



June 2022

New Land Use/Land Cover Data Available!

We are excited to report that new Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) data is available to you, through the hard work of our staff and partners, funded by FHWA, state general revenue, and funds from the Volkswagen settlement. Nancy Hess and Paul Gonsalves from RIDSP worked with Charles LaBash (URI Environmental Data Center) and Paul Jordan (RIDEM) along with staff from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and NVS Geospatial to develop a comprehensive, updated data set, through a combination of automated workflows and manual review.

The new data and the supporting information, along with other historical LULC data, are available through the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) Open Data [website](#) maintained by the URI Environmental Data Center for free download.

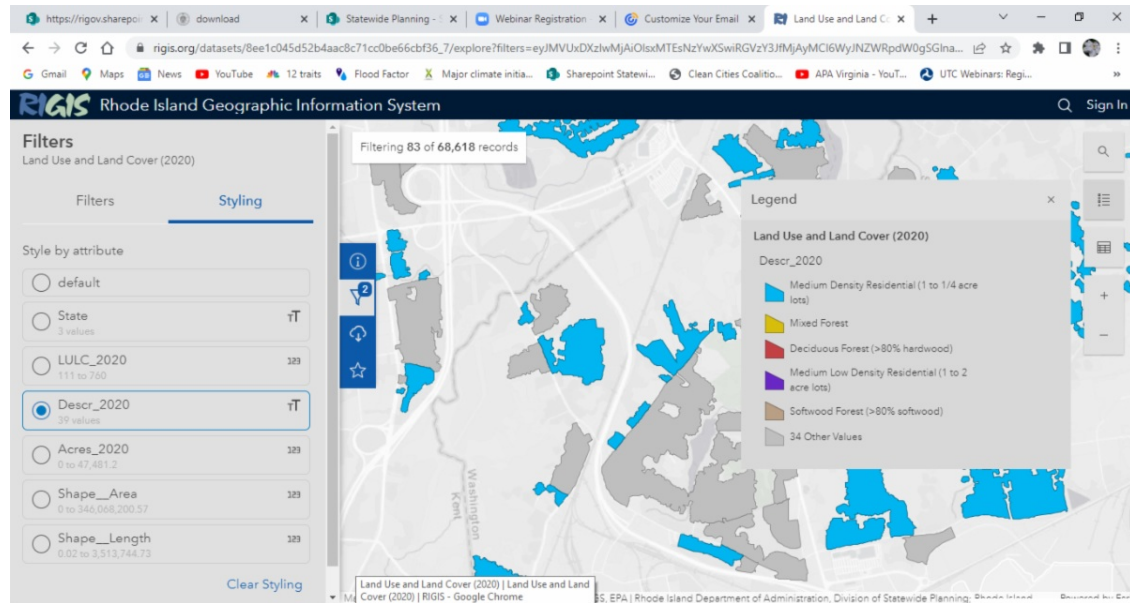
Data Available:*

- Land Use and Land Cover (2020) –Land use/land cover for the entire state and adjacent nearby areas of Connecticut and Massachusetts available for download in vector GIS formats (shapefile, file geodatabase) and as a consumable web feature service.
- 2020 Statewide Orthoimagery in GeoTiff format. Available as consumable web image services <https://www.rigis.org/pages/ri-202004-rgbi-6in>.
- Impervious Surfaces (2020) – A 2020 statewide Impervious Surface raster data set in an ESRI raster format.
- Metadata - Documentation for all project data explaining on how the 2020 land use/land cover and impervious surface layers were created along with supporting ancillary data, data projections, and the LULC codes/descriptions used to classify polygon features.

Want more details? Read the full discussion of methodology and development [HERE](#).

** Caveats - Users of the new data should keep in mind that the 2020 LULC does not contain all wetlands in the State that were identified in previous LULC data sets or other RIGIS wetlands data sets. Hydrological conditions in the Spring of 2020 also involved the creation of differing edges for*

water bodies in some areas of the State classified as forested wetlands in earlier LULC data sets are shown as forest types in the 2020 LULC. Also, in a few areas outside of the State 1/2 mile boundary buffer, 2011 to 2020 LU/LC changes were not mapped due to lack of 2011 orthoimagery coverage necessary to perform the change detection with the 2020 orthoimages. Finally, since a hybrid approach was used to develop the 2020 LULC, direct comparisons resulting from any statistical analysis between previous LULC or RIGIS wetlands data should be interpreted with caution and appropriate disclosures.



State Action on Climate Change



Photo: David Robinson,
MyCoast.org

Let's face it: Rhode Island is already feeling the effects of climate change. It's disheartening to read all the bad news about our changing climate, which can make us feel hopeless, frustrated, and worried about the world we are leaving for future generations. It can also make us feel like people in government aren't doing anything to help. But Rhode Island's many state and quasi-public agencies are, in fact, working hard to help with this critical issue.

Here are some of the initiatives and programs that are underway or in the planning stages:

- RI Greenhouse Gas Plan update;
- Implementing the Act on Climate;
- Municipal resilience programs;

[Read more...](#)

APA-RI Summer Social: June 26

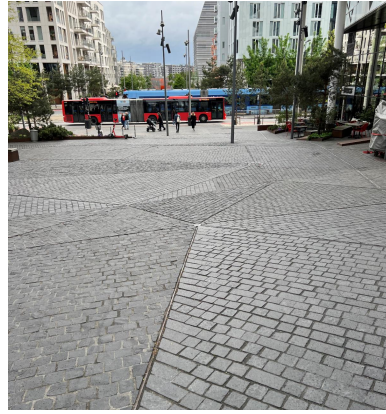
Join your fellow Rhode Island planners in person at this fun, *free* Sunday afternoon event! Bring your own beverages and chairs: we'll provide plenty of food and lawn games for outdoor fun. Family members and friends are welcome to attend.

Open to both APA members and non-members. Location: Lincoln Woods State Park, Lincoln, RI. More information and details are coming soon and will be available [here!](#)



Meredith's Musings

In May, I traveled for the first time since the genesis of Covid-19. Aside from spending too much time trying to answer e-mails remotely (because after 2+ years and working from home, work has become something almost symbiotic), I had a terrific trip, but I felt strangely vulnerable the whole time. Was I doing the right thing by traveling? What if I brought a variant of the disease home? In Norway, they are presently managing Covid-19 by... not managing Covid-19. They have reached the endemic stage, where more than 90% of the population is vaccinated.



Driving in Norway was a pleasure, despite heavy traffic heading back into Oslo on a Tuesday morning. Two lanes, but the best routes were recommended via signage every kilometer or two and trucks stayed steadfastly to the right. Few cars in the city center: Oslo is slowly moving to ban cars from the urban core, and with its capable and prolific public transit, it's easy to get anywhere in 30 minutes without a car. I kept finding infrastructure that I wanted to capture in pictures, from ubiquitous bike racks, to Oslo's e-bike corrals, from stormwater features in roundabouts (frequent roundabouts) to public spaces that angled downward without ramps or steps, making surfaces perfect for people, bikes, skateboards, scooters, and wheelchairs all at once (see photo).

Overall, travel was positive, and helped me feel a bit more connected to the world. I mentioned last month that my personal theory was that "isolation through the pandemic has made us feel more hopeless and helpless." Well, there's certainly a body of work backing up my theory (it was not an original thought). A recent survey indicates that now 7% of people feel the world is doomed, as compared to 4% in 2020 and that 25% of people are experiencing moderate to severe stress, as compared to 17% in 2020, while 2% less are being intentionally kind to others.

What do you find hopeful? In this season of abundant sunshine, are you feeling more or less positive? Feel free to reach out via email: meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public. Click on the links for virtual attendance info.

[Technical Committee](#)

June 3- 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

[State Planning Council](#)

June 9 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

[RIGIS Executive Committee](#)

June 16 - 2PM

Cranston Public Library, Sockanosset Cross Rd.

PHOTO TRIVIA

Do you know where in Rhode Island you can find this building?



[RI Water Resources Board](#)

June 17 - 9AM

Room 300, RIDEM (235 Promenade St.)

See the answer at the
bottom of the
newsletter!

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

June 23 - 5:30PM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Events

Events may be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.

June 1 [Bill McKibben](#). Bill McKibben, renowned environmentalist, journalist, author, and activist, joins Climate Action RI virtually to discuss the climate activism movement and answer audience questions. Time: 7PM-8:15PM. Location: In-person watch party at 225 Dyer St., Providence OR attend online via Zoom. Free.

June 1 [What is Digital Government? Navigating a Purposeful Transformation to Modern Community Development](#). Speakers will discuss how they are leveraging modern technology to transform their community development processes and solve their largest community challenges. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

June 2 [Engaging Kids on Trails](#). The author of the "Fifty Hikes with Kids" series will share top tips and strategies to engage children on the trail. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free. 1 CM.

June 2 [Green Building: Standards and High Performing Homes](#) As the costs of building to green standards have dropped, they are taking over the new construction market. This class will discuss the different green standards and elements that are common in green or high-performance homes. Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm.

June 3 [Open Government Summit](#). The annual RI Open Government Summit will be presented virtually by the RI Attorney General's Office, in partnership with Roger Williams University Law School Alumni Association. Time: 9AM-12PM. Free.

June 3-4 [Rhode Island Bicycle Summit](#). The Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition is proud to host the first ever statewide bicycle summit in the Ocean State! Location: Roger Williams University in Bristol. Time: 8AM-4:30PM. Fee: \$50.

June 3 [Sweltering Heat Waves and Increasing Drought: Can the Northeast handle the heat?](#) This EBC Forum will present speakers who will explore what we can learn from practitioners who are already feeling extreme heat. Hybrid format: in-person at the UMass Club in Boston or join virtually. Time: 8:30AM-12PM. Fee: \$15-\$45.

June 4 [Envision Resilience: Designs for Living with Rising Seas](#) Explore the vibrant history of the Narragansett Bay region, its resilient communities, and adaptive possibilities for its future through designs from six universities. Time: 4PM-7PM. Location: WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley Street, Providence. Free.

June 6-7 [Housing Institute](#). This year's Massachusetts Housing Partnership virtual conference theme is "Complete Neighborhoods: It All Starts with Home." Sessions include housing and climate change, density, multi-family housing, wastewater, and community engagement. Time: 8:50AM-3:45PM. Free. CM credits are available.

June 7 [Scooting to Healthy and Safe Mode Choices](#). Shared electric scooters are

becoming a mobility option in cities across the U.S. and have the potential to replace car usage for certain trips; however, many aspects of this emerging mode are not well understood. Join this webinar to learn more. Time: 1PM. Free.

June 8 [Hurricane Awareness](#). This National Disaster Preparedness Training Center course provides a basic understanding of the latest knowledge in hurricane science, forecasting, warning, and preparedness to emergency managers, first responders, planners, and community members. Time: 1PM-5PM. 3.5 CM.

June 8 [Practical Guide to Zoning and Land Use Law in Rhode Island](#). This webinar will explain the approval process; procedures for challenging a zoning decision; requirements for administrative appeals; and constitutional limitations on zoning actions. Time: 9AM-4:30PM. Fee: \$389. 6 CM.

June 8 [Safe System & Low-Cost Safety Improvements Workshop](#). This course provides an introduction to the Safe System Approach and low-cost, ready-to-use improvements to enhance road safety, aimed at traffic engineers, local/state decision makers, and consultants. Time: 9AM-3PM. Location: RIDOT TMC, 2 Capitol Hill, Providence. Free.

June 10 [Federal Funding Tools for TOD and Other Sustainable Infrastructure](#). How can planners target federal financing for sustainable infrastructure, including transit oriented development (TOD)? This webinar will provide an overview of financing opportunities and successful uses of it. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

June 13-17 [Flooding & Climate Change: Solutions for a Wetter World](#). The URI Metcalf 25th Annual Lecture Series will highlight leaders in science, policy, and community engagement to explore the latest efforts to respond to our changing environment. All lectures will be live-streamed via Zoom. Free.

June 15 [A Deep Dive on Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure](#). Middle mile broadband infrastructure is a critical and often-overlooked component to close the digital divide. Hear best local practices for planning for and lessons learned from different middle mile projects from around the U.S. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

June 15 [Bicycling & Walking in American Communities of Fewer Than 10,000 People: Current Status & Plans for the Future](#). This Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals webinar will present a study that sought to better understand what walking and bicycling looks like in rural America. Time: 3PM-4PM. Fee: \$50-\$85. 1 CM Equity.

June 16 [Conservation Words That Work: Determining How to Engage the American Public Through the Language of Conservation](#) When communicating about the benefits of conservation, it's vital to use language strategically and invest as many people as possible: find out what works, and what doesn't. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free. 1 CM.

June 17 [The Nation's Most Complex and Collaborative TMDL](#). Hear about how six states, the District of Columbia, the EPA and hundreds of partners worked to develop the "Bay Pollution Diet," covering a 64,000 square mile watershed with a population of 18 million people. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

June 21 [Power of Place Summit: Rhody Reset](#). The 2022 Grow Smart RI Summit features sessions on the housing crisis, climate change, social, racial and environmental justice, and community revitalization. Time: 8AM-5PM. Fee: \$35-\$175. Student discount is available.

June 21 [Prioritization of Public Transportation Investments](#). Explore practical advice to improve the prioritization process for public transportation projects. Presenters will

focus on methods used to prioritize transit capital projects and on cross-modal decision-making. Time: 2:30PM-4PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

June 23 [The Past, Present, and Future of Electric Bicycling](#). This webinar will look at the evolution of e-bike technology, how communities are responding to the increase in e-biking demand and usage, and what the future holds for these vehicles. Time: 1PM - 2:15PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

June 26 [APA-RI Summer Social](#) Join Rhode Island planners at this fun, free Sunday outdoor event! Bring your own beverages, snacks, and chairs: we'll provide food and lawn games. Family members are welcome to attend. Time: 2PM-6PM. Location: Lincoln Woods State Park, Lincoln, RI. Please [RSVP](#) in advance.

June 29 [Making Land Use Decisions](#). Virtual workshop for volunteer board and commission members on conducting land use reviews, standards, and crafting decisions. Contact [RI Statewide Planning](#) for more information and registration. Time: Evening. Free.

Anytime [The University Transportation Center \(UTC\)](#) has a library of free webinars on transportation and bike share, artificial intelligence, safe streets, congestion evaluation and mitigation, affordable housing, climate change, equity, and more.

Grant Deadlines

June 8 [Archives Collaboratives](#) grant deadline. The National Archives seeks collaboratives of three or more repositories working together to make their collections more readily available for public discovery and use.

June 8 [Planning Grants for Collaborative Digital Editions](#). The National Archives supports projects that promote access to America's historical records. This grant is for Planning Grants for Collaborative Digital Editions in African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native American History and Ethnic Studies.

June 10 [Active People, Healthy Nation Champions Institute](#) application deadline. This Smart Growth America opportunity is for local elected officials to gain the knowledge needed to effectively advocate for safer and more Complete Streets.

June 17 [Southeast New England Program \(SNEP\) Model Responsible Management Entity \(RME\) Project](#). This program will select one Rhode Island applicant in the SNEP geographic boundaries to develop a RME while simultaneously installing, monitoring, and operating/overseeing alternative and experimental septic systems.

June 20 [Pool Safely Grant Program](#) to assist state and local governments with reducing deaths and injuries from drowning and drain entrapment incidents in pools in two-year grants to qualifying jurisdictions, ranging from \$50,000 to \$400,000.

June 24 [Digital Humanities Advancement Grants](#) deadline. This National Endowment for the Humanities program supports innovative, experimental, and/or computationally challenging digital projects that can enhance scholarly research, teaching, and public programming in the humanities.

Deadlines for Upcoming US DOT grant opportunities for transportation projects are [here](#).

Articles of Interest

[RI Supreme Court rules in favor of solar developer on zoning dispute](#)

[Owner withdraws appeal of cease and desist order for RI compost operation](#)

[Controversial mixed-use mill project to finally begin construction](#)

[RI city sued for to allow emotional support chickens](#)

[Creaky U.S. power grid threatens progress on renewables, EVs](#)

[Building continues on 416 apartments at former East Bay gravel pit](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

[Click here](#) for staff contact information.

Photo Trivia Answer

BARRINGTON
[Town Hall](#) (1888)

Photo: Wikipedia