

CSC Project Synopsis -- 2012

Project Title: Land Trust Trail Mapping & Coordinated Website for Trail Information

Goal: To improve management of public access to protected lands and at the same time promote greater public awareness and use of land trust trails by ensuring that: land trusts with trails open to the public have maps for those trails; and information and trail maps for land trust trails are easily accessible to Rhode Island residents and visitors.

Brief Description: One of the primary reasons that land trusts protect land is to provide residents of their community with places to get outdoors. Management of public access to protected lands is important for sound stewardship. Thus, many land trusts develop trails on their protected properties to encourage and manage public use. Another stewardship issue for trails is promoting safe use.

The public is often not aware of the land trust trails that are available for their use and enjoyment right in their home community and on land trust preserves that protect special places across the state. This project proposes to:

- assist 7 land trusts that do not have good trail maps for their trails, develop and produce a trail map; and
- compile information on land trusts trails across the state that are mapped and place them on a common website so that they can be easily located and downloaded by trail users. We propose to expand the ExploreRI website (which currently has canoe access and water "blue" trail information) and add a section on walking trails. Our initial effort will be to provide information on land trust trails. The site can be expanded in the future to add information on other trails. The website will increase the visibility and use of land trust trails across the state. Readily available trail maps will also help land trusts protect sensitive areas by helping visitors to their preserve know where the trails are and stay on the trails instead of walking off the trails into sensitive areas that the land trusts are trying to protect.

Deliverables: The deliverables for this project are:

1. PDF maps of trails for 7 land trust properties not currently mapped
2. Set-up for the Explore RI website so that it can accommodate and present information on land trails
3. Information on land trust trails that have maps posted on ExploreRI website.
4. GIS information on trails mapped as part of this project will be provided to RIDEM for addition to the trail database that they are developing for the state.

Timetable and Benchmarks:

Nov. Dec. 2011	- Develop a template for soliciting trail information for Explore RI and distribute this to land trusts with a due date
December 2011	- Issue a RFP for land trusts that need their trails mapped – select 7.
Dec. – March 2012	- Contract with consultants to assist land trusts in producing maps.
Dec. - March 2012	- Contract with ExploreRI webmaster to set up the site so that it can accommodate land trail information
January – June	- Post information about land trust trails on ExploreRI - Work with ExploreRI webmaster to establish protocol and cost for adding other trails and trail maps to the website
May 2012	- Send GIS information for trails mapped to RIDEM.
2012 January	- Issue check for \$6,600 to the RILTC with a clear statement that this funding should be used for the land trust trail mapping initiative.

Budget:

Amount	Purpose
\$3150	Develop GIS basemaps for trails on 7 land trust properties(\$450 each)
\$2450	Prepare trail maps for each of 7 land trust properties (\$350 each)
\$1000	Website design & Set-up for trail maps and information

Total \$ 6,600*

**Note: This is only a partial project budget assumes additional funding from other grants to cover additional project costs. Total project budget is \$12,440 + many volunteer hours and staff time coordinating the project.*

Payments will be made to the fiscal agent for the project:

Fiscal sponsor for RI Land Trust Council is Third Sector New England

Payment will be made to: TSNE- RI Land Trust Council at
Rhode Island Land Trust Council
PO Box 633
Saunderstown, RI 02874

Project oversight will be done by: Rupert Friday, Director, RI Land Trust Council.