

**DIVISION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Work Plans 1999-2000**

**Robert W. Sutton Jr.
Chief
August 23, 1999**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Planning and Development is located organizationally within Planning and Administrative Services and the Chief of that Division reports directly to the Associate Director for Planning and Administrative Services. The Division currently has 14 full time employees. The professional disciplines are: clerical (1), professional registered engineer (5), engineering technicians (2), biologist (1), planners (2), GIS computer technician (1) Public Administrators (2). Our general responsibilities are to provide professional personnel for the purpose of managing the Departments capital development and asset protection programs; to provide professional personnel for the purpose of developing and supervising a Department land protection program; to provide professional personnel to supervise and manage a state bond funded local recreational and open space grant program; to manage the State's Natural Heritage Program; to supervise and manage the Department's Geographic Information System and to provide general service related to these activities to the public and other agencies private and public. Additionally we have an ongoing responsibility to search out and be cooperative with partners in the public and private sector that are tasked with similar responsibilities.

Personnel

Clerical: Jane Calo Engineers: Russ Chaufty, Ray Aldrich, Bob Bailey, Jay McGinn, Lisa Lawless
Engineering Technicians: Charles VanPatten, John Callan Biologist: Rick Enser, Land Acquisition Supervisor: Lisa Pointek
Local Grants Program: Dick Tierney, GIS Coordinator: Paul Jordan, Deputy Chief: Joe Dias, Chief: Bob Sutton

Operating Budget:

\$628,581.00

Capital Budget:

\$24,242,601.00

Program Highlights:

See following discussion under Capital Development and Access Protection; Land Acquisition Program; Greenways and Recreational Trails Grant Program; RI Natural Heritage Program; and Geographic Information Systems.

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Program Name and Description: **Capital Development and Asset Protection**

Mission:

To plan, design, construct and improve parks, recreational areas, recreational and commercial fishing infrastructure, dam safety programs and Department owned dam major repair, and all other capital project development throughout the State. To insure that the Department's significant infrastructure and fixed assets are kept safe and that major repairs, improvements and upgrades are planned, designed, constructed and budgeted in a systematic manner within the capital budget provided in a manner that is consistent with our mission to prevent environmental degradation.

Objective:

To systematically, professionally, and efficiently complete those capital projects identified by the Department, the Governor and the Legislature in the State of Rhode Island Five Year Capital Development Plan and to do so recognizing that the State's natural environment should be protected and enhanced in the design and construction of those capital facilities.

Program Highlights:

The reconstruction of **World War II Park** and the construction of **Button Hole Golf Course** are two examples of the Division pursuing projects consistent with the Department's strategic goals of enhancing the high quality of life and of restoring urban areas to enhance urban environmental quality. At World War II in Woonsocket we are reconstructing a swimming area to insure safe healthy swimming without destroying the aesthetics of the existing natural pond and sandy beach. At Button Hole in Providence we are realizing the urban equity goal and the strategic priority of promoting partnerships by working with the RI Golf Association to build an urban golf training center in Providence that is specifically designed for urban children who would normally not have the opportunity to learn the game of golf. Additionally we are working to provide an educational component that identifies within the golf course the natural environmental values that exist on the site.

In the **Dam Safety Program** we are developing policy recommendations consistent with our public health mission and our sustainable environment-sustainable economy that will improve our dam inspection process and our ability to identify major repairs to both public and privately owned dams. Additionally we are working on a financing plan that recognizes both the public and private responsibility for keeping the dams safe and identifies those dams that could be removed without creating environmental or economic damage. Specifically identified in the upcoming Capital Program for reconstruction of Department owned dams are: the construction of repairs to **Bowditch Dam**, and preliminary design of **Stillwater Dam**. This program is consistent with our Department Mission to protect public health, our strategic goals of Protection & Restoration and our Strategic Priorities for high priority for responding to public health risks.

The Divisions Program to **Reconstruct and Rehabilitate the Commercial Fishing Fleet Docks and Piers of Galilee and Newport** is a major capital undertaking of the next five years and will expend in excess of \$9,000,000.00. It involves the planning, design and construction management of a major reconstruction of bulkheads, fixed piers and other commercial fishing infrastructure. in Galilee and Newport. This program is consistent with DEM mission and strategic goal to provide both a sustainable environment and a sustainable economy.

Finally the Division is always open to and actively encourages design and construction solutions that are consistent with the

Department's Mission to practice an environmental ethic, and set an example. In our **Misquamicut Beach, Roger Wheeler Beach** and **Colt State Park** parking lot designs we constructed drainage basins that injected parking lot drainage back into the ground and we reduced paved surfaces with stabilized grass parking areas. At **Button Hole** we require that the golf course be managed and maintained in an environmentally safe way and not lead to any degradation of Woonasquatucket River. In all our projects we review the possibility for the use of recycled plastic lumber, composting toilets and fixtures requiring minimal water use. At **Fort Wetherill and the Goddard Horse Stable** we managed to create a legitimate Department use of the land and building that utilized only the existing developed section and did not require new buildings or infrastructure on sensitive environmental and recreational valuable open park land. At **Misquamicut Beach** we moved the new building back from the water so that we could restore an important erosion control sand dune and on the **Blackstone Bikeway** we were particularly conscious of the natural heritage value of the Ashton Meadows and the restoration of the **Cumberland Wilderness Area** in locating the Bikeway.

Goals Supported: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10,

Strategic Priorities Supported: 1, 3,

Strategies:

Implementation of a Capital Development Plan and Five Year Program:

To continue to improve the process of capital planning and budgeting, identifying and prioritizing the Departments capital planning needs and to develop annually a five year capital plan that allows the Department to systematically and continuously build new public recreational facilities and provide major renovations to existing facilities and infrastructure. To insure that the capital planning process acknowledges proper allowances of time for both planning and construction and the funds necessary in any given year are requested. To work with the Water Quality and Waste Management Divisions relative to long term pollution prevention and environmental capital improvement programs.

Design Process Strategy:

To continue to improve the coordination and communication with the operating divisions, local communities and user groups early in the design process so that the project design is compatible with and responsive to both the Division's needs, the Community's concerns and the public use anticipated. To improve the relationship between Planning and Development and other regulatory authority to insure early notification to the regulatory divisions of potential projects and to incorporate regulatory concerns into the design process. To work with the Department of Administration Purchasing Division on the consultant selection process to insure that the best architect/engineer consultant is selected in the shortest amount of time. To continue to improve our construction design and bid documents to insure high quality work, competitive bidding, and few field change orders.

Construction Project Strategy:

To provide construction management that, to the greatest degree possible keeps the projects on time and on budget. To systematically provide project progress information to the Department, Administration, Legislature and the Community.

Work Plan and Performance Measures: (see Table I Division Work Program 1999/2000 for Milestones and Performance Measures)

Partners: Operating Divisions, Department of Transportation and FHWA, Towns and Cities, Non-Profit Funding Agencies

Table I

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Baseline and Time line

Performance Measurements

Project	Project Cost	Design		Construction	
		Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Misquamicut Beach Parking Lot	\$850,000.00		7/1/99	9/15/99	4/1/00
Fort Wetherill Aquatic Resource Center	\$3,000,000.00		9/15/99	12/1/99	6/1/01
Prudence Island Sanctuary	\$150,000.00	7/1/99	8/30/99	12/99	6/30/00
Prudence Island Sanctuary Phase II	\$350,000.00	In-House, Underway		7/1/00	7/1/02
Bowdish Dam Design	\$90,000.00	10/99	6/30/00	10/00	7/1/01
Lincoln Woods Bridge	\$400,000.00	8/1/99	1/30/00	Funds Available	
Pulaski State Park GW Management Area Rest Rooms	\$600,000.00	12/1/99	10/15/99	3/15/00	3/15/01
Stillwater Dam Repair Preliminary Design	\$20,000.00	7/1/99	1/30/00		
Stillwater Dam Design	\$90,000.00	7/1/00	1/30/00	Funds Available	
Galilee Bulkhead	\$1,200,000.00	Complete		8/1/99	8/1/00
Galilee Piers E,F,G	\$350,000.00	Complete		12/1/99	7/1/00
Galilee Electrical	\$145,000.00	Complete		3/1/99	10/1/99
Newport Pier #9 Design	\$4,500,000.00	7/1/99	2/1/00	8/1/00	6/30/02
Prudence Island Pier	\$200,000.00	Complete		9/1/99	6/30/00
Goddard Park Stable	\$600,000.00		9/1/99	11/15/99	6/1/00

Table I (Cont.)

Blackstone Bikeway Segment 6	\$3,500,000.00	Complete		4/1/00	6/1/01
Blackstone Bikeway Design Segment 7	\$500,000.00	1/1/99	10/1/99	4/1/00	4/1/01
Blackstone Bikeway Ashton Bridge Design	\$200,000.00	6/1/99	1/15/00	Unscheduled by DOT	
Blackstone Bikeway Segment 4	\$1,200,000.00	11/99	7/00	Unscheduled by DOT	
Kelly House Museum	\$200,000.00	1/1/98	9/15/99	12/1/99	12/1/00
Blackstone Canal Control Gate	\$350,000.00	Complete		11/1/99	7/15/00
I295 Visitor Center	\$1,500,000.00	9/15/99	6/30/00	Unscheduled	
Trestle Trail Design	\$250,000.00	9/15/99	6/30/00	Unscheduled	
Lonsdale Drive In Restoration	\$2,000,000.00	ACOE Project underway and we are responding to their schedule			
World War II Park	\$600,000.00	1/1/99	9/1/99	11/15/99	10/30/00
Colt Park Boat Ramp Parking Area	\$250,000.00	2/98	6/98	11/1/99	4/1/00
Haines Park Boat Ramp	\$750,000.00	8/15/99	2/1/00	9/1/00	4/1/02
Pawtucket Boat Ramp	\$500,000.00	4/1/00	10/1/00	4/1/01	4/1/02
Perryville Hatchery Electrical Improvements	\$100,000.00	10/1/99	2/1/00	5/1/00	9/1/00
Lafayette Hatchery Hatch House	\$500,000.00	4/1/00	4/1/01	10/1/01	7/1/02
Barberville Fishing Pier	\$100,000.00	Complete		11/1/99	4/1/00
TOTAL	25,045,000.00				

Program Name and Description: LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Mission:

Preserve and protect the State's Farm, Forest and Open lands for purposes of natural habitat preservation, water supply protection, provision of quality outdoor recreational opportunities, and maintaining the viability of forest and farm lands and watersheds consistent with the Department's Land Protection Plan and the State Greenways Plan.

Program Highlights:

Farmland Protection: Consistent with the Department's Land Acquisition Plan and the Department's Mission to "enhance for this and future generations and protecting, managing and restoring the natural resources of the state" and "guide the utilization of the State's natural resources to provide sustainable economic opportunity..." the Department, working with the Agricultural Land Preservation Commission, has protected more than 3100 acres of land through the purchase of development rights. In budget year 2000 the Commission has available \$1,000,000.00 for acquisition of development rights, and 24 approved applications totaling in excess of 1500 acres. Farms are selected for acquisition primarily on the basis of soil quality however watershed protection and economic viability are important parts of the selection process.

Open Space and Forest Protection: The Department presently protects through public ownership approximately 50,000 acres of land and has been adding to that protection at the rate of approximately 750 to 1500 acres per year. Land protection through ownership of fee title or conservation or recreation easements is consistent with the Department's Plan, all three components of the Department's Mission Statement, and most all of the strategic goals. Most recently to insure greater urban equity in the protection of open space the Department has actively sought out opportunities to expand the size of Lincoln Woods State Park, our most heavily used urban State Park, identified the Woonasquatucket as an urban watershed for major Department concentration and worked closely with the City of East Providence to protect additional shoreline and urban open space on upper Narragansett Bay. Additionally funds are being made available for the protection of urban recreational greenways that connect the urban areas with the protected rural open space.

Partnerships: Consistent with the Strategic Priorities for FY 2000 the Division will continue to work closely with land protection partners like The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and local land trusts and individual communities to coordinate acquisitions, share costs and property management and insure a commonality of purpose, and efficiency of action. Additionally both the Department and The Nature Conservancy have identified the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed as a major concentration for land protection efforts.

Objective: To permanently protect between 750 and 1000 acres annually.

Goals Supported: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10,

Strategic Priorities Supported: 3, 5, 6,

Environmental Indicator: Acres remaining in agriculture, forests: No loss of native species: Increased size in acres of existing management areas. Additionally the Technical appendix of the State Budget Document FY2000 lists the cumulative percentage of land acquisition goal of 17,850 acres actually acquired for the following fiscal years: FY97 22%, FY98 24%, FY99 26%, FY2000 27%.

Strategies:

Continue program of acquisition of contiguous tracts of land, with emphasis on the expansion of existing recreational and mgt. areas for purposes consistent with the Department's Land Protection Plan & State Greenways Plan.

Identify large (over 50 acres) vacant, tracts contiguous with other protected lands for preservation opportunities and actively pursue acquisition of appropriate parcels.

Continue implementation of the South Shore Protection Plan, and the South County Watersheds Area under the established Federal NAWCA Program, with emphasis on partnership opportunities.

Develop protection strategy for the East Bay (Tiverton/Little Compton) area, working with The Nature Conservancy and local conservation reps.

Provide ongoing technical assistance to the Forest Legacy Program, Agricultural Land Preservation Program, RI Water Resources Board Land Acquisition Program, and others programs as needed.

Continue and expand partnerships with local land trusts, municipalities and other land preservation organizations. Provide guidance and assistance as needed for local land preservation programs. (Active: Aquidneck Island, South Kingstown, East Bay, Pawcatuck Watershed, Narrow River, South Shore). Additionally work with the Heritage River Program and EPA River Navigator, the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor Commission, and the Woonasquatucket Greenway Program utilizing the Woonasquatucket Watershed Approach.

Performance Measures:

Ongoing review by the Department's Land Acquisition Committee evaluating the specific acquisitions and the number of acres. Because the process of public land protection is a very selective process and because acquisition success is as much a function of the seller as the buyer and because land acquisition is governed by very specific laws and regulations relative to appraised value; it is difficult to be absolute in measuring performance. We have however been generally successful in protecting well in excess of 1000 acres per year when the funding is available.

Partners:

DEM, Land Acquisition Committee, Cities and Towns, RI Greenways Council, Land Trusts, Non-Profit Conservation Organizations, User Groups, Statewide Planning, Farmland Preservation Commission

LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM STATUS REPORT AS OF 9/14/99

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATI ON</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>APPRAI SAL</u>	<u>P&S</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>SU R</u>	<u>TITL E</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>F&W\$</u>	<u>89Bond \$</u>	<u>96 BOND\$</u>	<u>98 BOND\$</u>	<u>TNC\$</u>
	Tiverton	Sapowet	30	Complete	Out	Approve d	TN C/	TNC	\$525,000	\$75,000		\$350,00 0		\$100,00 0
	Glocester	GWMA	60	Limited					\$60,000					
	Lincoln	Lincoln Woods	33.8	Complete		Approve d								
	E. Providence	Crescen t Beach	1.6			Approve d								
	Portsmouth		28	Limited										
	Foster	Ponaga nset	35	Complete	sign ed	Approve d			\$20,000	\$20,000				
	S. Kingsto wn	GSMA	23.5	Complete	sign ed	Approve d			\$24,000	\$12,000		\$12,000		
	Westerly	Woody Hill	+/-100	TNC					\$200,000					
	Glocester	Durfee Hill	57	Complete	sign ed	Approve d	X	X	\$67,000			\$44,400		\$22,600
	Exeter	Arcadia	35.93	Complete	revis e				\$175,000	\$40,000		\$60,000		\$75,000
	Burrilville	Round Top	35	Limited										
	Foster	Shippee FA	60	Complete	sign ed	Approve d			\$110,000	\$55,000		\$55,000		

	Westerly	Woody Hill	22	Complete										
	Glocester	Durfee Hill	412	Complete	negot		TNC	TNC	\$350,000	\$100,000		\$100,000		\$150,000
	Charlestown				TNC									
	S. Kingstown	SSMA	1.04	Complete	Out				\$20,000					
	Westerly	Woody Hill	half of 400	Complete					\$400,000			\$400,000		
	Exeter	Arcadia	43	Complete	signed	Approved	TNC	TNC	\$200,000			\$100,000		\$100,000
	Lincoln	Lincoln Woods	33	Complete			TNC		DEM out					
	Hopkinton	Wood River	0.3	Summary	signed				\$22,000					
	Exeter	Arcadia												
	Exeter		153.37	Complete					\$400,000					\$200,000
	Cumberland		2.5											

NAWCA

	Charlestown	SSMA	39	Self-Contained	signed				\$625,000			\$400,000		
	N. Kingstown	SSMA	27	Due	NRLT				\$35,000					
	S. Kingstown	SSMA	9.3	Complete			review							

Farmland Preservation

	Charleston	SSMA	53	Complete										
	Johnston	Snake Den	70	Out										
	Westerley/Charlestown	AGLAND	50	Complete	negot									
	Warren	AGLAND	45	Out										
		AGLAND		Complete				Green						
	Portsmouth	AGLAND	~50	Complete			X	X						
	Exeter/NK	AGLAND	144	Out		Approved								
	Westerley	AGLAND	78	Out										
	SSMA	SSMA	97						\$800,000			\$200,000		\$468,000

Program Name and Description: GREENWAYS & RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM

Mission:

To encourage and assist local communities, environmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify and protect locally significant open space, greenways, and other environmentally sensitive lands and to develop and improve local recreation greenways, bikeways and other types of recreational trails.

Objectives:

Greenways and Trails Grants: To award distribute and administer approximately \$2,000,000.00 in 1998 Local Greenways and Open Space bond funds in July 1999 and July 2000 and to award, distribute and administer approximately \$600,000.00 of Symms Trail Grant funds also in July 1999 and July 2000.

To review and inspect locally approved projects to insure compliance with program rules and regulations.

Program Highlights:

Local Grants: Projects are submitted to the Department for consideration by individual cities and towns consistent with the Department’s Mission to enhance the high quality of life by protecting managing and restoring the state’s natural resources and consistent with the Strategic Goals that all Rhode Islanders have the opportunity to enjoy a diverse mix of well maintained scenic and accessible facilities and outdoor recreational opportunities. Consistent with our strategic priority for 2000 to provide grants to communities that promote “smart growth” and channel. The Division will develop a Planning Assistance Grant Program for Municipalities. Funding to support this initiative will be requested as an element of the Governor’s \$50Million Open Space Bond Proposal..

Greenways Grants 2000: The Division is presently accepting grant applications that provide 50% of the eligible funds for land acquisition and trail or other greenway infrastructure development.

Goals Supported: 1, 6, 9, 10,

Strategic Priorities Supported: 3, 6,

Environmental Indicators: Miles of trails and protected greenways added annually.

Strategies:

	Greenways and Trails	Open Space and Trails
Solicit and Review Applications	September 1, 1999	September 1, 2000
Evaluate and Score Applications	October 1, 1999	October 1, 2000
Grant Award to Localities	October 23, 1999	October 15, 2000
Administer, Project Review and Payment	Oct. 25,1999-Oct. 25, 2001	Oct. 15, 2000-Oct 15, 2002

Performance Measures:

The deadlines imposed by the Program provide one form of performance measure,. Additionally the Program has periodic oversight by the Greenways Committee and the Trails Advisory Committee. Because the grant applications are scored by a committee made up primarily of non-employees and representing a broad range of users we promote partnerships and a broader based selection process

Partners:

Cities and Towns, RI Greenways Council, Land Trusts, Non-Profit Conservation Organizations, Trail User Groups, DOT, Statewide Planning

Program Name and Description: Geographic Information System

Mission of Program:

Maintain an accurate collection of geo-spatial data and provide the capability for its use throughout the Department. This is particularly consistent with the Department's Mission to guide utilization of the State's natural resources to provide for sustainable economic opportunity, while sustaining our natural environment.

Program Highlights (2-3 sentences on status; major successes, major problems, major initiatives)

This past year the Department upgraded the position of GIS Coordinator and hired a new individual into that position. At this point there are no major problems however a potential obstacle is the actual coordination of the Division Liaison. It is critical that Division Supervisors give significant attention to the GIS Program.

Over the next two years we hope to improve both the visibility of the GIS program and the positive internal impact it can have on the entire range of DEM programs and Agency commitments. Recognizing that because it will probably continue for some time as a "one person" program the challenge is to train within each Division an individual(s) that will have the responsibility for the GIS programming in that Division. The Department coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the Divisional liaisons and insuring the accuracy of the data base.

For the purposes of properly assessing environmental impacts it is necessary to integrate GIS capability with the permit streamlining system. Permitting and other environmental information relate to geographical locations and having the ability to visually display the information on the desktop will provide a critical dimension to the permitting process. GIS will also enhance the public access to selected GIS information by spatially displaying the information in an intuitive form.

Objective:

Operational: To make the Department's Geographic Information System (GIS) functionally available to every Division within the Department of Environmental Management in FY2000.

Qualitative: To develop and expand the GIS data base and to improve the spatial and attribute accuracy of the existing and future data

Goals Supported: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10,

Strategic Priorities Supported: 3, 5, 7, 9, 10,

Environmental Indicators: GIS is a tool for tracking and analyzing Division and Department indicators

Strategies: (Operational)

Formally train at least one employee in each Division on the ArcView Software by the end of the Year.

Encourage each Division to acquire necessary hardware and ArcView software on at least one computer in each Division.

Provide a system of technical support, coordination and training that will allow each Division to develop GIS programming that is supportive of their Division goals and will ensure coordination of goals between Divisions.

Provide a major element of technology (hardware and software) for the Permit Streamlining Program.
Improve upper management awareness and appreciation of the value of the GIS program in meeting Departmental goals and obligations.

Support watershed based data development

Strategies: (Qualitative)

The qualitative goals should, in part flow from successful realization of the operational goal

Utilize summer and university interns to actually input new data and make corrections to bad data.

GIS Manager provides ongoing quality control and coordination of all changes and additions to the data base.

Performance Measurements:

Establish monthly meetings to monitor and evaluate progress.
Integrate results into Permit Streamlining project as active member of steering committee

Partners:

University of Rhode Island, Brown University, All Department Divisions, RIGIS, EPA, DOT, DOH

Program Name and Description: RHODE ISLAND NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Mission of Program:

Insure that Rhode Island’s natural habitats are managed in such a way that the biodiversity of species is maintained and the balance of the State’s ecological systems is protected..

Objective:

Insure that the mission of the Natural Heritage Program remains an institutionalized element of the Department and that decisions relative to state and local land protection programs are consistent with the Heritage Program.

Program Highlights:

Habitat Protection: Consistent with the Department’s Mission Statement to restore our natural resources and prevent environmental degradation, and the Strategic Priorities 2000 to protect critical habitat, it is important that the Heritage Program continue to be directly associated with both the Department’s land protection program, watershed management programs, and the local open space grant program to insure that land protection decisions to the greatest degree possible are consistent with natural habitat protection.

Data Base Management: Continuing to update and enhance the natural heritage database and working with the GIS program to improve statewide coverages of the natural habitat. Improve accessibility to the database so that other DEM Divisions like Wetlands, Waste Management, Water Resources and the other divisions have immediate and accurate natural heritage information upon which to base their decisions consistent with our Strategic Priority to practice fair and effective regulation and enforcement.

Goals Supported: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8,

Strategic Priorities Supported: 3, 5, 6

Environmental Indicators: No loss of native species as measured by annual survey

Strategies:

Rhode Island’s Living Legacy: Complete the writing and publication of a resource book that will contain a narrative discussion, GIS mapping and graphic art work of the State’s natural heritage. This publication will be the first of its kind for Rhode Island but will be similar in form and will compliment publications completed in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Work Plan:

1 st Draft	November 21, 1999
Final Printer Proof	February, 2000
Publication	Spring, 2000

Natural Heritage Program: Continue to inventory and monitor the State’s diverse plant and animal species to determine

their status and population trends. Manage the data base of the target species and natural communities for review of potential ecological impacts, and guide land acquisition, federal, state and local, to insure that critical habitats are protected. To coordinate with governmental and private conservation agencies and organizations.

Performance Measures:

Review of the publication at its draft form by The nature Conservancy and other experts in the field

Partners:

Federal Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, Rhode Island Natural History Survey

<p>OBJECTIVE 1: Systematically, professionally, and efficiently complete those capital projects identified by the Department, the Governor and the Legislature in the State of Rhode Island Five year Capital Development Plan and to do so recognizing that the State's natural environment should be protected and enhanced in the design and construction of those capital facilities.</p>		<p>ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS: Time, money, and energy saved due to efficient completion of proposed projects.</p>
STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<p>1. To continue to improve the process of capital planning and budgeting</p> <p>2. To insure that the capital planning process acknowledges proper allowances of time for both planning and construction</p> <p>3. To work with the Water Quality and waste Management Divisions relative to long term pollution prevention and environmental capital improvement programs</p> <p>4. To work with the Department of Administration Purchasing Division on the consultant selection process to insure that the best architect/engineer consultant is selected in the shortest amount of time</p> <p>5. To provide construction management that to the greatest degree possible keeps the projects on time and on budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Misquamicut Beach Parking Lot • Begin construction on Fort Wetherill Aquatic Center • Finish construction on Prudence Island Sanctuary Phase I • Begin construction on Pulaski State Park Rest Rooms • Finish Galilee Bulkhead • Finish Galilee Piers E,F,G • Finish Galilee electrical • Finish Prudence Island Pier • Finish Goddard Park Stable • Begin construction on Kelly House Museum • Finish Construction of Blackstone Canal Control Gate • Begin construction of World War II Park • Complete Colt Park Boat Ramp Parking Area • Begin Perryville Hatchery Electrical Improvements 	<p>Projects finished, or started on time schedule, (see table 1)</p>

<p>OBJECTIVE 2: Preserve and protect the State’s Farm, Forest and Open lands for purposes of natural habitat preservation, water supply protection, provision of quality outdoor recreational opportunities, and maintaining the viability of forest and farm lands and watersheds consistent with the Department’s Land Protection Plan and the State Greenways Plan.</p>		<p>ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR: To permanently protect between 750 and 1000 acres annually.</p>
STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<p>1. Continue program of acquisition of contiguous tracts of land, with emphasis on the expansion of existing recreational and management areas for purposes consistent with the Department’s Land Protection Plan & State Greenways Plan.</p> <p>2. Identify large (over 50 acres) vacant, tracts contiguous with other protected lands for preservation opportunities and actively pursue acquisition of appropriate parcels.</p> <p>3. Continue implementation of the South Shore Protection Plan, and the South County Watersheds Area under the established Federal NAWCA Program, with emphasis on partnership opportunities.</p> <p>4. Develop protection strategy for the East Bay (Tiverton/Little Compton) area, working with The Nature Conservancy and local conservation reps.</p> <p>5. Provide ongoing technical assistance to the Forest Legacy Program, Agricultural Land Preservation Program, RI Water Resources Board Land Acquisition Program, and others programs as needed.</p>	<p>Acres remaining in agriculture, forests: No loss of native species:</p>	<p>Increased size in acres of existing management areas.</p>

OBJECTIVE 3: To encourage and assist local communities, environmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify and protect locally significant open space, greenways, and other environmentally sensitive lands and to develop and improve local recreation greenways, bikeways and other types of recreational trails.		ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR: Miles of trails and protected greenways added annually.
STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. To encourage and assist local communities, environmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify and protect locally significant open space, greenways, and other environmentally sensitive lands and to develop and improve local recreation greenways, bikeways and other types of recreational trails.	To award distribute and administer approximately \$2,000,000.00 in 1998 Local Greenways and Open Space bond funds in July 1999 and July 2000 and to award, distribute and administer approximately \$600,000.00 of Symms Trail Grant funds also in July 1999 and July 2000. To review and inspect locally approved projects to insure compliance with program rules and regulations.	Administer, Project Review and Payment for Greenways and Trails: Oct. 25, 1999-Oct. 25, 2001 Open Space and Trails: Oct. 15, 2000-Oct 15, 2002

OBJECTIVE 4: Maintain an accurate collection of geo-spatial data and provide the capability for its use throughout the Department. This is particularly consistent with the Department's Mission to guide utilization of the State's natural resources to provide for sustainable economic opportunity, while sustaining our natural environment.		ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR: GIS is a tool for tracking and analyzing divisions and Department indicators
STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<p>1. Operational: To make the Department's Geographic Information System (GIS) functionally available to every Division within the Department of Environmental Management in FY2000.</p> <p>2. Qualitative: To develop and expand the GIS data base and to improve the spatial and attribute accuracy of the existing and future data</p> <p>3. Support watershed based data development</p> <p>4. Provide a major element of technology (hardware and software) for the Permit Streamlining Program</p> <p>5. Improve upper management awareness and appreciation of the value of the GIS program in meeting Departmental goals and obligations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally train at least one employee in each Division on the ArcView Software by the end of the Year. • Encourage each Division to acquire necessary hardware and ArcView software on at least one computer in each Division • Provide a system of technical support, coordination and training that will allow each Division to develop GIS programming that is supportive of their Division goals and will ensure coordination of goals between Divisions. • Establish monthly meetings to monitor and evaluate progress • Utilize summer and university interns to actually input new data and make corrections to bad data. 	

OBJECTIVE 5: Insure that Rhode Island's natural habitats are managed in such a way that the biodiversity of species is maintained and the balance of the State's ecological systems is protected...		ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR No loss of native species as measured by annual survey
STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<p>1. Insure that the mission of the Natural Heritage Program remains an institutionalized element of the Department and that decisions relative to state and local land protection programs are consistent with the Heritage Program.</p>	<p>Complete the writing and publication of a resource book that will contain a narrative discussion, GIS mapping and graphic art work of the State's natural heritage.</p> <p>Continue to inventory and monitor the State's diverse plant and animal species to determine their status and population trends.</p> <p>Manage the data base of the target species and natural communities for review of potential ecological impacts, and guide land acquisition, federal, state and local, to insure that critical habitats are protected.</p> <p>To coordinate with governmental and private conservation agencies and organizations</p>	<p>Publication produced Spring 2000</p>