

# 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](http://www.planning.ri.gov)

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## Statewide Planning's Committee Meetings

**State Planning Council**  
**March 12, 2015 9:00 a.m.**  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI  
Conference Room A

**Technical Committee—**  
**March 6, 2015 9:00 a.m. CANCELLED**  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI  
Conference Room A

**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**March 26, 2015 5:30 p.m.**  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI  
Conference Room A

<http://www.planning.ri.gov/council/>

**RIGIS Executive Committee**  
March 19th, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
USDA-NRCS, Main Conference Room  
60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI  
<http://www.edc.uri.edu/rigis/about/committee.html>



## Statewide Planning Program updates its Public Participation Plan for 2015

The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program is updating its Public Participation Plan as required by federal transportation planning regulations. The Public Participation Plan defines a process for providing citizens, affected agencies, providers and all users of public transportation with reasonable opportunities to be involved with the metropolitan transportation planning process, including the development of the state's long-range transportation plan, transportation improvement program (TIP), and Unified Work Program. The Statewide Planning Program's current Public Participation Plan (PPP) exists as the *Public Participation Guide* which was approved by the Rhode Island State Planning Council in 2007.

A Public Participation Plan Advisory Committee will advise the Statewide Planning Program as it develops a new Public Participation Plan. The committee members represent public transportation services providers, owners of transportation infrastructure, and users of the transportation system. The committee will help craft recommendations on how the MPO can improve the public involvement programs that will comprise the plan. This group will meet over the next several months.

Please contact Michael C. Moan at (222-1236) or [Michael.Moan@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Michael.Moan@doa.ri.gov) for additional information on the plan update. You can also get updates on the project at the Statewide Planning Program's Webpage <http://www.planning.ri.gov/statewideplanning/transportation/public.php>

## Hurricane Sandy Funding Opportunity

Municipalities are encouraged to submit CDBG Disaster Recovery applications for eligible activities that meet the CDBG national objective of predominately benefiting low and moderate income persons. Applicants must be able to document unmet needs resulting from Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, or winter storm Nemo (February 2013). For maximum consideration, submit your application to the Office of Housing and Community Development by May 1, 2015. Application materials and the State's Hurricane Sandy Action Plan are available at <http://www.planning.ri.gov/community/development/disaster/index.php>.

Contact Laura Sullivan at [Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov) or 401-222-6844 with questions.

## URI's Geospatial Training Program for March 2015

### Using ArcGIS.com

March 16, 2015, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Cost \$100.00

For more information and to register: [http://www.edc.uri.edu/training/Arcgis\\_online](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 17 - 19, 2015, 8:30 am - 4:00 am, 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.



### 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, March 30, 2015 from 6 – 7 PM, Cumberland Public Library, Cumberland, RI**
- **Monday, April 27, 2015 from 6 – 7 PM, Brown Avenue School cafeteria, 14 Brown Avenue, Johnston, RI**
- **Tuesday, May 12, 2015 from 6 – 7 PM at Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Avenue, Tiverton, RI**

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

For more information on private well protection, see: [www.riweltesting.org](http://www.riweltesting.org)

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
*landscape architecture*

SPRING 2015 LECTURES

**march 12**

**Peter Trowbridge**, FASLA, Professor, Cornell University and Principal, Trowbridge, Wolf, Michael, Ithaca, NY  
**"IS THIS WHAT WE CALL INFRASTRUCTURE?"**



**april 9**

**Anne Whiston Spim**, Professor and Landscape Architect in City Design and Planning, MIT, Cambridge, MA  
**"THE EYE IS A DOOR: LANDSCAPE PHOTOS AND ART OF DISCOVERY"**



**april 23**

**Kaki Martin**, ASLA, Klopfer Martin Design Group, Cambridge, MA  
**"INSERTED LANDSCAPE"**



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 URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences, The College of Arts and Sciences, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and Landscape Forms. Anne Spim's visit is being co-sponsored by the URI Art Department. 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](mailto:wagre@uri.edu).

RHODE ISLAND  
STATEWIDE  
PLANNING  
PROGRAM

## Statewide Planning Posts Study of Access Management and the Physical Alteration Permit Process in Rhode Island

Working within the activities of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the Congestion Management Task Force (CMTF), the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program (RISPP) along with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) have produced a study that aims to improve and promote the implementation of Access Management (AM) at both the state and local level for transportation and land use planning. Access Management is a set of techniques that State and local governments can use to control access to highways, major arterials, and other roadways (FHWA). This effort stems from goals and policies found in the Rhode Island State Guide Plan Element's Land Use 2025 and Transportation 2035 (the State's long range transportation plan). The practice of Access Management has potential benefits that include: improved safety, travel comfort and travel time for passenger and freight, improved pedestrian safety and access, and improved air quality. The efforts to promote and institute Access Management principles and best practices have also been recognized by FTA and FHWA in Statewide Planning's CMP and Unified planning Work program.

A key instrument for Access Management planning and implementation on both the state and local level is RIDOT's Physical Alteration Permit (PAP) application and review process. RIDOT administers the PAP process to support the rules and regulations concerning permission for use of state highway rights-of-way and all other State of RI property including: alterations to curbs, sidewalks, highway access, storm water disposal, construction, traffic signals, bike paths, rail lines transit/train stations, and signage.

In an effort to improve the PAP application process and the channels of communication between local and state government regarding implementation of access management solutions, RISPP, along with the supportive participation of RIDOT, established an Access Management Task Force to guide the review and identification of specific areas of the PAP application and review process that could be improved. Through this review of the PAP, this study includes recommendations for both RIDOT and the municipalities to improve the PAP application and review process and produce a smoother, more transparent application and review process, and provide a better approach to access management. The study is available at <http://www.planning.ri.gov/statewideplanning/transportation/congestionmanagement.php>



## WTS-Rhode Island Networking Event

Please join WTS-Rhode Island at Rogue Island (The Arcade) on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, for an evening of networking and a chance to Meet WTS International members who have been influential to the Rhode Island chapter. Learn how these women became active participants in WTS at both the local and international levels and how WTS helped them advance in their careers.

To register for this event please contact Alison Steere at (401) 427-2761 or [wtsrhodeisland@gmail.com](mailto:wtsrhodeisland@gmail.com) by 5:00 PM on Friday March 13, 2015. For the Event flyer, click: [http://www.wtsinternational.org/assets/80/22/Meet\\_WTS-Rhode\\_Island\\_3-18-15\\_Rev3.pdf](http://www.wtsinternational.org/assets/80/22/Meet_WTS-Rhode_Island_3-18-15_Rev3.pdf)

WTS-Rhode Island/ASCE-RI Younger Member Group Annual Billiards Event

Please join WTS-Rhode Island and the ASCE-RI Younger Member Group for the Annual co-sponsored billiards event being held at Snookers Pool Lounge in Providence, RI. Reserved pool tables and complimentary appetizers.

This is a FREE EVENT! For the Event flyer, click: [http://www.wtsinternational.org/assets/80/22/WTS-RI\\_2015\\_Annual\\_Billiards\\_Event\\_2-17-2015.pdf](http://www.wtsinternational.org/assets/80/22/WTS-RI_2015_Annual_Billiards_Event_2-17-2015.pdf)

## "Sticks and Stones"—the 30th Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference Gloucester, Rhode Island

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 am—6 pm, \$40 includes all activities, morning coffee, lunch, closing reception

This year's statewide preservation conference, "Sticks and Stones," examines historic rural landscapes and the long-term impact of changes on the land. The sticks are the forests, cleared for agricultural fields long ago, regrown, and now managed as conservation land, park, and private woodlot. The stones remain where they were placed to mark burials, to provide sturdy building foundations, and to build walls that separated farm fields and delineated property boundaries. The event gets underway at St. Eugene's Church in historic Chepachet Village with a keynote speech on the geology and cultural history of New England's stone walls. The speech is followed by 10 workshops, 6 films, and 11 bus and walking tours of historic places around Rhode Island's northwest corner, including farms and forests, mid-century modern residences, and village centers from Harrisville to North Scituate. Presented by the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, the annual conference is a great opportunity to explore the field of historic preservation for design professionals, students, history buffs, public officials, and everyone else.

To register, visit <http://www.preservation.ri.gov/conference/15overview.php> or call (401)732-1009. Pre-registration is open until April 11; on-site registration will be available on April 25.



**JOIN US for an Open House  
& Learn About  
Funding Opportunities!**



**These events will help you learn about our programs and how to apply for funding.**

**CALL TO REGISTER!**

**Southern RI Conservation District  
(401) 500-0422**

*Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 5-7 pm  
Clark Memorial Library*

*7 Pinehurst Drive, Richmond, RI 02812  
(Snow date: March 5, 2015 at 5-7pm)*

**Northern RI Conservation District  
(401) 934-0840**

*Monday, March 9, 2015 at 5-7 pm*

*Hayden Center at Cumberland Public Library  
1464 Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland, RI 02864  
(Snow date: March 10, 2015 at 5-7pm)*

**Eastern RI Conservation District  
(401) 816-5667**

*Monday, March 30, 2015 at 5-7pm  
Quinta-Gamelin Community Center*

*101 Asylum Road, Bristol, RI 02809  
(Snow date: March 31, 2015 at 5-7pm)*

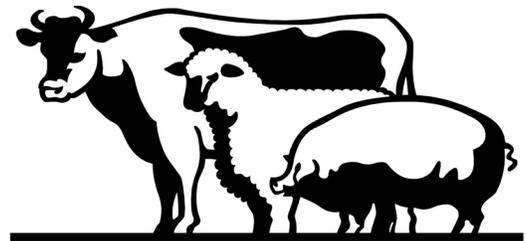
**Stop by at your convenience any time  
between 5:00 and 7:00 to speak to NRCS  
representatives about your own individual  
needs/concerns.**

**Walk-ins also welcome!**

Want to go paperless? [RIConservationDistricts@gmail.com](mailto:RIConservationDistricts@gmail.com)

**USDA-NRCS offers financial and technical assistance programs (EQIP) designed to improve natural resources quality while enhancing agricultural production. Financial assistance is available for practices including, but not limited to:**

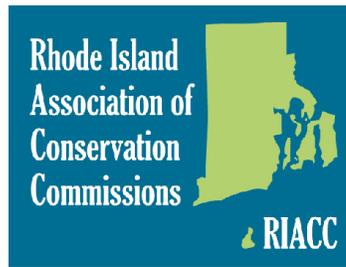
- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Grazing Plans</b>       | <b>Irrigation Systems</b>   |
| <b>Erosion Control</b>     | <b>Forestry Plans</b>       |
| <b>Heavy-Use Areas</b>     | <b>Stream Crossings</b>     |
| <b>Prescribed Thinning</b> | <b>Pollinator Habitats</b>  |
| <b>Energy Audits</b>       | <b>Nutrient Management</b>  |
| <b>Riparian Buffers</b>    | <b>Wildlife Habitat</b>     |
| <b>High Tunnels</b>        | <b>Watershed Protection</b> |



**NRCS is a non-regulatory and non-enforcement agency, and all programs are voluntary.**

**The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**





***12th Anniversary!!!!***

## **Land & Water Conservation Summit**

*... Working together to protect our communities*

**Saturday, March 14, 2015      7:45 am – 4:30 pm**

**URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus**

This day-long conference provides you with the information, skills and connections you need to be more effective! Who should attend? Watershed Councils', Land Trusts' and Conservation Commissions' board members, staff, volunteers, and others interested in land and watershed conservation in your community.

Choose from **27 Workshops** offered during the Summit

**Network** with RI Conservation Leaders ♦ **Visit Exhibits** ♦ **Learn** how to be more successful

### **Agenda**

- 7:45 – 8:30      Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30      Welcome - Emcee: Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute  
**Keynote - Innovation & Evolution in Conservation**  
**Peter Forbes – Author, Photographer, Farmer, Co-Founder**  
**Center for Whole Communities**
- 9:30 – 10:20      **Organizations' Business Meetings - Networking - Visit Exhibits**  
    9:30 – 9:50      RI Land Trust Council Business Meeting  
    RI Association of Conservation Commission Business Meeting
- 10:20 – 11:30      Session I **Workshops** – *Your choice from 9 offered*
- 11:30 – 11:45      Break
- 11:45 – 12:55      Session II **Workshops** – *Your choice from 9 offered*
- 12:55 – 2:30      Lunch & Awards  
**Peter Merritt Conservation Award & Blueways Stewardship Award**  
**Briefing on General Assembly Environmental Issues**  
    - Senator Susan Sosnowski – Chair - Environment & Agriculture Committee  
    - Representative Art Handy – Chair - Environment & Natural Resources Committee
- 2:45 – 4:00      Session III **Workshops** – *Your choice from 9 offered*

**Registration: Early Registration Ends February 27**

**\$45 before February 27**

**\$ 60 after February 27**

**includes Lunch**

**Register On Line: [www.landandwaterpartnership.org](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org)**

Please join us for a workshop on...

# Protecting Wildlife through Community Planning

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**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

**9:00 am-12:00 pm** (light breakfast from 8:30-9:00 am)

Audubon Society of RI, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

**OR**

**6:00 pm-9:00 pm** (light dinner from 5:30-6:00 pm)

RI DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI

~~~~~**3 AICP credits pending**~~~~~

This workshop will provide information and tools that communities can use to protect wildlife and their habitat. Human-wildlife conflicts will be discussed along with actions that municipalities can take to minimize these conflicts, particularly during the planning and development process. Presenters will discuss things to consider when **identifying important local habitats** as well as a range of tools to **incorporate wildlife into municipal planning and decision-making**. Following a presentation on these topics, class participants will have a chance to explore the application of these tools to a rural or suburban setting with a planning/mapping exercise.

**\*Target Audiences:** Town planners and officials, conservation commissioners, developers, state agency personnel, and other interested parties.

**Speakers:** Amanda Freitas, RI Wildlife Action Plan Community Liaison; Scott Millar, RIDEM



Photo by Carlos Pedro



Photo by Jay Osenkowski

These workshops are hosted by RIDEM and are free of charge. **Please register [here](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NYR2T3) to attend** (or copy and paste [www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NYR2T3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NYR2T3) into your browser). Please register by March 24, 2015.

Please contact Amanda Freitas with any questions: [amanda.freitas@dem.ri.gov](mailto:amanda.freitas@dem.ri.gov) or 401-222-2776, x 2017

**\*NOTE:** While the tools that will be discussed in this particular workshop are more applicable to rural and suburban communities, we would love feedback from all planners, officials, conservation commissioners, watershed associations, and other interested parties as to what topics they would like to see discussed in future workshops. Please be on the lookout for announcements of future offerings that will include conservation tools for urban communities.



The 2015 Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan was developed by RI DEM with assistance from the RI Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the University of Rhode Island, with input from a variety of stakeholders.