



April 2026

East Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Completed



In January 2026, Division of Statewide Planning completed work on our most recent local technical assistance project, *The East Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*. This project was a partnership between the Statewide Planning and the City of East Providence Planning Department, with consultant support provided by the Toole Design Group and FHI Studio.

This planning project took a comprehensive look at East Providence's active transportation network, used best practices and objective analysis to determine how public rights-of-way can be used to achieve City goals more effectively, and developed an implementation strategy that sets a clear and achievable path for future multi-modal investments. The Plan reflects the goals and objectives of *Moving Forward RI 2050*, the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan. It is also consistent with the long-term vision and builds upon the guidance from the *RI Bicycle Mobility Plan (2020)*.

[Read More Here](#)

Two More Comprehensive Plans Approved



Providence and Scituate recently joined the ranks of Rhode Island communities that have an approved community comprehensive plan!

Staff from the Providence Planning Department (pictured) appeared before the RI State Planning Council in March to receive a certificate acknowledging this milestone. The plan took several years of in-house work, but the City crossed the finish line and received approval from the Division of Statewide Planning in January.

The Town of Scituate also received approval of their plan in December 2025 after years of community outreach and dedication.

Congratulations to Scituate and Providence on their achievement!

Land Use 2050 Update

In 2025, the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning's Land Use and Education Team worked with HR&A Advisors, Inc. and Go Consulting Services, LLC in a study to update 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 twenty-five years of planning for land conservation and development in Rhode Island.

[Read More Here](#)

APA-RI Annual Awards Party- April 30

Join fellow planners for a celebration of the very best plans, projects, and people in Rhode Island planning! The APA-RI Annual Awards Party will be held on **Thursday, April 30 at 6PM** at the River Falls restaurant in Woonsocket.



This year's award winners are:

- President's Award: Ashley Sweet
- Dan Varin Memorial Leadership Award: Annette Bourne
- Paul Davidoff Award: Rochelle Lee
- Special Award for the Advancement of Planning in Rhode Island: Dr. Farhad Atash, URI
- Award for Affordable Housing Planning Achievement: *Housing 2030: Building Rhode Island's Future*- RI Executive Office of Housing
- Award for Excellence in Plan Implementation: Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
- Award for Planning for Resilience and Sustainability: *Resilient Rhody 2025: Statewide Climate Resilience Plan*- RI Dept. of Environmental Management
- Award for Excellent Plan: *Moving Forward RI 2050 - Long-Range Transportation for Rhode Island*- RI Div. of Statewide Planning
- Student Award: "A Vision for Jamestown: Reimagining the Mackerel and Sheffield Coves Waterfront"- University of Rhode Island, Dept. of Landscape Architecture
- Distinguished Planning Firm / Agency: Community Housing Land Trust of Rhode Island

River Falls is located at 74 S. Main Street in Woonsocket. Tickets are \$35 for APA-RI members, \$45 for non-members and include heavy appetizers and two free drink tickets. Tickets are available [here](#). Help celebrate the deserving winners!

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

[State Planning Council](#)

April 9 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

[Water Resources Board](#)

April 15 - 9 AM

Room 300, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

April 23 - 3:00PM

Room 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!



Events

April 1 - 31 [RI HPHC Historical Cemetery Preservation & Awareness Weeks.](#) Tours, clean-ups, lectures, and workshops that celebrate the historic cemeteries in Rhode Island. Free.

April 1 [The Post-2030 Agenda.](#) Join the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network for a high level discussion on sustainable development after 2030. Time: 9AM. Free.

April 7 [Why Water & Wastewater Project Costs Rise Over Time.](#) This webinar explore infrastructures and regulatory demands, and cost escalations for communities. Time: 11:30AM. Fee: \$30 - \$125.

April 8 [Building an Energy Future That Leaves No One Energy Poor.](#) Webinar provides practical insights and tools to advocate for energy security and access to clean energy. Time: 1:30PM. Free.

April 9 [Activating Public Spaces.](#) How can programs and events develop a community's commitment to their place and to each other? And what if we're just getting started (and don't have a budget)? Time: 12PM. Free.

April 9 [Federal Transportation Bill: What It Means for You and How You Can Make an Impact.](#) This session provides the knowledge and tools to advocate for walking, biking and trail infrastructure. Time: 1PM. Free.

April 9 [RI Rivers Council Meeting](#). Location: 235 Promenade Street, Providence. Time: 3PM.

April 10 [Artificial Intelligence and Data Governance in Transportation](#). This webinar will examine how AI is being used across transportation systems. Time: 2PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

April 15 [Community Development Essentials: A Process Before a Plan](#). This session will share sustainable, accessible, and research-based practices. Learn Community Development Essentials within the context of today's challenges. Time: 12PM. Fee: \$15.

April 16 [Climate Conversations: Parks & Recreations](#). Webinar will include a conversation on climate change and parks and recreation. Time: 3PM. Free.

April 23 [Applying the Watershed Protection Standard to Stormwater Control System Design](#). Learn about site layouts and stormwater control management strategies backed by the latest science. Time: 10AM. Free.

April 24 [RI Arbor Day Celebration](#). 139th Anniversary of Arbor Day will feature Tree City USA awards and other events. Location: Slater Memorial Park, Pawtucket. Time: 11AM. Free.

April 24 [Creating Age-Friendly Communities](#). Hear from leaders about how they approach the age-friendly work within their organization and provide guidance for planners. Time: 12PM. Free.

April 24 [Rhode Island Local Officials Training Program](#). Online workshop to fulfill education requirements for municipal historic, planning or zoning boards/commissions. Time: 12:30PM. Free. [Preregister](#) by 12PM on April 22.

April 25 [Earth Day Celebration](#). Event brings the community together to clean and restore the Woonasquatucket River from Hillside Avenue to Manton Pond. Time: 10AM. Location: 15 Goldsmith St., Johnston. Free.

April 28 [State Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\) Public Hearing](#). The RI State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) DRAFT Update is available for public comment. Comments can be submitted online, by mail, or at the hearing. Location: 235 Promenade St, Room 300, Providence. Time: 3pm

April 29 [Innovations in Street Trees & Stormwater](#). Walking tour of the Nightingale Redevelopment, a parking lot transformed into a mixed-use building and green infrastructure. Happy hour to follow. Location: 30 Exchange Terrace, Providence. Time: 4:30PM. Free.

April 30 [APA-RI Awards Party](#). See article, above. Time: 6PM-8:30PM. Location: River Falls, 74 S. Main Street, Woonsocket. Fee: APA-RI members: \$35, non-members: \$45.

Grants & Deadlines

April 10 [Housing 2030 Entry Level Homeownership Program](#). Executive Office of Housing (EOH) is allocating up to \$20 million to affordable homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income households.

April 24 [Housing 2030 Public Developer Program](#) to support approximately two to three projects that will serve as case studies demonstrating the critical role of Public Housing Authorities (PHAs).

April 30 [RI State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#) public comment period deadline. Submit [via SmartComment](#) or mail to: Statewide Planning-SCORP Comments, Attn: P. Gonsalves, Div. of Statewide Planning, 230 Promenade St.- Suite 230, Providence, RI 02908.

April 30 [Draft RI Battery Energy Storage Systems Model Ordinance](#) public comment period deadline. Email public comments to the RI Office of Energy Resources in PDF format, preferably on organizational letterhead, to lan.Plante.INT@energy.ri.gov.

April 30 [Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant Program](#). The grant program is a statewide effort that works to assist small businesses reduce their energy costs and will reimburse small businesses up to \$20,000 for energy efficiency measures.

Articles of Interest

[Smithfield report shows surge in residential development approvals](#)

[Lincoln unlikely to host World Cup visitors due to short-term rental rules](#)

[We've got the power: Revolution Wind begins delivering electricity to regional grid](#)

[Gooding hotel approval process moves to preliminary phase](#)

[Green Stormwater Infrastructure: How Providence Is Turning Rain Into Resilience](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

Photo Trivia Answer

PROVIDENCE

[Ladd Observatory](#) at Brown University (1891)

(Photo: [Doors Open RI](#))



Try email marketing for free today!