

Grow Smart RI Land-Use Training Collaborative Final Report (RISPP-2006-06)

The original scope of work for the project called for the Collaborative to produce a total of 18 training workshops, totaling the equivalent of 30 evenings of training between June 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. In June, the scope was revised and the end date was extended to August 15, 2007.

During the grant period the Collaborative presented a total of 18 workshops that covered 9 different topics:

- *State Candidates Forum on Smart Growth*
- *Local Candidates Forum on Smart Growth*
- *Conservation Development* (offered 6 times)
- *Making Good Land-Use Decisions* (offered 4 times)
- *Community Planning in Washington County*
- *Access Management*
- *Planners Forum on Mixed Use*
- *Mixed-Use Design*
- *Housing Financing/ Overview of Housing Progress Reports* (offered as a combined workshop)

In addition to offering *Making Good Land-Use Decisions*, a program that has been the mainstay of our training for municipal officials since 2001, the Collaborative developed and presented eight other programs for the first time. The focus of many of the workshops this year was on implementation – how to carry out a number of smart growth strategies such as conservation development, access management and mixed-use design. In addition to the actual presentations, training materials were provided for every workshop except the Planners Forum on Mixed Use.*

A total of four hundred and thirteen local officials, planners, development and design professionals and citizens attended the workshops. .

The Land-Use Training Collaborative is very much a team effort. Grow Smart's Director of Programs and Training Coordinator staffed the collaborative effort, providing leadership in new program development, scheduling workshops and handling all logistics, coordinating registration, and managing the production of workshop materials.

The Collaborative's ability to produce and present programs on a limited budget depends on the participation of its members. More than twenty different organizations are active in the Collaborative. They include:

American Planning Association/RI Chapter	RI Department of Environmental Management
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission	RI Division of Planning/Statewide Planning Program
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission	RI Department of Health
Housing Network of Rhode Island	RI Department of Transportation
Local Initiatives Support Corporation	RI Economic Policy Council
Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	RI Housing
RI Association of Conservation Commissions	RI Land Trust Council
RI Builders Association	RI League of Cities & Towns
	RI Sea Grant/URI Coastal Resources Center
	RI Water Resources Board
	URI Cooperative Extension Program
	Washington County Regional Planning Council

A number of Collaborative members participated in the development and delivery of the new workshops and materials. The Collaborative also met as a group and in subcommittees to work on other initiatives. These included:

- Establishment of a web-based calendar (www.communityconnectionril.org) on which Collaborative members post workshops, conferences, and other programs related to land use planning and natural resource protection. The calendar provides “one-stop shopping” for Rhode Islanders seeking information, and it also helps the various entities offering programs to avoid scheduling conflicts and topic duplication.
- Development of a glossary of land-use planning terms, will be available on line this fall.
- Development of a template for smart growth case studies.

The other key partners that make the program possible are the land-use attorneys, architects, developers, planners and other professionals who donate their services to help develop and to present various programs.

* A copy of the training materials for each workshop is on file at the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program, and copies are available on request from Grow Smart Rhode Island, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.