

Forest Action Plan

Created by the National Association of State Forests and the Department of Environmental Management, the Forest Action plan works to create goals, visions, and policies aimed at conserving, protecting, and enhancing the forests of Rhode Island. The forest action plan also has what's called the BMP program (best management practices); this program works with private landowners and local governments to spread awareness of useful land management and forestry practices. The Forest Action Plan was set in place in 2010 by all 50 states. Additionally, the plan is updated every ten years to ensure that the plan is working effectively and efficiently. Not only does the plan spread awareness and set policies in place, but the plan also helps raise funding for the conservation of Rhode Island forests.

Additionally, The Forest Action plan benefits Rhode Island's many ecosystems because the plan ensures that forests are protected, restores forests that have been damaged, and plants new trees and vegetation to enhance existing forests. Trees are essential for absorbing pollutants in the air and helping clean the atmosphere. Trees also help with absorbing excess water, which helps prevent flooding. The plan can be beneficial on an economic and social level as well. As mentioned previously, this plan helps enhance, restore, and protect the natural beauty of Rhode Island. Private landowners can also learn how to manage their land better, which benefits the owners tremendously as most of the time forests are used to generate a profit from their natural resources.



PROTECT. CONSERVE. ENHANCE.

Furthermore, there can be a few drawbacks to the program, such as being costly to implement, hard to enforce/ manage the policies set in place by the plan, and also the plan only updates every ten years meaning that some policies can be ineffective and need to be revised. Some factors that also need to be taken into consideration regarding this plan are the budget that it takes to successfully run the plan. The plan also takes a lot of time and volunteers/ workers to work successfully.

Overall, The Forest Action Plan is a really great program that helps protect forests not only in Rhode Island but also nationwide. The plan is vital to help protect, preserve, and restore forests in the United States, which is crucial as forests are a huge factor in a healthy ecosystem.

Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program was created in 1990 to protect and conserve forests that would otherwise be torn down for commercial use. The program was a result of a partnership between the USDA, RI DEM, and Forest Services. The forests that can be eligible for participation in the program are forests that are within the legacy area boundaries and forests that are greater than 25 acres. This program is vital in protecting Rhode Island's forests because it protects forests that would be torn down, which in turn helps protect local wildlife from habitat loss. This also helps protect water resources within the forest, which is hugely important as there is only a limited amount of freshwater

resources in the world.

So many benefits come along with the Forest Legacy Program. Firstly, healthy and abundant forests are vital for the health of not only the planet but people as well. Forests help clean the air and control flooding, and forests located near freshwater sources also help clean the water. Hence, it is vital that this program along with other projects that help conserve Rhode Island's forests. This program is also very beneficial for private landowners, who may have a hard time managing their land efficiently. However, there are some factors that need to be taken into consideration when implementing this program. First, this program can be very costly to implement as it requires a lot of resources and workers to help conserve large forests.

Furthermore, some of the policies in the program were made many years ago, hence, not all of the policies may be effective and need to be updated. Not only can updating policies take a long time, but implementing new policies into the program can also take a long period of time to complete. There also could be a large amount of controversy and pushback from larger corporations and their workers, as a lot of bigger companies require natural resources from forests in order to gain revenue. Overall, this is a valuable program that helps to protect and conserve the forests of Rhode Island.



Providence Neighborhood Planting Program

The Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP) is a small program specifically geared toward helping the urban centers of Providence, Rhode Island. The program is a partnership between the Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Providence Neighborhood Planting Program Fund, the City of Providence, and Providence community members. The program also works closely with the Forestry Division of the Providence Parks Department. This program relies heavily on volunteers to plant trees throughout the city, and this is done in hopes that the trees will help prevent flooding, reduce excess carbon in the atmosphere, and help to reduce air temperatures. Along with planting trees throughout the city, the program works to educate the community on the importance of urban forests and tree equity.

The program has many benefits. These benefits include, but are not limited to, bringing together smaller communities through volunteer work, making the city of Providence more aesthetically pleasing and green, and preventing costly damage from flooding. Like any other program, there are some factors that need to be taken into consideration. Firstly, this program relies almost entirely on community volunteers, which at times can be very hard to obtain. Additionally, when not being sponsored or helped by outside organizations, this program can be costly to run. However, this program is a great way to bring the Providence community together and implement green into an otherwise industrial city.



Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

The Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization is an outreach program set in place to improve the implementation of the RI Farm, Forest, and Open Space (FFOS) Program. This program mainly works through outreach efforts. The outreach is geared towards increasing the proper management of woodlands by providing technical assistance to private landowners. The program also promotes Forestry Best Management Practices and participates in the Rhode Island Woodland Partnership. Members of the organization also fight deforestation through monitoring state and local legislation and ordinances that may affect the ownership and management of woodlands.

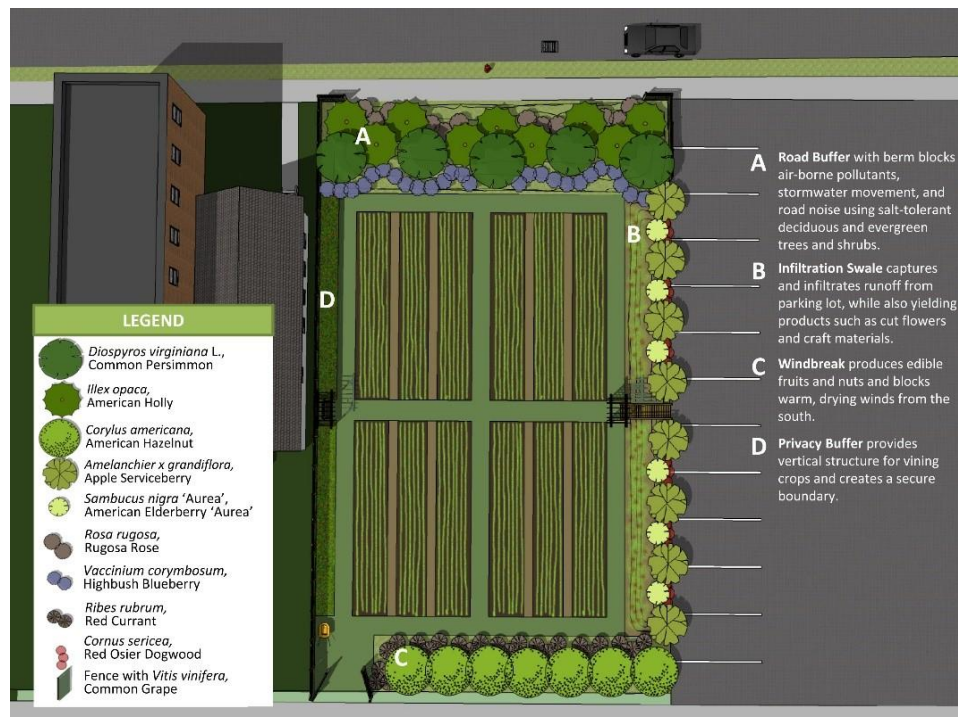
Moreover, there are pros and cons to this program. Like many of the other forestry programs, this program is helping fight deforestation and protecting Rhode Island forests, which in turn helps clean the air, prevent flooding, and clean freshwater sources. However, this program takes a lot of time to implement and a lot of volunteers and workers to run the program effectively. Because this program is run by a smaller organization, it may be difficult to receive enough funding and donations to keep the organization running.



Urban Agroforestry

The University of Missouri and the University of Rhode Island have recently created a study/ project involving Urban Agroforestry. The project involves the planting of multiple different plant species, often plants that produce fruits and other edible crops, in an urban setting. There are numerous uses for the different plant species being planted. Those purposes are crop production, cleaning the air/ filtering air pollutants, providing wind barriers, reducing noise, and absorbing excess rainwater.

There are numerous benefits to this project. To name a few, the project will provide fresh fruit and vegetables to the local community, clean the air, reduce road noise, absorb excess rainwater, and make the city more aesthetically pleasing. This project is also more affordable to upkeep and install than traditional concrete barricades, gutters, etc. The “garden” that is created as a result of this project also creates a place for the community to gather. However, there are a few things that need to be kept in mind in regards to this project. Firstly, this project can be hard to implement. Finding the space, workers, funding, and time to install these urban agroforestry gardens can be hard to do. The space also takes a long time to become functional. Additionally, while agroforestry can be cheaper, it's not always as effective as traditional concrete barricades, gutters, etc.



Urban Watershed Forestry

Urban watershed forestry combines forestry with watershed-based goals to help with land management and the protection of the environment. The main goals of urban watershed forestry are to protect undeveloped forest, improve forest health, and reforest land through replanting or natural regeneration to increase watershed forest cover and increase forest canopy. There are a variety of benefits and reasons the state of Rhode Island is combining forestry with watershed management. These benefits can include reducing stormwater runoff and flooding, improving regional air quality, reducing channel erosion, improving soil and water quality, providing habitats for wildlife, and reducing air and water temperatures. The state policies and laws help bring communities together to replant/protect the forest and protect freshwater sources, ensuring that Rhode Island doesn't have to spend money trying to clean polluted freshwater or desalinate saltwater.

However, there are a few factors that do need to be taken into consideration. Firstly, these policies and laws can take a long time to create and implement. Replanting and regenerating forest also takes a lot of time, energy, and workers to accomplish. Additionally, the fieldwork, laws, and policies all can be very costly. However, this is a great combination of departments in Rhode Island and is a vital method of action for protecting forests and watersheds.



Links Used

<https://www.stateforesters.org/districts/rhode-island/>

<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/agriculture-and-forest-environment/forest-environment/forestry-info-0>

<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/agriculture-and-forest-environment/forest-environment/forest-legacy>

<https://cwp.org/urban-watershed-forestry/>

<https://dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/urban-forestry/green-infrastructure.php>

<https://centerforagroforestry.org/urban-agroforestry/>

<https://www.rifco.org/>

<https://pnpp.org/uf/>