



STATE GUIDE UPDATE

October 2016

Water Quality 2035

Rhode Island Water Quality Management Plan

“The goals and vision for the report are well stated and get right to the important points.”

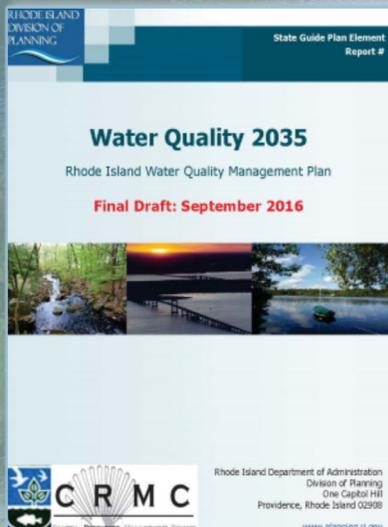
- RI Rivers Council

Rhode Island is fortunate to have abundant water resources that when properly managed can meet our needs for drinking water, recreation and commerce while also supporting healthy aquatic ecosystems. *Water Quality 2035* describes the goals, policies and actions needed for effective management of Rhode Island’s water resources. As a State Guide Plan Element, it replaces four existing State Plans related to water quality. It provides direction for state programs to meet federal requirements for nonpoint source pollution from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and it facilitates coordination among the many entities engaged in water quality protection and restoration actions, including municipal governments.

The Plan was developed by the Department of Administration, Division of Planning, the Department of Environmental Management, and the Coastal Resources Management Council. An advisory committee provided input throughout the process and this Plan benefitted from other plans for the management of Narragansett Bay, non-point source pollution and aquatic habitats. The Plan draws together and describes in one place all the programs, state policies and various actions related to water quality and aquatic habitat protection and restoration in Rhode Island.

The Plan identifies as priorities protection and restoration of fresh and salt water used for:

- ◆ Shellfish Growing Areas
- ◆ Public Recreation
- ◆ Aquatic Habitats
- ◆ Drinking Water Supplies



VISION

RI’s water resources will support healthy aquatic ecosystems and meet the needs of current and future generations by protecting public health, supplying high quality drinking water, providing bountiful recreation opportunities and supporting a vibrant economy.

GOALS

The Plan establishes two broad goals to implement the Vision: to protect and restore the quality of Rhode Island’s waters and aquatic habitats.



Clean water supports Rhode Island's economy through:

- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Manufacturing & Industry
- ◆ Commercial Fisheries
- ◆ Agriculture



Major Implementation Actions

Collaborate & integrate planning — Use the EPA watershed approach to address water quality management concerns across governmental levels.

Continue existing protection and prevention programs while addressing capacity issues.

Assist municipalities with delegated responsibilities for:

- ◆ stormwater management activities
- ◆ adoption of “green infrastructure” approaches
- ◆ water quality restoration projects
- ◆ wastewater facility planning updates
- ◆ local on-site wastewater programs, and
- ◆ implementing low impact development (LID).

Complete development of a comprehensive environmental monitoring strategy.

Enforce all federal, state and local laws and regulations for water quality protection.

Improve agency effectiveness through better data management and improve public access to the data.

Ensure climate change is considered in water quality protection and restoration projects.

Promote the removal of cesspools especially in riparian areas.

Implement, and update as necessary, the RI Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual and the Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.

Incorporate LID in municipal development review ordinances.

Train agency water resource staff to better communicate water science and policy to the public.

Water quality 2035 provides a general understanding of issues and logically addresses problems.”
- Save the Lakes

- The Plan has actions for different pollution sources such as:**
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF)
 - Onsite Wastewater Treatment
 - Stormwater Management
 - Road Salt & Sand Application
 - Other Discharges to Groundwater
 - Agriculture
 - Lawn/Turf Management
 - Pesticide Application
 - Boating & Marinas
 - Storage of Hazardous Materials
 - Petroleum Product Spills
 - Above Ground Storage Tanks
 - Solid Waste Management
 - Contaminated Site Clean-ups
 - Dredging and Dredge Material
 - Pet Waste Management
 - Water Fowl
 - Land Application of WWTF Solids
 - Surface Mining
 - Siliviculture
 - Atmospheric Deposition
 - Marine & Riverine Debris
 - Aquaculture

For more information about the Division of Planning see:

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