

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

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2015 Legislative Update

Several bills have been introduced this legislative session that, if passed, would affect Rhode Island's planning framework. These include:

[H-5643](#): This bill removes the requirement that municipalities address housing within their local comprehensive plans and specifies that municipal comprehensive plans shall not include any goals, policies and implementation techniques related to

housing. In addition, the bill voids any existing comprehensive plan that does include goals, policies and implementation techniques related to housing or an affordable housing program. As all comprehensive plans currently include goals, policies and implementation techniques related to housing, all current comprehensive plans would become null and void. (The Senate companion for this bill was withdrawn by the sponsor.)

[H-5644](#): This bill removes the requirement that municipalities address housing within their local comprehensive plans and gives municipalities the option of opting-out of the housing-related provisions of the RI Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act and the State Guide Plan. To opt-out, municipalities must file a notice of declination with the Associate Director of the Division of Planning. (The Senate companion for this bill was withdrawn by the sponsor.)

[H-5713](#) & [S-819](#): These companion bills amend RIGL subsection 42-11-10(d) to require that the state guide plan be approved by the general assembly in order for said plan to take effect.

[H-6040](#) & [S-816](#): These companion bills amend the findings of RIGL subsection 42-11-10(a) related to the statewide planning program and revises RIGL subsection 42-11-10(d) to prohibit the state guide plan from exceeding any affordable housing provisions of RIGL section 42-128-8.1 and RIGL chapter 45-53. The bills also make any rule or regulation that has been enacted or promulgated in excess of the limitations null and void.

[H-6041](#), [H-6042](#) & [S-820](#): These bills remove the requirement that the goals and policies of the comprehensive plan be consistent with the goals and policies of the state guide plan. The bills also amend RIGL subsection 45-22.2-6(6) to give municipalities the option of declining to comply with "any provision of the state guide plan relating to affordable housing programs," by filing a notice with the Division of Planning.

[H-6043](#) & [S-818](#): These companion bills amend RIGL section 45-22.2-9 to remove the requirement that comprehensive plans be consistent with and embody the goals and policies of state departments and the state guide plan by removing such consistency from the state review and approval criteria.

The RI Statewide Planning Program encourages you to review these bills, formulate your own opinions on their contents and advocate accordingly.

URI's Geospatial Training Program Scheduled Events

Introduction to GIS

June 2 - 4, 2015, 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.

Statewide Planning's Committee Meetings

State Planning Council

May 14, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI
Conference Room A

Transportation Advisory Committee

May 28, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI
Conference Room A

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



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

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



**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

THINK BIG  WE DO

Spring NEARC Conference

May 11, 2015

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01002

<http://northeastarc.org/html/springnearc.shtml>



UConn: "Introduction to Smartphone GPS Data Collection & Online Mapping" Training Class

May 25, 2015 from 9am-12:30pm, Middlesex County Extension Center
1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT 06438

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eaq2krp32fd3d5f4&llr=fzlnmbcab>



GrowSmartRI
Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

Municipal Training Offered Writing Sound Decisions

Writing Sound Decisions is designed to help municipal planners, legal staff and boards and commissions write decisions whose content will hold up in court and whose clarity will make them readily understandable for both enforcement officers and property owners. It is specifically intended to address the problem, noted repeatedly in recent Superior Court and Supreme Court decisions, that written decisions coming out of municipal planning boards and zoning boards do not explain how the evidence contained in the record led the board to reach its conclusions. Taught by Rhode Island land-use attorney Nancy Letendre, the program is grounded in Rhode Island law and cites recent Rhode Island Superior and Supreme Court decisions. The workshop handbook provides both a summary of material covered in the workshop and appendices that include templates for simple decisions, examples of appropriate content for more complex decisions and a glossary of terms. The workshop culminates in a hands-on writing exercise. The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, May 27, 2015** from **5:30pm until 9:00pm** (including a light supper) at a South County location to be determined.

REGISTRATION FEE ASSISTANCE! The Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust is partnering with the Land-Use Training Collaborative to provide registration fee assistance for Trust members for this workshop. The registration fee for the workshop is scaled according to Member participation levels in The Trust. Trust Members who participate in both the Property/ Liability Pool and the Workers' Compensation Pool may register people free of charge. Trust Members who participate in only one Trust Pool may register people for 50% of the standard fee (ie, \$15.00). Non-Trust members pay the standard registration fee (\$30.00.)

For full information go to www.growsmartri.org or contact Annette Bourne, Training Manager, abourne@growsmartri.org or 401-273-5711 ext. 6.

RHODE ISLAND
STATEWIDE
PLANNING
PROGRAM

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.

Please join us for a workshop on...

Village Economics

Thursday, May 14, 2015

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

~~~~~2 AICP credits offered~~~~~

Recent studies have determined that village development can be successful in the market place as well as having a positive fiscal impact on town finances. Learn how market and fiscal analyses can contribute to the village planning process in your community. Case studies from local communities will be presented.



**Audience:** Planners, local officials, and other interested parties.



This workshop is free of charge. A light breakfast will be provided from 9:30-10:00 am. **Please register [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JLLN7HP)** by Thursday, May 7.

**Questions?** Please contact Jennifer West at [jennifer@nbnerr.org](mailto:jennifer@nbnerr.org) or 401-222-4700, x 7413.

