

The RI RC&D Area Council, Inc.



"HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND SINCE 1973"

Dear Rhode Island Conservation Leader,

The Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc. (RIRC&D) is seeking your input into the development of our new Area Plan.

Every five years RI RC&D Council prepares an **Area Plan** that serves as its **strategic plan** for the RC&D Area. The plan documents the goals the Council wants to accomplish through the RC&D Program for the five-year time period based on well-defined needs and opportunities. The planning process is intended to be a coordinated planning effort with other partners to ensure that the RIRC&D obtains significant input toward development and implementation of the new RI RC&D Area Plan.

We invite you to participate in this process. Your responses...and those of other state conservation leaders...will help the Council focus its program of work. In doing so, you will help allocate federal, state and local resources into important projects and activities in Rhode Island

As a starting point, we would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to complete the important attached short survey and return it to our office. As an alternative you can complete the short survey electronically by clicking on the attached link which takes a few seconds to open:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ZqgkKz7dWEdXqSK_2bHeFiZg_3d_3d.

This will give us a starting point for the identification of areas that the Council should concentrate during the next five years. The sample size for this study is relatively small, so your help is critical to our success. Please ...complete this survey and return it to us as soon as you can.

Thanks again.

Harriet Powell, President

1. How important do you think it is for Rhode Island to maintain the rural character of its remaining rural areas? (check the rating that applies)

Critical Very Important Somewhat Important
 Not Very Important Not a Concern Not sure

2. The RI Resource Conservation and Development Area Council has identified four principal areas elements that an area plan must focus on. These are **Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development, and Land Management**. Considering the many groups that are focused on each of these areas, please tell us how important you think it is for the Council to focus on each of the following areas.

60 Quaker Lane • Suite 45 • Warwick, Rhode Island • 02886 • Tel: 401-822-8877 • Fax: 401-828-0433

RIRC&D is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Please tell us how important you think it is for the Council to focus on each of the following areas related to Land Management and Conservation. Please check one box for each.

A. Land Management and Conservation

	Critical	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not a Concern
1. Improved Grasslands management, conservation, forage production and utilization					
2. Improved Forestlands management, conservation, timber (forest products) production and utilization					
3. Improved Wildlife management, conservation and wildlife habitat management and utilization					
4. Improved coordination, planning and design of urban growth and developments for natural resource conservation and enhancement					
5. Increased land user participation in USDA Programs for conservation assistance					
6. Invasive species management & control					
7. Recruit and train staff to provide conservation technical assistance to land users					
8. Increased utilization options for on-farm animal wastes and improved on-farm nutrient management					
9. Conservation and protection of rural farmlands and the family farm concept					
10. Conservation and protection of forestland					
11. Increased agricultural diversification and appropriate related market support (alternative crops, niche markets, organics, specialty crops)					
12. Watershed based planning and zoning					
13. Recreational trail planning, development, and installation					
14. Alternative Energy crops to include woody biomass, etc.					
15. Carbon Credits; Marketing Opportunities for Farm and Forest Owners					
16. Enhanced public understanding of the public benefits of land conservation					
<i>Other - Please list any additional priority concerns/issues you may have on page 5.</i>					

Please tell us how important you think it is for the Council to focus on each of the following areas related to Water Management and Conservation. Please check one box for each.

B. Water Management and Conservation

	Critical	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not a Concern
1. Increased land user information, education and awareness about USDA Programs and best management practices for water quality benefits on agricultural lands					
2. Reduced contaminated run off and sedimentation from agricultural lands					
3. Reduced contaminated run off and sedimentation from urban lands					
4. Establishment of citizen led, grassroots organizations to employ watershed stewardship programs					
5. Ground water quality and contamination issues					
6. Surface water quality and contamination issues					
7. Public water supply quantity, quality and delivery system improvements					
8. Watershed-based Planning and Zoning					
9. Urban storm water runoff treatment systems					
10. Improved riparian forests conservation & management					
11. Improved Wildlife habitat management and conservation					
12. Invasive species management & control					
13. Enhanced public understanding of the public benefits of water resource conservation					
<i>Other - Please list any additional priority concerns/issues you may on page 5.</i>					

Please tell us how important you think it is for the Council to focus on each of the following areas related to “Community Development”. Please check one box for each.

C. Community Development

	Critical	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not a Concern
1. Improved rural fire protection and emergency services					
2. Increased and improved recreational/community/activity facilities					
3. Road/Highway and Street improvements					
4. Promote effective planning to balance economic development and land conservation statewide					
5. Business expansions/job creation/encourage alternative enterprises					
6. Improved water and waste water treatment facilities (both urban and rural)					
7. Maintenance of existing and development of new infrastructure that enhances economic, social and/or community growth					
8. Improved protection of historical sites, artifacts, documents, etc.					
9. Workforce training and skill development					
10. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)					
11. Enhance public understanding of the value of land and water conservation to healthy communities					
12. Assistance with grants and loans					
13. Assistance with marketing					
14. Assistance with business development					
<i>Other - Please list any additional priority concerns/issues you may have on page 5.</i>					

D. Please tell us about yourself (Please check the appropriate box for each question).

1. In completing this survey, what is your organizational affiliation?

Federal/State Agency	
Municipal Government	
Not-for-profit	
For profit company	
Interested Citizen/Volunteer	

2. County where your agency/group does work? (Check all that apply)

Providence County	
Kent County	
Washington County	
Newport County	
Bristol County	

3. Finally, do you have comments about how we can improve the environment, quality of life, and economy of the communities we serve?

4. Would you consider getting involved with RI RC&D to carry out activities with a special emphasis on natural resources, to improve the environmental, social, and economic welfare of the citizens of Rhode Island?

Yes	
No	

5. Optional – If yes to Question #4, please provide the following contact information.

Name:	
Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	State/Zip Code
Email Address:	
Telephone Number:	

OTHER

Please list any additional priority concerns/issues you may have.

OTHER	Critical	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not a Concern
Land Management					
Land Conservation					
Water Resource Management					
Community Development					

Thank You Very Much for Your Time and Assistance

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**Please return your completed questionnaire and comments to:
Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council
60 Quaker Lane, Suite 45, Warwick, RI 02886.
Questions? Please call 401-822-8877**