



April 2025

Model Ordinance Library

Division of Statewide Planning is pleased to introduce the model ordinance library. This library will empower local municipalities by providing the needed information to develop successful ordinances for their communities.

The ordinance topics include focus areas such as Accessory Uses and Impact Fees, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, Beekeeping, Noise, Parking, Signs, Solar, and much more! Access the library [here](#).

If you have any questions or would like to highlight one of your local ordinances, please contact Principal Planner Abbey Dahl at abbey.dahl@doa.ri.gov.



RI Planners' Listserv

Join the RI Planner listserv! It's an online forum for municipal and state planners and others interested in planning-related issues to ask questions, share ideas, and discuss common concerns and issues.

Send an email to ri-planners@googlegroups.com to join.



New Employee Spotlight

Abbey Dahl is a Principal Planner with RI Division of Statewide Planning on the Community Connection and Plan Implementation team. Her projects include the Model Ordinance Library, reviewing comprehensive plans, editing the newsletter, and helping coordinate the Active Transportation and Resilience Technical Assistance Programs.



A Minnesota native, Abbey graduated from DePaul University in Chicago with a Masters of Public Policy and a Certificate in Metropolitan Planning. Her focus throughout her program was affordable housing and implementing more equitable housing policies in the Chicago area. She has also worked in a governmental capacity across Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. Abbey has a strong passion for community engagement and is looking forward to working with the communities across Rhode Island.

Outside of work, Abbey enjoys gardening and is interested in innovative gardening techniques in urban spaces. She enjoys learning about architecture, visiting museums, seeing shows or movies, and spending time outside. If you have any recommendations for the many other activities that Rhode Island has to offer, reach out to Abbey at abbey.dahl@doa.ri.gov.

Open Land Use & Community Planning Commission Seat

The Rhode Island Forest Conservation Commission (FCC) is seeking to fill a vacant public member seat for an individual with knowledge or experience in land use and community planning issues. This is an opportunity to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of Rhode Island's forests by providing insights into the intersection of land use planning, development, and forest preservation.

Learn more about this member opportunity [here](#).

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

[State Planning Council](#)

April 10 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

[Water Resources Board](#)

April 23 - 9 AM

Location TBD

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

April 24 - 5:30PM

Rm 300, 235 Promenade St.

Providence

All meetings are open to the public.

PHOTO TRIVIA

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



See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!

Learn more about our municipal land use training program for Rhode Island Local Officials under the **What's New** column on [our webpage](#).

Events

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

April 2 [Exploring NACTO's Updated Urban Bikeway Design Guide, Third Edition](#) The guide is a blueprint for implementing safe, connected bike networks including policies, network planning, community collaboration, and bikeway design. Time: 3:30PM. Free.

April 2 [Outdoor Recreation as a Catalyst for Local Economic Development in Rural and Tribal Communities](#). Hear how tribal nations and rural communities have used outdoor recreation to strengthen local economies, create jobs, advance ecotourism and environmental stewardship. Time: 3PM. Free.

April 3 [RI Solid Waste Management Plan Virtual Listening Session](#) Join this virtual listening session to learn about Rhode Island's *Solid Waste Management Plan* and provide input. Time: 12PM. Free.

April 4 [Rhode Island's Environmental, Infrastructure, and Resiliency Priorities – An EBC Leadership Program](#). Presentations will cover the upcoming and ongoing programs for each Department, priorities for the year, and dive into some challenges. Location: 235 Promenade Street, Room 300 Providence. Time: 9:30AM. Fee: \$30-\$125.

April 4 [Public Engagement: RI's 2025 Climate Action Strategy](#) This meeting will be held for all Rhode Islanders to come learn and talk about various topics related to climate change. Time: 11AM. Free.

April 5 [Walk the PVD Crosstown Trail: A 13-Mile Urban Hike!](#) This walking route crosses both neighborhoods and a variety of parks across the city of Providence. Time: 9AM. Fee: \$10 PPS Members/ \$15 General.

April 7 [Reinventing the Right of Way: Policy, Technical, and Economic Implications of Siting Transmission Lines Along Transportation Corridors. A Workshop](#) This workshop will identify policy, technical, and economic challenges along with potential solutions to these challenges. Time: 9AM. Free.

April 8 [Creating a Glide Path for Municipal Action: An Overview of Model Ordinances and Executive Orders on Food Waste Reduction](#). Hear about the suite of tools developed to reduce the time and effort required of municipalities to adopt ordinances, executive orders, and policies to reduce food waste. Time: 1PM. Free.

April 10 [Rhodies-in-Transit: We Mean Business](#). Rhode Island's business and civic leaders will discuss public transit and Rhode Island's economic competitiveness and quality of life. Location: Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence. Time: 8AM. Free.

April 16 ["Data-Driven" Decision-Making: What Does this Term Mean for Community Planning?](#) Hear how local governments can leverage data sources and community input to create effective planning outcomes. Time: 12PM. Fee: \$15. 1.25 CM.

April 17 [Rural Communities, Walkability and Quality of Life](#). Learn about resources, examples, and case studies from around the country on how walkability played a role in helping to revitalize small towns. Time: 2PM. Free.

April 18 [Data Centers and Community Development: Do they Compute?](#) Data Centers might have unintended consequences in terms of pollution, water usage, and electricity demands. Time: 12PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

April 18 [Web Skills & Platforms for Planners](#). This webinar will provide an essential foundation in web skills, equipping participants to evaluate, design, deploy, and maintain websites. Time: 1PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

April 23 [Leveraging Private Investments for Recreation Infrastructure and Trails](#). Webinar will feature the work of The Great Outdoors Fund to build relationships and match projects with funding to benefit access to and stewardship of the outdoors. Time: 3PM. Free.

April 24 [APA-RI Planning Awards Party](#) Celebrate this years' RI planning award winners with food, friends, and fun at the beautiful [Meehan Overlook at Notte Park](#) in North Providence! Time: 6PM-9PM. [Tickets](#): \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members (includes dinner buffet and one free drink).

April 25 [Lunch & Learn – A Congressional Briefing with U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse – An EBC & RISEP Rhode Island Program](#). This congressional briefing will provide updates on recent developments in Washington, D.C. and other priorities for the year ahead. Time: 11:30AM. Fee: Fee: \$30-\$125.

Grants & Deadlines

April 3 [RI Statewide Planning's Active Transportation Technical Assistance Program](#) deadline for municipal project applications due by 4PM.

April 7 [RIDEM Business Builder Award Program](#) is designed to strengthen Rhode Island and regional food systems by providing direct funding to small and mid-sized farm and food businesses.

April 16 [NOAA's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#) support projects that restore marine, estuarine, and coastal habitats using approaches that enhance community and ecosystem resilience to climate hazards.

April 18 [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) grants makes federal funds available for hazard mitigation activities.

April 18 [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) grant program for local and tribal governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and within NFIP-participating communities.

April 18 [2025 SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants](#) fund programs and partnerships working to restore coastal ecosystems throughout Southeast New England.

April 21 [Community Connect Grant Program](#) provides assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service to all premises in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service does not exist.

April 30 [2025 Port Infrastructure Development Program](#) supports efforts by ports and industry stakeholders to improve port and related freight infrastructure.

Articles of Interest

[Reimagining better uses for hospital parking lots in Providence](#)

[North Smithfield quarry, long an aggravation for nearby residents, seeks zone change](#)

[Million dollars in grants awarded to support R.I.'s local food system](#)

[The first park in Rhode Island is almost 200 years old. How to visit this spring .](#)

[Is climate change ruining our New England?](#)

[Chickens only permitted in Lincoln's agricultural zones](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

Photo Trivia Answer:

CUMBERLAND

[Metcalfe- Franklin Farm farmhouse](#) (1810)

Photo: The Valley Breeze

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