

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
SUSTAINABLE WATERSHEDS OFFICE FY 2004-2005 Work Plan
SUSTAINABLE WATERSHEDS**

Goal: Livable Communities		
OBJECTIVE 1: Help communities plan for growth to minimize impacts to the environment and community character.		ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternative land use techniques adopted and implemented. ▪ Environmental impact of new growth minimized.
STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. Work with broad-based partnerships to develop more creative techniques to more effectively plan for growth.	1a. Work with urban planners, developers, and other stakeholders to develop an urban environmental design manual.	Manual done by 4-04
	1b. Assist the Governor's Growth Planning council to pilot the growth center concept.	Ongoing Activity
	1c. Assist Grow Smart, Washington County Regional Planning Council and the South County communities to determine appropriate locations and types of economic development for the region.	Final Plan done by 9-03

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STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
	1e. Work with the Governors Growth Planning Council and other stakeholders to develop strategies to assist communities to more effectively use GIS applications for growth planning. Examples include conservation development checklist, digitized tax maps and more technical GIS assistance.	Ongoing activity
	1f. Assist with the administration and technical support for the Governors Growth Planning Council	Ongoing activity
	1g. Coordinate DEM response to updates/revisions to community comprehensive plans	Ongoing Activity
	1f. Coordinate the Woonasquatucket Land use and Zoning project with the city of Providence and the Woonasquatucket Watershed Council	Project to be completed by 12-04
	1g. Coordinate and manage the Blackstone Watershed Integrated Water Resource Management Project with the Blackstone Watershed Council, Heritage Corridor Commission, Harvard Design School, and MA	The funding for this project is pending
2. Develop training programs for local boards to increase their knowledge of basic and more creative land use techniques.	2a. Complete a training manual and course with URI, statewide planning, and community officials to assist planners and developers to implement conservation development.	Guidance Manual completed but the training manual is pending. Training manual to be done by 6-04. Both documents need to be printed

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STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
3. Prepare and distribute educational materials to make people aware of the impacts of unplanned growth to the environmental community charter.	3A. Some Educational materials prepared others pending for conservation ,urban Design Manual, and greenspace projects	Ongoing activity
	3B. Present slide presentations and lectures to wide audiences, including RI Builders Association, planning board, town councils, other state agencies, on creative development techniques.	Ongoing activity
4. Seek grants to encourage the adoption and implementation of creative land use techniques. Strategy 4 can be pursued through the Governor's Growth Planning Council and Grow Smart.	4A. Work with the Office of Water to seek funds for the implementation of Conservation Development.	Ongoing activity
	4b. Continue to pursue grants to help build capacity of communities to more effectively plan for growth, such as Sustainable Development Grant and other appropriate funding sources.	Ongoing activity

Goal: Livable Communities		
OBJECTIVE 2: Coordinate re-orientation of DEM activities toward effective watershed resource management through community based planning and implementation.		ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective local/regional partnerships ▪ Community based Watershed Action Plans Impaired waters/habitats restored ▪ Community priority natural resources preserved/protected
STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. Facilitate and encourage the development and implementation of Action Plans to address community based watershed objectives.	1a. Assist with the preparation of a revised Salt Pond Action Plan	Revised Action Plan developed by 9-04 Activities 1A& 1B are subject to filling existing vacancies
	1b Assist other watersheds to develop a watershed action plan and initiate applicable implementation activities.	Ongoing Activity Activities 1A& 1B are subject to filling existing vacancies

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STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
2. Coordinate DEM and partner activities to address watershed team management objectives.	2a. Encourage new initiatives or changes to existing DEM programs and partner activities to implement watershed plans and action programs.	Ongoing activity.
	2b. Provide staff support to the Watershed Coordinating Council.	Ongoing activity.
	2c. Coordinate and provide staff support to watershed organizations and the watershed teams	Ongoing activity.
	2d. Assist with the coordination and integration of the Rhode Island Rivers Council and the Watershed Coordinating Council. Work with both groups to explore a merger.	Ongoing activity.
	2e. Coordinate and collaborate with the Washington County Regional Planning Council on action planning in the South County Watersheds Region.	Ongoing activity.
	2f. Encourage the formation of action teams to implement watershed action plans	Ongoing Activity

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STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
3. Develop incentives and provide technical assistance to encourage the implementation of watershed plans and action programs.	3A. Coordinate direct links between state and federal technical and financial resources (e.g. staff and grant programs) and local efforts to identify resources to implement watershed plans.	Assistance provided and incentives developed as an ongoing activity.
	3B. Work with the Woonasquatucket Watershed Council and Habitat Restoration Team and other partners to identify Riparian Buffer Restoration sites in the watershed.	Riparian buffers restored by 6-05
	3c. Work with the Woonasquatucket Watershed Team and watershed communities to assist them to identify important natural, cultural, and recreational resources.	Greenspace Implementation Strategy to be completed by 2-04
	3d. Work with the Office of Water, DOT and URI to develop model stormwater education and outreach materials for watershed organizations and communities.	Project is pending the availability of funds

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	3e Manage and coordinate the Narrow River stormwater Abatement Project	Project completed by 6-05
4. Assist watershed teams with education and outreach to increase public awareness of watershed management plans, strategies for implementation, and the RI Watershed Partnership.	4a. Assist the watershed team to perform educational outreach to communities regarding the watersheds' Action Program. Examples include, but are not limited to, Pass the Paddle and Rivers Day.	Materials distributed and presentations given.
	4c. Continue to update/upgrade the watershed website to link to/or host other appropriate sites.	On going activity
	4b. Coordinate and expand Watershed Educational Campaign in DEM parks. Purchase training materials, coordinate training naturalists, and encourage other partners to participate.	Naturalist Education in parks -ongoing activity
5. Assist watershed teams to acquire funds to implement watershed plans and action programs.	5a Develop a Watershed Action Plan Implementation Grant with Nonpoint Funds	Grant Criteria Established and Grants issued by 1-04
	5b. In conjunction with the Rivers Council and other partners, assist with developing a stable source of funds to support watershed councils.	This is an on-going activity.

Goal: Viable Natural Resource Based Industries

OBJECTIVE 1: Develop alternative business uses for farm, forest and open space lands to encourage the preservation of these lands.		ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS: Increase in farm, new natural resource-based businesses.
STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. Assist with outreach to make land owners aware of alternative business uses for their property	1a. Work with Division of Forestry, Rural Lands Coalition and forest landowners to distribute educational materials to promote the concept of alternative forest business to landowners. Distribute information through brochures, which provide an overview, as well as more detailed fact sheets in order to help landowners evaluate their lands' capability, develop their own skills, and evaluate the cost and revenues associated with each potential product.	Ongoing activity
	1b. Work with the Division of Forestry, Statewide Planning and other partners to update the State Forest Resources Management Plan	Plan completed by 6-05
	1c. Distribute challenge grants to land owners to initiate alternative forest businesses. Manage and coordinate selected projects.	Grants Distributed by 8-03. Projects completed by 10-04.

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Goal: Abundant Open Space and Recreation Opportunities		
Objective 1: Build capacity of communities to protect open space.		
STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES*	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. Assist communities and partners to plan for open space preservation.	1a. Complete the South County Greenspace Plan by including new land acquisition and vernal pool information.	Plan updated and printed by 12-04
	1b. Complete the Woonasquatucket Greenspace Plan.	Plan completed by 1-04
	1c. Explore funding sources to do Greenspace Plans in other watersheds	Ongoing activity
	1d. Increase in-house capacity to conduct GIS Greenspace analysis.	Ongoing activity

* These activities also support Livable Communities Goal

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