

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/spp/

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Rhode Island Water 2030

The latest update to the State Guide Plan, *Rhode Island Water 2030*, Element 721 is now complete. This Plan was developed by the Land Use staff of the Division, in cooperation with an advisory committee of stakeholders. It was adopted by the State Planning Council on June 14, 2012. The focus is on planning goals and policies for drinking water in the State. *Rhode Island Water 2030* consolidates 5 existing State Guide Plan Elements regarding drinking water in Rhode Island. The following Elements have been rescinded in their entirety;

- 1990 Scituate Reservoir Watershed Management Plan (125)1991

Continued at [RI Water 2030](#), page 3

Online Resources to Monitor

Drinking Water

The Rhode Island Department of Health has announced two resources to help Rhode Islanders monitor the quality of their drinking water.

Private well owners can now create a detailed list of recommended tests for their well using HEALTH's new Internet-based Private Well Testing Viewer. Using this new technology, well owners simply type in their address or click at the well location, and the tool creates a list of tests specific to that location and time, based on information the system has gathered about well test results from the surrounding area.

"As one of the few states with a private well testing law and regulations, Rhode Island continues its leadership role with the creation of the Private Well Testing Viewer," says Michael Fine, M.D., director of HEALTH. "This new resource allows Rhode Island's private well owners to test for issues most likely to affect drinking water quality in their specific location and become knowledgeable about — and protect themselves from — environmental exposures that may occasionally be present in private wells."

The Private Well Testing Viewer can be accessed at <https://welltesting.health.ri.gov>. For additional information please contact [Patrick Craft](#) or visit:

- [Private Well Testing Viewer](#)
- [Water Testing Information For](#)

Private Well Owners

Also available to all Rhode Islanders is HEALTH's Drinking Water Watch system, an online database that contains information about public water systems in Rhode Island. Updated daily by the Rhode Island Office of Drinking Water Quality, available information includes test results for bacteriological, organic and inorganic chemistry, monitoring frequency and histories of violations. The Drinking Water Watch system can be accessed [here](#).

Recreation Trail Grants

These grants provide funds to further goals identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities. The program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles, ATV's, and off road motorcycles. RIDEM & RIDOT administer the Fund in Rhode Island in cooperation with an Advisory Council composed of representatives of trail user groups active in Rhode Island.

The purpose of the program is to provide funding for recreational trail projects such as:

- maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- development and rehabilitation of

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Division of Planning Committee Meetings

Housing Commission

Scheduled for July 13 at 8:30 a.m.; Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the [Secretary of State calendar](#).

Water Resources Board

Scheduled for July 16 at 1:00 p.m.; meeting location will be posted on the [Secretary of State's website](#). The Finance Committee meets one hour prior to the board in the same location. For the latest schedule information please see the [Board calendar](#).

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

No meeting is Scheduled for July. For the latest schedule information please see the [Committee Calendar](#).

State Planning Council Meeting

Scheduled for July 12 at 9:00 am Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the [Committee Calendar](#)

Technical Committee Meeting

Scheduled for July 6 at 9:00 am Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the [Committee Calendar](#)

RIGIS Executive Committee

No meeting scheduled for July. For more information on the committee, please click [here](#).

Freight and Land Use Handbook

The FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations has released a Freight and Land Use Handbook. This handbook provides transportation and land use planners tools and resources to properly assess the impacts of land use decisions on freight movements, as well as the impacts of freight development and growth on land use planning goals. The handbook identifies freight-related land use issues, key considerations, and available resources. Throughout the handbook, examples and case studies from a range of urban and rural areas across the country are used to demonstrate the effectiveness of these techniques. An electronic version of the handbook is available [here](#). If any one is interested in receiving a hard copy of the handbook please contact [Walter Slocomb](#) or at 222.1237.



Office of Training and Development

The [Office of Training and Development course schedule](#) of classes is now available. This schedule includes Microsoft Excel, Power Point, and Word as well as an Advanced Workplace Writing course. Information on [Rhode Island College Office of Continuing Education](#) incentive Courses is also available.

Check the website for classes, times, and registration information. Please contact [Melissa Day](#) by email or at 222-2178 if you have any questions, or have any suggestions for course offerings.

Economic Development Investment Assistance

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is accepting applications for public works or planning grants for consideration in the first quarter of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 (October – December 2012). Applicants are required to submit their applications to the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning for State Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Certification prior to the submission to the Economic Development Administration. In order to allow time for State review, a draft application should be sent to the **Division of Planning no later than August 1st**. The current EDA deadline is for funding cycle I of FFY 2013 is September 14th.

The Division of Planning must certify that the proposal meets federal and state criteria. Certified projects are placed on a "Priority Project List" which qualifies these projects to compete for grants under EDA's Public Works and Development Facilities Program. Eligible applicants include cities and towns, State agencies, academic institutions, public or private non-profit organizations acting in cooperation with State or local government, regional non-profit economic development organizations, and Indian Tribes.

A new link to detailed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy information will be available on the [Statewide Planning website](#) or contact [Kevin Nelson](#) at or at 222-2093.

Recreation Trail Grants

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- trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages;
- purchase and/or lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment;
- construction of new trails (with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands);
- acquisition of easements or property for trails;
- assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance;
- development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails.

Eligible applicants include government agencies & not-for-profit organizations.

Application forms are available from the [RIDEM Website](#). The Rhode Island Trails Advisory Committee (the Committee) evaluates each application received for the Recreation Trails Program to insure it meets all requirements and is consistent with the goals of the Program. The Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of alternate months, applicants are encouraged to attend meetings to explain grant requests and answer questions.

Successful applicants receive an award letter that outlines the terms of the grant agreement. No work can be done on the proposed project until the Committee has reviewed and approved the grant application. Funding provided by this program is on reimbursement basis; grantees must initiate projects with their own funds and be reimbursed after projects are complete. The State will reimburse the grantee 80 percent of approved costs, up to \$3000.00. For more information contact [Gregg Cassidy](#) by email or at 222-2776 x 4310.

RI Water 2030

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- *Water Supply Plan for RI (721)*
- *1993 Rhode Island Emergency Water Supply Management Plan (723)*
- *1997 Water Supply Policies for Rhode Island (722)*
- *2002 Rhode Island Drought Management Plan (724)*

Rhode Island Water 2030 addresses the availability of water, managing the demand for water, and the protection of water sources. It also addresses the issues of operation and maintenance of water systems to use water efficiently, to meet public health standards, to sustain economic development, and to protect the overall quality of life in Rhode Island. The Plan contains goals, policies, and strategies for maintaining existing water systems and protecting future water supplies.

When used with *Land Use 2025*, State Guide Plan Element 121, this Plan intends to advance the effectiveness of the public and private stewardship of drinking water supply resources in the State. As an Element of the State Guide Plan, it sets forth goals and policies that must, under State Law, be reflected in future updates of community comprehensive and water supply system management plans.

An Executive Summary of the Plan and guidance for using it within community comprehensive or water supply plans will be available shortly. The full Plan is available on the Division of Planning, Statewide Planning Program website listed below. If you have any questions regarding the new plan, or need assistance with the incorporation of the content into a community

comprehensive or water supply plan, or would like an informational presentation for your organization about the plan please contact [Nancy Hess](#), Supervising Land Use Planner; at 401-222-6480 or at . Rhode Island Water 2030 is available [on line](#).

Rhode Island Water 2030

Community Connection RI

Grow Smart Rhode Island / Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Calendar

This [calendar](#) is available for use by elected and appointed municipal officials and planners, citizen advocates, the natural resource protection community and the design and development community.



HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update

As noted last month, Statewide Planning has hired two new grant-funded planners to manage the grant and related planning processes. We are very pleased to report that both of these new planners will be on board by July 2. Our new Supervising Planner for Sustainable Communities is Melanie



Army who joins our office from the City of Providence Department of Planning and Development. Our new Principal Planner for Sustainable Communities is Chris Witt, most recently of the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. Melanie and Chris will be with the Statewide Planning Program office through the end of the grant period in February 2015. Melanie can be reached at 222-6183 or melanie.army@doa.ri.gov and Chris can be reached at 222-5759 or chris.witt@doa.ri.gov.

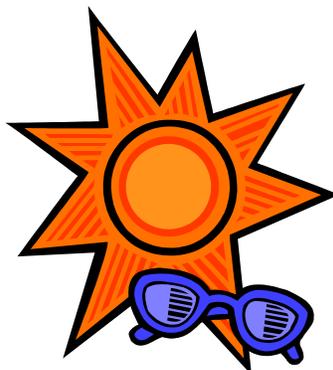
Also reported last month, Rhode Island received a scholarship to send a team of six people to Baltimore from June 18-20 for a Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy sponsored by HUD. The team included representatives from Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, Rhode Island Housing, Rhode Island Legal Services, RIPTA and the Statewide

Planning Program. The conference focused on the importance of community engagement in the planning process. HUD expects that the first year of the grant may be used for scope development and stakeholder engagement. Rhode Island is well-positioned for success with its grant,

particularly when compared to other 2011 recipients and even some 2010 grantees, given the extensive existing relationships among different agencies and organizations. However, we can use this time to reach out to new partners and to strengthen existing relationships, laying the groundwork for a truly inclusive planning process.

The conference also stressed the need for a “values-based”

approach to communications with stakeholders and the public. Grantees are encouraged to use plain language, avoid jargon or buzz words and really focus on communicating how this work will impact the day-to-day lives and future of Rhode Islanders. Given this encouragement from HUD, the Rhode Island consortium is taking the time this summer to continue reaching out to other stakeholders and make sure that the scopes of work for the various tasks are thoroughly vetted.



There are a number of other Sustainable Communities grantees throughout New England, and the Statewide Planning Program is looking for ways to communicate and network with these other regions so that we can all learn from each other’s experiences.

Statewide Planning submitted a session proposal to the Southern New England APA conference jointly with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Metro Boston). This session will start with a brief overview of the 14 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Challenge Grants in Southern New England, and then provide an opportunity for consortium representatives from all of these areas, as well as other interested conference attendees, to discuss issues of common concern and ways to work together. This year’s conference will be held in Hartford, CT, September 20 – 21.

Please feel free to contact Melanie or Chris with any questions or to get involved. Sustainable Communities related documents can be found on the [Statewide Planning website](#).

Division of Municipal Finance

Municipal Memo

This Legislative Reference Service can be found [online](#). Both current and past issues are available.

Directory of City &

Town Officials

This 2012 directory available [online](#). The 2012 edition is only available online.

Journey to Work: Rhode Island Commuters

Although four out of five workers in Rhode Island commute to work in a single occupant vehicle - about average for the U.S. States - Rhode Island ranks among the top states for workers who walk to their job. This month's Census Data Bulletin explores commuting patterns for Rhode Island residents, including drive alone, carpooling, public transportation, walking, and other forms of transportation. As one might expect, there are significant variations in commute characteristics among residents who work within their home counties, outside their home counties, and outside the state. For example, residents who work out of state use public transportation and carpooling at a higher rate than those who work in the state. Learn more about Rhode Island commuters in the upcoming Bulletin, which will be posted on the Statewide Planning Program's [Census 2010 webpage](#).



RIGIS Upcoming Event Calendar

The RIGIS (Rhode Island Geographic Information System) [upcoming event calendar](#) displays basic information on the programs and events. If you are interested in adding an event to this calendar, please submit the event details to [RIGIS Coordinator Shane White](#).



WTS-Rhode Island Bike Ride

Please join WTS-Rhode Island for a 10-mile round trip bike ride on the East Bay Bike Path from Veterans' Memorial Parkway parking lot in East Providence to Haines Park in Barrington and back on Tuesday, July 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., (rain date: Thursday, July 19). The ride will include a stop at the Blount Clam Shack at Crescent Park Carousel in Riverside. Families and non-members are welcome. To register for this event contact Pam Sherrill at 231-4000 x4021 or wtsrhodeisland@gmail.com by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 16. For the Bike Ride flyer please click [here](#)



2012 Southern New England APA Conference

The 2012 Southern New England APA Conference will be held September 20-21 in the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Discover Hartford and reconnect with colleagues. Over 35 conference sessions address the information communities need today and for planning for tomorrow. Mobile workshops will take attendees out into the city and the region to experience planning in action. The conference also features over 100 session speakers and keynote guest speakers. Additional information will be available on [RIAPA](#) and in this newsletter.