



New Land Use Technical Papers and Data Available

In 2025, the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning's (RIDSP) [Land Use and Education Team](#) worked with HR&A Advisors, Inc. (HR&A) and Go Consulting Services, LLC (Go Consulting) in a study to update the digital land use data from the existing state land use plan, [Land Use 2025](#) (State Guide Plan Element #121) and also compile new digital data. The main purpose of the project is to support future efforts to fully update this Land Use Element. The project updated and collected new data to analyze land use changes and suitability in the State through a time series analysis in the context of demographic trends and stakeholder-identified issues. The results will help to inform the next land use plan, tentatively being called *Land Use 2050*, which will guide the next 25 years of planning for land conservation and development in Rhode Island.

The project's primary objectives completed over two stages were to:

- Update the RIDSP's sources of Geographic Information System (GIS) data for current land use across all 39 municipalities.
- Create new digital information on municipal future land uses as mapped in 39 municipal comprehensive plans.
- Develop new digital information of municipal generalized zoning classifications for all 39 municipalities, and
- Analyze statewide trends and changes in land use, transportation, and conservation efforts, to inform future policy development for Land Use 2050.

The project deliverables include in two technical papers regarding the data collection and methodology, and the data analysis and findings, along with an ESRI Story Map to visualize and summarize the findings. The findings from these reports will be invaluable for the next phase of updating the land use element and in public engagement efforts to formulate a vision of where Rhode Island wants to be with long-range land use policy, and how we get there. More details on the technical papers are on page two.

The materials from this project are available through the RIDSP Website at www.planning.ri.gov. The data and publications are based upon publicly supported research and may not be copyrighted. They may be reprinted or used, in part or full, with credit acknowledged to the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning.

Rhode Island Land Use 2050 Data Services

Land Use Analysis

Division of Statewide Planning
February 17, 2026

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New Technical Papers and Land Use Data Available

The project involved two stages. Throughout both stages of the project, The [Land Use and Education Team](#) and consultants, HR&A and Go Consulting, held bi-weekly project meetings, collaborated with stakeholders, and engaged the State Planning Council for several informational presentations and discussions.



Stage 1, Municipal Data Collection, focused on collecting, cleaning, and standardizing (where available) municipal parcels, zoning, new 2025 land use, and future land use maps (FLUM) data from all 39 municipalities. The goal of this stage was to create a consistent, statewide dataset that will support policy analysis, planning, and visualization, enabling Rhode Island to plan for growth, conservation, and infrastructure needs in a unified manner. The complete methodology on data collection, the data and the Metadata is described in the Technical Paper 170 - Data Collection Methodology.



Stage 2, Land Use Change and Suitability Analysis, involved taking the datasets from the 1st stage to conduct a land use change and suitability analysis. The goal of the analysis was to identify locations suitable for growth and or conservation to guide future land use planning initiatives to be conducted, notably in the update of the land use State Guide Plan Element #121. The Technical Paper 171 - Land Use Change and Suitability Study describes the steps undertaken for the analysis. An ESRI Story Map was created to summarize and allow users to interactively explore and visualize the findings in greater detail.

Data and Materials Available*

[Technical Paper 170 - Data Collection Methodology](#)

[Technical Paper 171 - Land Use Change and Suitability Study](#)



ESRI Story Map - The StoryMap is available [online](#) via both the [RIDSP website](#) and the [Rhode Island Geospatial Data](#) Hub or by scanning the QR code included here.



Scan the QR code to view the StoryMap!

The geospatial data, including the new generalized statewide zoning, the new statewide municipal 2025 land use, and the new statewide municipal 2025 future land use, are available through the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS). The Generalized Statewide Zoning 2025 data is the first statewide digital data of its kind concerning zoning for the RIDSP. Stage 1 gathered zoning information for all 39 municipalities and a statewide generalized composite zoning map was produced. This allows for comparing land use with intended use and development potential.

* **Disclaimer** - the data created through this study are for planning purposes only and are publicly available on the Rhode Island Geospatial Data Hub. For more information about mapping and GIS data in Rhode Island, please contact the RIGIS coordinator at rigis@uri.edu or visit the RIGIS Data Hub at www.rigis.org.

Funding for the Project was made possible by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Rhode Island State appropriations to the RIDSP. RIDSP is grateful to the multiple state, municipal and nongovernmental officials who contributed to the project. Specific contributions are identified within the Metadata.

Consultant Information

[HR&A Advisors, Inc.](#) (HR&A) is an employee-owned company advising public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic clients on how to increase opportunity and advance quality of life in cities. HR&A analysis works toward creating vital places, building more equitable and resilient communities, and improving people's lives.

[Go Consulting Services](#) is a woman-owned firm providing consulting services in the areas of real estate asset management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), affordable housing, and general urban planning services.