



**Rhode Island Department of
Environmental Management**



**Local Open Space Grant
Program
Management Plan Guidelines**

Approval by the Department of Environmental Management of a land management plan provided by awardee is requirement of the Local Open Space Grant Program. When writing the required management plan, the below criteria should be addressed. Where issues are not applicable, please indicate and explain why they are not relevant. A detailed property map with management actions keyed to their locations is required.

1. Property Maps

Each Management Plan **MUST** be accompanied by **two maps** 8 ½ x 11 (or folded to size). Maps shall, at minimum, show:

- *Physical and natural features* - including property boundaries, roads, streams, walls, existing and proposed trails, scale and north arrow, vegetation types and habitats (forest, forested swamp, pasture, etc).
- *Topographic Map* - topography including property boundaries and contours.
- Maps shall depict locations of ANY proposed management activities.

2. General Information:

General description of the property including vegetation types, habitats, relevant physical features, historic land use, etc.

3. General Maintenance

The following issues should be addressed:

- Identify posted public access sites and hours of use (if applicable)
- Identify location and number of vehicular parking spots (if applicable)
- Describe the location of trails and outline their intended uses (if applicable)
- Describe planned trail maintenance activities (if applicable)
- Identify party responsible for scheduling public activities (if applicable)
- Describe litter pick-up and trash removal plan
- Identify party responsible for general surveillance
- Identify if the property is open to hunting and fishing
- Outline the cost of maintenance activities and identify the sources of funding
- Outline 5-year vision and goals for use of the property

If the property has been protected via the purchase of development rights, please explain the conditions under which public access will be permitted and how it will be arranged.

4. Property Management

The property must either be maintained in its current condition or enhanced **for those conditions for which it was selected**. Properties with exceptional natural or scenic elements require management to protect these elements. **The Management Plan MUST address the condition of the property and how it will be maintained.**

- Describe the existing baseline conditions of the property
- Describe the desired future conditions or stewardship activities to enhance the property
- Identify each management technique, which area it will be used in, and how it will be used to attain desired objectives. Identify the responsible party for each technique and any special considerations.
- Describe the schedule of management activities over a 5-year plan. This should include an identification of each technique, how many acres it covers, and how often it will be performed (seasonally, annually, etc.)
- Outline the cost of management activities and identify the sources of funding.

5. Rare Species Protection

If the property was selected for the protection of rare species, describe how rare species will be protected from activities occurring on the property. For example, the management of a property with rare plants may entail determining where the plant populations are so that a trail system and use of the trails will not impact the rare species.

Issues that may be addressed include:

- Restricting the collection or disturbance of plants
- Restricting the disturbance of nesting birds and other wildlife
- Restricting the access to important wetland areas or water features

6. Environmental Education

If the property is to be used for environmental education and/or research, describe how these options will be made available to the general public and designate a contact person who will schedule these events.

7. Department of Environmental Management Requirements

- All property boundaries **MUST** be posted with signs or blazes displaying that the property is perpetual conservation land.
- If public access is allowed, the entrance location, type of use, and hours of use must be posted on the property.
- A permanent sign must be erected on the property acknowledging the use of Open Space Bond assistance. A sign will be provided by DEM if necessary.