fact checking to facilitation. Our staff has expertise in a variety of topics, including GIS and mapping, public participation, data analysis, redevelopment planning and urban design.

If you think your community could benefit from the assistance of the Statewide Planning Program, contact Jared Rhodes at 222-5772 or Jared.Rhodes@doa.ri.gov.

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Cool, crisp, clear...safe to drink?

Learn how to protect your private well water.

Free workshop for private well owners

Protect yourself, your family, your property and your investment.

Learn:

- The importance of regular testing
 - How to protect your well water from pollution
 - Proper well maintenance
-
- **Monday, February 8, 2016 from 6 – 7 pm at the North Scituate Community House**
 - **Monday, March 14, 2016 from 6 – 7 pm at the Richmond-Carolina Fire Station**
 - **Monday, April 11, 2016 from 6 – 7 pm at the Little Compton Community Center**
 - **Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 6 – 7 pm at the Block Island Free Library**

To register, call URI at 401-874-4918. Space is limited; pre-registration is required.

These workshops are conducted by the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program and the RI Department of Health. Funding provided by the RI Department of Health Capacity Development Program.

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND





URI's Geospatial Training Program for March 2015

Using ArcGIS.com



March 24, 2016, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Cost \$100.00, For more information and to register: http://www.edc.uri.edu/training/Arcgis_online

Web Maps and Geographic Data

This is a half-day training program that will introduce you to ESRI's FREE online mapping application available at ArcGIS.com and give you the tools to access the volumes of data being served from RIGIS which are easily accessible in this interface.

- Explore ready to use map services from RIGIS and others (hundreds of maps!)
- Query existing data
- Build your own maps using readily available data from RIGIS and other sources
- Create your own data (import: .csv, .txt, addresses, .gpx, heads-up digitizing)
- Share your maps via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter or embed the code into your own website

ArcGIS Viewer is an online service developed by ESRI® that allows users to upload, download, and create data. Users may choose to make their map data public or limit access by using groups.

Introduction to GIS

March 21 - 23, 2016, 8:30 AM - 4 PM, Cost: \$750.00, For more information and to register: <http://www.edc.uri.edu/training/intro-to-GIS>

This three-day hands-on computer course provides an introduction to the capabilities of GIS. Using ESRI's ArcGIS 10.2®, software, we teach the fundamentals of working with GIS data, how to query a GIS database, edit spatial and attribute data and how to present data using maps, reports, and graphs. We also work extensively with the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) database.

All participants receive hands-on software instruction, training materials with step-by-step exercises and training data. Upon successful completion of the course, participants receive a URI Certificate of Course Completion. Classes are taught at URI's Kingston campus.

The University of Rhode Island Environmental Data Center and Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program are conducting a **free RIGIS Metadata Author's Workshop** on **Friday March 25, 2016**.



This free all-day workshop steps through how to build standards-compliant metadata using out-of-the-box tools provided by Esri ArcGIS Desktop 10.3. This will be a crash course in metadata; specifically focusing on why good metadata matter, how to effectively use ArcGIS Desktop for creating metadata, the anatomy of an ArcGIS metadata record, and step-by-step instructor-led training in creating an [FGDC-compliant metadata record](#). This course will focus on helping RIGIS data contributors meet the RIGIS metadata standards when submitting datasets.

All participants must bring a sample dataset that they wish to write metadata for. This will allow everyone to walk away with a metadata record to continue building from on their own.

The workshop will be hosted at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI. A follow-up series of online office hours will be exclusively available to participants afterwards. Registration is capped at twenty students, with priority given to active data contributors to RIGIS.

If interested, please apply online at

<http://www.edc.uri.edu/survey/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/382487/lang/en>

no later than 5pm on Friday, March 4, 2016. Please contact Erica Tefft (erica@edc.uri.edu) with any questions about this special opportunity.