

Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Project Summary

Project Title: Updating and Maintaining Rhode Island's Conservation Lands Database

Goal: Update the protected lands database for "local and NGO conservation and park lands" and develop a system to keep current and accurate GIS data on all conservation properties in RI that are protected from future development.

Brief Description: Stewardship of our conservation lands starts with knowing where they are. Prior to this project, the best data available on lands that are protected from future development have not been updated since early in 2006. DEM, the custodian of this database, does not have the resources to reach out to land trusts and municipalities to obtain and update data on an ongoing basis; therefore, potentially thousands of acres of protected lands were not reflected in RIGIS, the central database. The purpose of this project was to work with DEM and the conservation community to: 1) update the existing database so that it accurately reflects lands conserved throughout the state – and especially within the last two years, and 2) develop a reliable and simple system where new property acquisitions will be promptly added to the statewide inventory of conservation lands.

Deliverables:

1. Updated "NGO conservation and park lands" database, including all lands that have been conserved through spring 2009. These data will ultimately reside on the RIGIS web site.
2. Recommendations to CSC and RIDEM on how to improve upon the current system to ensure that RIDEM gets updated maps and information from land trusts and communities.

Project Status: The project was completed in 2009.

CSC Project Coordinator: Janet Coit, The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island, 159 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02906

Project Personnel: Michelle Sheehan, Paul Jordan