



June 2026

## Community Outreach Ideas for Plans and Projects



Your office is beginning a new project or plan: you want people to share ideas and help shape the future of their community. But how will you bring residents and stakeholders to the table for meaningful input and participation?

The best way is to meet people "where the are", i.e., going to scheduled community events that people are already planning to attend, to improve your chances of garnering input and including as many people as possible. (This is in addition to holding project-specific workshops, of course). Set up a table or boards at:



- Farmers' markets
- School district events, like PTO meetings and back-to-school nights
- Senior center lunches or health fairs
- Events for families and children, like story time at a local library or "touch-a-truck" events
- Little League games or tournaments
- Charity runs or walks
- Outdoor concerts, movies, or food truck events
- Bike paths or trails, particularly on the weekends



Some ways to reach folks in your community include:



- Monthly project e-newsletters
- Posts on Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Bluesky
- Virtual and in-person town hall meetings
- Digital surveys (and paper ones, too)
- Articles or op-eds in your local newspaper (people still read them!)
- Magnets or other swag with the project website URL or a QR code that takes people to a website



You can also think outside the box for events. The Town of Barrington held a "Comp Plan-palooza" in 2024 that brought together consultants and town officials working on their update for a three-hour open house. They provided food, child care, kids' activities, and even handed out temporary tattoos!

For more information, ideas, or feedback about public participation, please contact [Statewide Planning's Community Coordination & Assistance team](#).

---

## Upcoming Trainings for Planning, Zoning, & Historic District Commissions

The Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning is pleased to offer ongoing training opportunities as part of the Rhode Island Local Officials Training Program to help local planning, zoning, and historic district board/commission members to meet their training requirements under RIGL [45-70](#) and [45-22](#).



### Live Zoom Workshops:

Upcoming Zoom workshop session information is posted on the [Statewide Planning homepage](#) under "What's New." For registration, email [isabelle.gillibrand@doa.ri.gov](mailto:isabelle.gillibrand@doa.ri.gov):

- Wednesday, May 27 from 12:30-1:30 PM

### Online/Asynchronous Training Opportunities:

Free and open to all, fulfills training requirements as listed:

- [RI Land Use Court](#) (One-hour annual update credit)
- [Lead Paint Mitigation in Historic Preservation](#) (One-hour annual update credit)
- [Rhode Island Official's Online Stormwater Training for Planning Boards](#) (Two hours of credit for supplemental training requirement for planning boards)

Other program information on trainings for local officials can be found on our [homepage](#) under "What's New." Please [contact staff](#) from the Land Use and Education Team with any questions.

---

## Planning Education Programs Find Regrowth in Rhode Island

In 2024, the House *Special Legislative Commission to Study the Ability of the Rhode Island Educational System to Offer Degree or Certificate Programs Within the State to Provide a Supply and a Pipeline of Planners, Planning Technicians, and Planning Staff* was established by resolution and met from September 2024 to March 2025.

“

It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

”

Members, including key stakeholders from municipalities, educational institutions, professional organizations, and government heard testimony that reinforced the need for planning education in Rhode Island, including the fact that more than 60% of Rhode

Island's municipalities operate with planning departments of two or fewer staff, and many positions remain unfilled due to a lack of qualified applicants.

The [final report](#) of the Commission was released in the spring of 2025, and today there are two programs in Rhode Island bolstering paths to professional planning positions. The University of Rhode Island (URI) offers a fully online [Graduate Certificate in Community Planning](#) which may be combined with existing Master's Degree programs (Administration, Environmental Management) or additional coursework under development to receive a strong foundation in the principles and practices of community planning and development, with a focus on land use, environmental planning, and urban design.. The certificate program is fully-online and designed to provide core competencies in sustainable community planning. URI is continuing to work toward additional planning-focused courses and programs.

The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) convened a Community Planning Advisory Board to develop its newly announced associate in arts (AA) in Community Planning and Certificate in Community Planning, beginning in Fall 2026. The 18-credit certificate prepares students for entry-level roles in municipal and state agencies, as well as the private sector. The certificate may be ideal for current municipal staff looking to upskill. Courses emphasize zoning administration, site plan review, parcel description analysis, development application processing, and regulatory documentation. Certificate students have access to internship and experiential learning opportunities and may seamlessly apply all credits toward the AA in Community Planning. The AA itself is a two-year degree that provides students with a foundation in community planning, including zoning and land use regulations, site plan review, sustainable development, state and local government, research methods, communication strategies, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Students will also participate in experiential learning through internships, cooperative work experiences, and project-based learning.

---

## PHOTO TRIVIA

Do you know where in Rhode Island you can find this building?  
Find the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!



---

## Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

*All meetings are open to the public.*

### [Planners' Roundtable/Technical Committee](#)

**June 5 - 10AM**

Warwick Central Library  
600 Sandy Lane- Room 112

### [State Planning Council](#)

**June 11 - 9AM**

1 Capitol Hill (DOA), Room 2A

### [RIGIS Executive Board](#)

**June 11- 2PM**

Warwick Central Library  
600 Sandy Lane

### [Water Resources Board](#)

**June 16 - 9AM**

315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101  
Providence

**June 25 - 3:00PM**235 Promenade St., Room 300  
Providence


---

## Events

**June 2 [The Good, the Bad and the Unknown: What the House Reauthorization Bill Means for Connected Trail and Active Transportation Systems.](#)** Learn what's included, what was cut, and action needed for funding for connected walking, biking and trail infrastructure. Time: 1PM. Free.

**June 3 [E-Bikes vs. E-Motos: Legal Distinctions, Legislative Strategies, and Regulatory Actions.](#)** Learn about the latest legal distinctions between e-bikes and e-motos, and how cities and states are enforcing the rules. Time: 1PM. Free.

**June 5 [Addressing Climate Misinformation and Disinformation.](#)** Learn more about misinformation regarding climate change in the United States. Time: 9AM. Fee: \$15-\$45.

**June 5 [Designing Hybrid Engagement: Moving Beyond Room + Zoom.](#)** This webinar introduces the Designing Hybrid Engagement guide and translates its core framework into practical application. Time: 1PM. CM: 1.5. Free.

**June 5 [Planners' Roundtable.](#)** Join a forum for RI planners to learn and share challenges. Agenda includes the Cumberland Resilient Ordinance project and 2026 proposed legislation. Time: 10AM-11:30AM. Location: Warwick Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Room 112 or [online via Zoom](#).

**June 9 [Feeling the Heat: Tools for Identifying the Hottest Street Segments in Your Community.](#)** Hear about the Universal Thermal Climate Index which incorporates data to produce a "feels-like" temperature that estimates how a human body experiences heat. Time: 12PM. Free.

**June 9 [Using Data to Drive Upward Mobility: Practical Lessons from Communities.](#)** Workshop focuses on how local leaders can use data to better understand community conditions, identify strategic priorities, and advance upward mobility from poverty. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

**June 9 [Why Water & Wastewater Project Costs Rise Over Time – and What to Do About It.](#)** Learn strategies for improving cost transparency, setting realistic expectations, and strengthening trust throughout the design and funding process. Time: 11:30AM-1:30PM. Fee: \$30-\$125.

**June 10 [AI and Economic Mobility: Opportunities and Challenges.](#)** How can AI be deployed effectively to enhance economic mobility and ensure the benefits of AI systems are reaped widely? Time: 10AM-11AM. Free.

**June 15 [Can Rural Microtransit Work?](#)** Hears expert overview of the state-of-the-practice in rural microtransit, in-depth case studies, and overarching lessons and themes. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free. 1 CM.

**June 16 - 17 [Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop](#).** The Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast's conference features interactive sessions and forward-thinking strategies for environmental, economic, and community impact. Location: MGM Springfield, Springfield, MA. Fee: \$375-\$475.

**June 17 [Practical Tools to Advance Water Reuse](#).** Informational webinar from the U.S. EPA's Water Reuse Program, which is working to remove barriers to water reuse. Time: 3PM. Free.

**June 17 [Rural Intersections Safety Countermeasures](#).** Learn about design considerations, and operational improvements aimed at reducing crashes and improving safety at rural intersections. Time: 11AM-1PM. Free.

**June 18 [Digital Accessibility Requirements](#).** This webinar provides planners and municipalities with an overview of WCAG 2.1 Level AA, an international standard to make web content accessible to people with disabilities. Time: 1PM. Free.

**June 22 [Rhode Island Land Use & Zoning From Start to Finish](#).** Zoning and land use cases are often unique to specific circumstances. This comprehensive online seminar will give you knowledge of the regulatory framework. Time: 9AM-4PM. Fee: \$389. 6 CM credits; 1 CM Law.

**June 25 [Game Changer! Tidewater Landing: What Goes into a Public Private Partnership \(P3\) Project?](#)** Learn about the planning, environmental remediation, permitting, TOD, TIF, and what's a PLOM?? "Behind the scenes" stadium tour and drinks included in this APA-RI event! Location: Centreville Bank Stadium, Pawtucket. Time: 4PM-6P. Ticket sales [are here](#).

**June 26 [2026 Power of Place](#).** Hosted by Grow Smart RI to discuss topics such as affordable housing, climate change, public health, transportation, and social and economic justice. Time: 8:15AM. Location: Rhode Island School of Design. Fee: \$30-\$150.

**June 27 [Greenway Wild Walks: Brilliant Beavers](#).** Discover how beavers help with drought, wildfires, and stormwater runoff. Location: 15 Goldsmith Street, Johnston. Time: 2PM. Free.

---

## Grants & Deadlines

**June 6 [Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program](#)** funds highway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that improve safety and mobility of people and goods.

**June 22 [Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program](#)** funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.

**June 25 [NAWCA 2026 US Small Grants](#)** for protecting, improving, restoring, and managing an appropriate wetland ecosystems and other habitats for wetland-associated migratory birds and other fish and wildlife.

**June 29 [Community Connect Grant Program](#)** provides financial assistance service providers in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service (10 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up) does not exist.

**June 30 [Community Library Municipal Grant](#)** for public libraries located in the seventeen Learn365RI municipalities that do not have community learning center projects

underway.

**June 30** [Rural Business Development Grant Program](#) promotes economic development and job creation projects through the awarding of grant funds to eligible entities.

---

## Articles of Interest

[Historic property with years-long fight over development receives approval](#)

[Wickford Junction officially breaks ground on 152-unit housing project](#)

[City revisits housing plan at former high school](#)

[Town is latest to express alarm over affordable development](#)

[Offshore wind plans stall on East Providence waterfront property](#)

[Amid AI and data center boom, towns are pushing back](#)

---

## RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

---

## Photo Trivia Answer Coventry

Greene Company Cranberry Processing Barn (1890)

Photo: [Patch Coventry](#).

RI Division of Statewide Planning | The Foundry 235 Promenade Street, Suite 230 | Providence, RI 02908  
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!