

# 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)

## Division of Planning Website Survey Announcement

The Division of Planning is currently in the process of redesigning its website. The goal is to design a site which engages our users, provides timely and useful information, is accessible and user-friendly.

The new design plan is to integrate and enhance existing content such as our State Guide Plan Performance Measures Dashboard with new content, information, tools and resources.

We would greatly appreciate feedback from our current website users regarding what they would like to see on the new site (i.e. functionality, content, etc.). In particular, we would like to know what on our current site is helpful and what could be changed, so we invite you to take a quick survey by clicking on the link below:

<https://rigov.wufoo.com/forms/z14w1hec0ckftjk/>

Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to creating a site that incorporates your input. If you have any questions or specific comments concerning the improvement of the Division of Planning website, please send an email to [paul.gonsalves@doa.ri.gov](mailto:paul.gonsalves@doa.ri.gov).



## The U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 decennial Census is approaching!



For the 2010 decennial census, plans are in place to count the majority of Americans over the internet. This [Pew Research Center](#) article details the Census Bureau goal to have 55% of the population fill out their census questionnaires digitally, as opposed to paper responses.

The Census Bureau will combine technological advances with available data, such as existing government data, maps and addresses to minimize costs while maintaining quality. The [2020 Census Bureau's Operational Plan](#) includes a four-step process: "Establish where to count, motivate people to respond, count the population, and release the Census results."

A key goal outlined in the Census Bureau's Operational Plan for the 2020 Census is to achieve cost reductions via four innovation areas: "Reengineering address canvassing, Optimizing self-response, Utilizing administrative records and third-party data, Reengineering field operations."

For more information on the 2020 Census, be sure to check out "[About the Census](#)".

March 2016



### Statewide Planning's Committee Meetings

**State Planning Council**, Thursday, March 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m., One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

**Technical Committee**, **CANCELLED**

**Friday March 4, 2016** One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

**Transportation Advisory Committee**,

**Thursday, March 24, 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

State of Rhode Island

## Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

### Presents

**"Building and Preserving South County"—  
the 31<sup>st</sup> 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/](http://www.preservation.ri.gov/conference/) for details.

## 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](mailto:wagre@uri.edu).

### 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](mailto:Jared.Rhodes@doa.ri.gov).

### Inside this Issue

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| SPP Website Survey, Census                       | Cover |
| SPP Help, Historical Preservation, URI Landscape | 2     |
| Well Water Workshops, Working Cities Challenge   | 3     |
| URI Training—GIS                                 | 4     |



*A grant competition designed to support cross-sector, collaborative leadership and ambitious work to improve the lives of low-income people in smaller cities*

As the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, in partnership with Governor Gina Raimondo and key corporate, non-profit and community supporters extends the **Working Cities Challenge** to Rhode Island, you are cordially invited to attend our community announcement event to learn more about the initiative and the thirteen (13) cities and towns in Rhode Island that are eligible\* to participate in this exciting competition.

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016, Blackstone Valley Visitors Center, 175 Main Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island  
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

**10:00 AM - 10:20 AM - Refreshments; Networking; Opening Announcements**  
**10:20 AM - 11:00 AM - Speaking Program begins, Governor Gina Raimondo**  
**Eric S. Rosengren, President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston**  
**11:10 AM – 12:30 PM - Working Session for Potential Applicants (Auditorium)**

**This event is open to the public; however, we strongly encourage attendees to register in advance.**

**Register here:** <https://forms.bostonfed.org/WebForms/working-cities-ri-event>

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s **Working Cities Challenge** is an economic development effort designed to strengthen cross sector collaboration and leadership. The Rhode Island Challenge will present a unique opportunity for eligible communities to form strong, collaborative teams that will compete for funding to support issues that affect low- to moderate-income residents within those communities.

On March 8, eligible cities, towns, and possible collaborative partners will learn more about the Challenge model and logistics, including details of the application process and expected timeline—from initial application to selection of final grantees. Additionally, potential teams will have the opportunity to gather for a working session.

We are very excited about this great opportunity for Rhode Island and ask that you please share this event announcement with your constituents and/or other interested parties. We hope to include as many leaders, non-profits, corporations, small businesses, and community residents as possible.

For more information about the Rhode Island Working Cities Challenge, please contact Boston Fed Community Development Analyst Armeather Gibbs at [armeather.gibbs@bos.frb.org](mailto:armeather.gibbs@bos.frb.org) or (617) 973-3983. We look forward to seeing you March 8!



**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 14, 2016, 6–7 pm, Richmond-Carolina Fire Station**  
**Monday, April 11, 2016, 6–7 pm, Little Compton Community Center**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 6–7 pm, Block Island Free Library**

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

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

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**



March 2016



## 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](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](mailto:erica@edc.uri.edu)) with any questions about this special opportunity.



**Rhode Island State Office**

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 40  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886  
401-822-8816, fax 855-924-4748  
[www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov)

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROGRAM CONTACT: Brunilda Velez  
Asst. State Conservationist-Programs  
(401) 822-8820  
[brunilda.velez@ri.usda.gov](mailto:brunilda.velez@ri.usda.gov)

## **NRCS Announces Sign up for Conservation Stewardship Program in FY 2016 Deadline: March 31, 2016**

### **USDA to Invest \$150 Million through Conservation Stewardship Program to Help Improve Working Lands**

*USDA Offers Renewal Options for Producers with Expiring Contracts*

**Warwick, RI– Feb. 10, 2016** – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that \$150 million in funding is available for agricultural producers through the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP), USDA’s largest conservation program that helps producers voluntarily improve the health and productivity of private and Tribal working lands. USDA’s [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) plans to add an estimated 10 million acres to the rolls of CSP during fiscal 2016.

“The Conservation Stewardship Program is one of our most popular programs with producers because it results in real change on the ground by boosting soil and air quality, conserving clean water and enhancing wildlife habitat,” Vilsack said. “With this investment, we’ll be able to build on the already record number of acres enrolled in USDA’s conservation programs, enabling producers to achieve higher levels of conservation and adopt new and emerging conservation technologies on farms, ranches and forests.”

**NRCS accepts applications for CSP throughout the year, but producers should submit applications by March 31, 2016, to [USDA Service Centers](#) to ensure they are considered for enrollment in 2016.**

**Participants with existing CSP contracts that will expire on Dec. 31, 2016 have the option to renew their contracts for an additional five years if they agree to adopt additional activities to achieve higher levels of conservation on their lands. Applications to renew are also due by March 31.**

Funding is available for more than 100 kinds of enhancements nationwide to help participants:

- Improve soil quality through use of cover crops, conservation crop rotations and other activities that increase soil productivity.
- Improve water quality and forested stream health through enhanced management of riparian zones and habitat improvements.

- Restore habitat for wildlife and pollinators such as the monarch butterfly and New England cottontail rabbit through habitat creation, management of brush piles, and establishment of appropriate pollinator friendly plant mixes.

A [CSP self-screening checklist](#) is available to help producers determine if the program is compatible with their operation. As part of the application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete a resource inventory of their land to determine the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments.

Through CSP, since 2009, NRCS in Rhode Island has provided more than \$300,000 in assistance to farmers and forest managers on over 8,000 acres. For more on technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted).

For more information, contact your local Conservation District or RI NRCS.

**Eastern RI Conservation District**

*Serving Newport and Bristol Counties*

Phone: (401) 934-0840

**Northern RI Conservation District**

*Serving Providence County*

Phone: (401) 934-0840

**Southern RI Conservation District**

*Serving Kent and Washington Counties*

Phone: (401) 500-0422

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

60 Quaker Lane Suite 46

Warwick, RI 02886

Web site: [www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov)

E-mail: [NRCSInfo@ri.usda.gov](mailto:NRCSInfo@ri.usda.gov)

Phone: (401) 822-8848

# 2016 RIFMA CONFERENCE: INCENTIVIZING ACTIONABLE RESILIENCE TO FLOODING

Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:

Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (EDT)

## Fidelity Investments

900 Salem Street  
Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917

[View Map](#)

[Attend Event](#)

Share:



Join floodplain management and hazard mitigation professionals as we explore implementation tools and techniques, and share experiences and lessons learned from the past to improve resiliency in the present and future.

**\*\*\* DRAFT CONFERENCE AGENDA COMING SOON \*\*\***

**Topics include: Promising Floodplain Mitigation Practices; Community Rating System; Shoreline Change; Fortified Home-Hurricane.**

*\*Approved for 6 CFM credits\**

*\*Other CEU Credits Pending\**

For more information

[www.riflood.org](http://www.riflood.org)

[rhodeislandfma@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandfma@gmail.com)

Share this event on Facebook and Twitter

Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association

# WORKING WITH YOUR WOODS TO HELP WILDLIFE!



Rhode Island  
Coverts



## Game Species

## Non-Game Species

## Pollinators

We are pleased to offer a workshop opportunity to private forest landowners in Rhode Island to learn about and help create much needed wildlife habitats on their property by becoming a Coverts Cooperator. We are seeking applicants to participate in the 2016 Coverts Training Workshop. This project is made possible with funding from USDA-NRCS.

The *RI Coverts Project* is an education program designed to help forest landowners promote the development of critical wildlife habitats using sound forest management practices that can make wildlife healthier, more diverse and abundant. *Coverts* or thickets are patches of young forest or shrublands created through forest management. The project has trained landowners from across the state through its two and one-half day workshop that focuses on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management and land conservation.

"Take the training - you will never think about wildlife the same again!"

|                  |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| <b>Date:</b>     | <b>May 6 &amp; 7, 2016 (full days)</b> | <b>May 11, 2016 (evening session)(optional)</b> |
| <b>Location:</b> | <b>Camp Canonicus<br/>Exeter, RI</b>   | <b>URI<br/>Kingston, RI</b>                     |

To learn more or to obtain an application, please contact:

Paul Dolan at:

401-500-0399 or [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)

Or visit our website at [www.rircd.org](http://www.rircd.org)

Registration fee is \$80.00 per person

\$150.00 per couple



# RIEMA

RHODE ISLAND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Gina M. Raimondo **Governor**  
Peter T. Gaynor **Director**

## **Incorporating Whole Community Inclusive Planning into the Emergency Management Process (AWR-330)**

**Dates:** March 23, 2016

**Location:** Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to increase the understanding of emergency managers, planners, and other stakeholders on comprehensive emergency management planning using a whole community approach and its importance to comprehensive emergency management through lecture and interaction.

**Course Objectives:** At the end of this course, participants will be able to: Define whole community inclusive planning; Describe the importance of identifying and engaging all parts of the community in emergency management planning; Describe how the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs can be met through culturally competent universal accessibility; Describe child reunification planning as an exemplar of whole community inclusive planning; Identify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in producing plans representative of community needs; Identify potential gaps in community capabilities in dealing with disasters and relevant whole community strategies; Identify existing examples of effective whole community inclusive planning.

**Cost:** All training and course materials are free of charge. Students will be provided with a continental breakfast and afternoon snack each day, lunch will NOT be provided.

**Prerequisite:** Participants will complete a course pre-assessment prior to attending the class and bring the completed assessment to the training. This will be sent to you once you register.

**Target Audience:** All State, local and tribal emergency planning personnel, non-governmental organizations and volunteer organizations active in disasters (VOADs) and other interested community stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

**Registration:** This is a DHS certified course which requires ALL students must register with a FEMA Student Identification number (SID). You can obtain your FEMA SID # at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid> Complete the attached Registration Form and email to Michelle San Souci, [michelle.sansouci@ema.ri.gov](mailto:michelle.sansouci@ema.ri.gov)

**Incorporating Whole Community Inclusive Planning into the Emergency Management Process (AWR-330)**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016

**LOCATION:** Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick RI

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FEMA SID# :** \_\_\_\_\_ (<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>)

**JOB TITLE/RANK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/TOWN:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOOD ALLERGIES/RESTRICTIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, P. L. 101-336: The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency does not discriminate on the basis of disabilities in admissions or access to services or employment in its programs and activities.

**EMAIL:** [michelle.sansouci@ema.ri.gov](mailto:michelle.sansouci@ema.ri.gov)



# Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rhode Island's Conservation Districts Spring Workshop Series



Northern RI Conservation District  
Wednesday, March 23 5:30-7:00  
Hope Associates' Howland Barn  
1 Ryefield Road (Howland Barn is the last building on the road)  
Hope (Scituate), RI 02831  
To register visit [nrccd.org](http://nrccd.org) or call 401-934-0840

Eastern RI Conservation District  
Wednesday, March 30 5:30-7:00  
Newport Public Library  
300 Spring Street  
Newport, RI 02840  
To register visit [easternriconservation.org](http://easternriconservation.org) or call 401-934-0842

Southern RI Conservation District  
Thursday, April 7 5:30-7:00  
South Kingstown Land Trust Barn  
17 Matunuck Beach Road  
South Kingstown, RI 02879  
To register visit [srccd.org](http://srccd.org) or call 401-500-0422

Learn what's new with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rhode Island's Conservation Districts! You'll learn about USDA-NRCS's new special initiatives for 2016: urban farming, scrub/shrub habitat, and monarch and native bee habitat. In addition, Conservation District representatives will be on hand to answer your questions about applying for the Farm, Forest, and Open Space tax program, which can reduce property tax liability for many qualifying agricultural producers and forest land owners.

Interested in a different NRCS program? Each brief presentation will be followed by an open house where you can ask the questions that matter to YOU. USDA-NRCS provides farm and forest landowners with financial and technical assistance to help with resource concerns on their land-forest management, soil health, and more!

Learn More at [healthylandsri.org](http://healthylandsri.org)

## Workshop Agenda



- 5:30 Welcome, registration, meet your local NRCS and Conservation District representatives
- 5:40 2016 Special Initiatives: Urban Agriculture, Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Habitat, Scrub/Shrub Habitat
- 6:00 Farm, Forest, and Open Space Tax Program Information
- 6:15 Open House: Have your specific questions answered. Come and go as you please.
- 7:00 Adjourn

**Can't make it? Call your local Conservation District any time or visit [healthylandsri.org](http://healthylandsri.org) for no-cost assistance with the application process.**