



RHODE ISLAND  
LAND AND WATER PARTNERSHIP

# Updating the RI SCORP

Outdoor Recreation in Your Community

# Organization of this Session

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- Begin with a Brief Review of:
  - Need for the SCORP
  - How the SCORP fits into the context of the State Guide Plan
  - Our public involvement process
  - Writing of the SCORP
  - How you can get involved
- Questions and Answers



# Our Presenters Include

- Michelle Sheehan,  
RIDEM
- Jim Riordan, Weston &  
Sampson



An aerial photograph of a crowded beach. The beach is filled with people, many of whom are sitting on towels or blankets. Numerous colorful beach umbrellas are scattered across the sand. The ocean is visible in the background, and the sky is clear. The overall scene depicts a busy, popular beach destination.

# The Need for the SCORP



# RI Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

To outline a vision for the **future parks, recreation and open space system**, based upon **community needs and priorities**, changing **demographics** and changes in the community including impacts associated with **climate change** and emerging **recreation trends**

# SCORP serves three main purposes

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- 1) 5 year plan for use of Land and Water Conservation Fund. [National Park Service](#)
- 2) State Guide Plan element – long range outdoor recreation plan. [RI Division of Planning](#)
- 3) Guides DEM's Outdoor Recreation Grant program. [DEM](#)
  - a. Also serves as the State Recreational Trails Plan



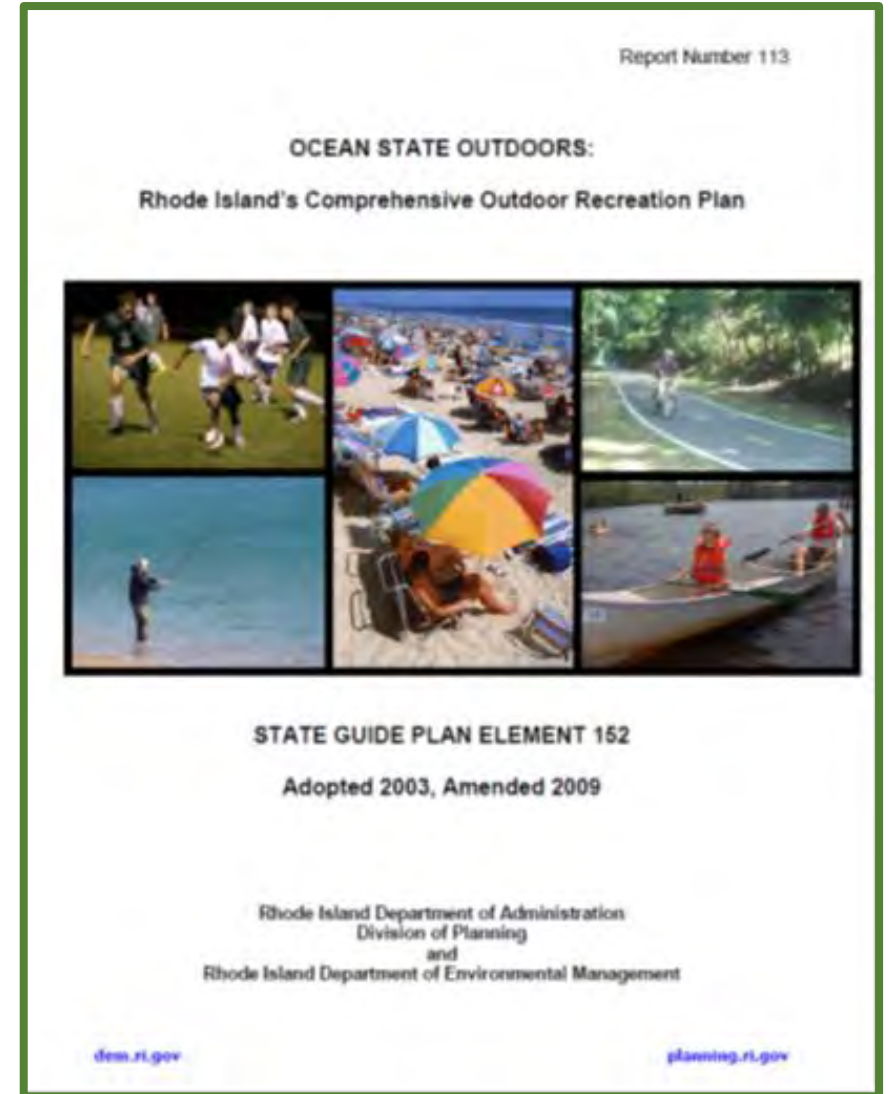
# USE OF THE SCORP AS A STATE GUIDE PLAN ELEMENT

**Sets long-range policy for the State**

**Means to evaluate and coordinate projects of state importance**

**Sets goals & polices for community comprehensive plans**

**Serve as a general sources of background information on the topic**



# Outdoor Recreation Grant Program

- SCORP provides guidance for our RI Outdoor Recreation Grants
- Distributed \$14 million to municipalities since 2014. Another \$5m in 2020 is anticipated
- The SCORP outlines the scoring criteria that will be used to score applications – criteria will reflect the goals and policies in the SCORP





# Recreational Trails Program

- Program is in flux due to new Federal Highway Rules
- New calendar of funding rounds – every other year
- Projects must be completed within 12 months
- Anticipated application round this fall





Chase Farm, Lincoln



Salty Brine State Beach, Narragansett

# How does the SCORP impact me?

Sets priorities for funding recreation improvements and additions

Informs state and local project decision-making – where do you want us to spend state and federal \$\$ ??



Central Avenue Park, E. Providence

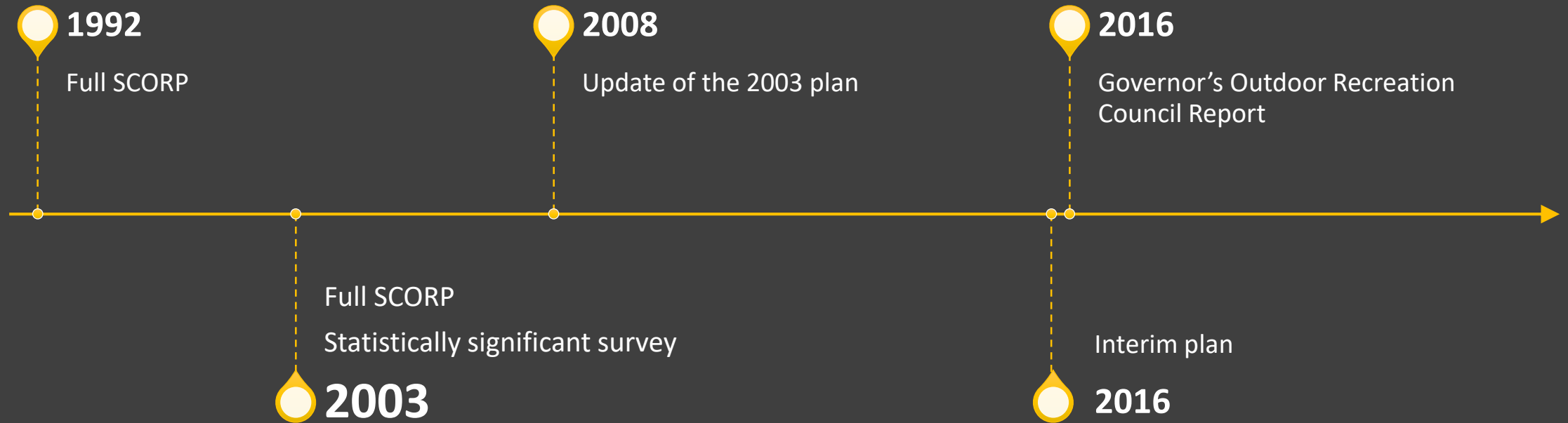
Joslin Spray Park, Providence



Calf Pasture Bike Path, North Kingstown



# Recent SCORP history – lead up to the 2019-2023 SCORP





# The Economic Impact Of RHODE ISLAND STATE PARKS



Lincoln Woods State Park



Roger W. Wheeler State Beach



Pulaski State Park



East Bay Bike Path

The value of Rhode Island's network of historic parks, bikeways and other recreational facilities goes beyond providing beautiful places and scenic greenways for public enjoyment. This network is an important contributor to the state's economy and ability to attract new people and businesses to Rhode Island. Each year, our parks generate jobs and revenue that support both state and local economies. In partnership with the University of Rhode Island, the R.I. Department of Environmental Management commissioned a study to examine the economic impact of the 22 major recreational facilities under its management.

## 2016 SNAPSHOT:



**DEM**  
RHODE ISLAND



www.DEM.RI.gov  
/RhodeIslandDEM  
@RhodeIslandDEM

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND



**1:67**

EXISTING STAFFING LEVELS EQUATE TO 1 FULL TIME EMPLOYEE FOR EVERY 67 MAINTAINED ACRES:  
**BEST PRACTICE IS 1:30**



**37.2%**  **INCREASE**  
**IN BEACH VISITATION**  
ALONE FROM 2010 TO 2017, 9.4 MILLION VISITORS ANNUALLY TO THE PARK SYSTEM



**> \$50 MILLION**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS**  
IDENTIFIED DUE TO AGING FACILITIES AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE



**123**  **42**  
**FULL TIME STAFFING**  
HAS DECREASED BY **67%** SINCE 1989

## RI State Parks Organizational Management and Operations Study

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# SCORP Timeline

# Working Group

- Department of Environmental Management
- Division of Planning at Department of Administration
- With technical assistance from:



Weston & Sampson

**Landscape Elements  
LLC**



# Advisory Committee

- DEM
- DOH
- DOA
- Parks & Recreation Directors
- Rivers Council
- Municipal Planner
- Save The Bay
- The Nature Conservancy
- RI Audubon Society
- RI Saltwater Anglers Assoc.
- RI Bicycle Coalition
- REI
- RI Canoe and Kayak Association
- YMCA Greater Providence
- Johnson & Wales University
- Progresso Latino





Public Involvement



# OUTREACH PLAN

Project  
Website

Online Survey  
Map/Static  
Story Map

Roundtable  
Discussions

Surveys

- Recreation Directors
- General Public

Interviews

Public Meetings

# SCORP Website

SHARE YOUR IDEAS  
at  
www.dem.ri.gov/scorp



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Rhode Island Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) website. The header features the DEM Rhode Island logo, a search bar, and social media icons. The main navigation menu includes Home, About Us, Offices & Divisions, Online Services, Events, In the News, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Ocean State Outdoors" and "Rhode Island's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)". It features a carousel of images showing people cycling and children playing in a park. A sidebar on the right contains "SCORP Quick Links" such as Overview, Get Involved, Resources/Documents, About the SCORP, and Interactive Map. A "Share Your Ideas!" section at the bottom right encourages user input.

DEM  
RHODE ISLAND

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT / STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

## Ocean State Outdoors

Rhode Island's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

1 of 6

Welcome to the home of the Rhode Island Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The Project Team, led by Rhode Island DEM and the Division of Statewide Planning,

### SCORP Quick Links

- Overview
- Get Involved
- Resources/Documents
- About the SCORP
- Interactive Map

### Share Your Ideas!

We want your input to learn what outdoor recreation challenges need to be addressed statewide. Share your observations with us!

# Online Survey Map

What is working

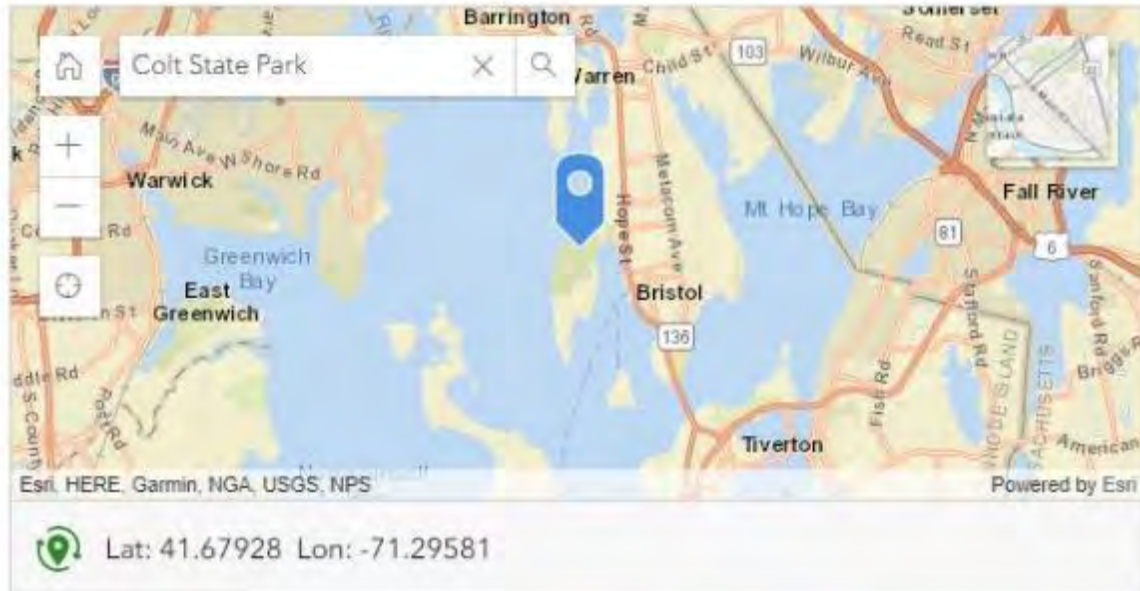
What could be improved

What's missing

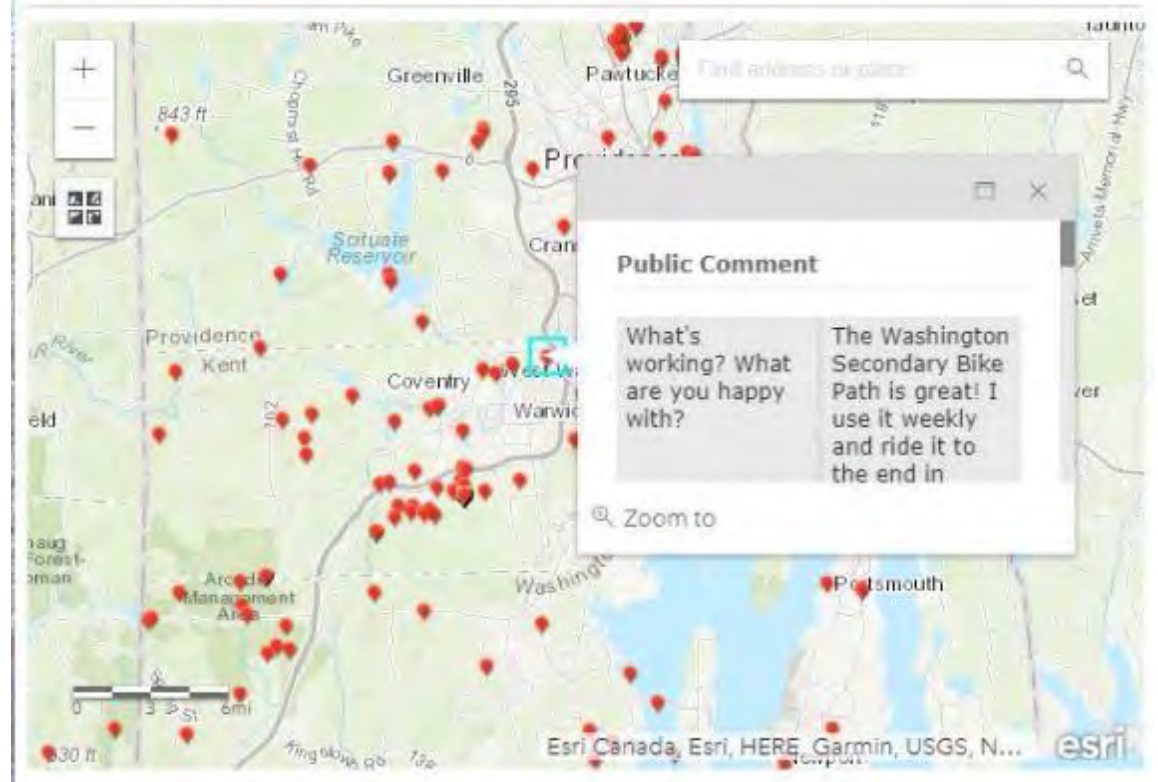
Go to [www.dem.ri.gov/scorp](http://www.dem.ri.gov/scorp)

## Where is the activity/facility you are commenting on?\*

Next, pan the map to navigate the pin to the desired location. You can also type in the name of the site/facility, the address, or the street it is located on to scale the map to the general location. This map is for planning purposes only - we will not be following up on individual comments.



## RI SCORP Submissions





# Roundtable Discussions

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- Hunting/Fishing
- Trails/ATV/Mountain Biking
- Health
- Camping/Winter Recreation (Ice-Skating, Cross-Country Skiing, Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowmobiling, etc.)
- Boating/Paddling/Freshwater or Shoreline Access, Beach or Pool Access, Swimming
- Biking (Dedicated Bike Paths/Lanes, Signed-Shared Roadways)
- Parks/Playgrounds (Skate Parks, Splash/Spray Parks)
- Access to Outdoor Recreation (ADA/Universal Access, Evening/Night-time Access)
- General Recreation (3)

# Key Findings

- What's Working
  - Camping
  - Trails
  - Beaches
  - Access to the shore
- What could be improved
  - Need for more effective communication about assets/amenities
  - Need for more information/signage at sites
  - Better coordination between user groups and DEM



# Key Findings (continued)

- What's missing
  - Dedicated ATV sites
  - User groups want to work more closely with DEM on trail maintenance
  - Historic context integration at sites
  - Outfitters to get folks on waterways
  - Incentives for RI residents to access assets/amenities over tourists
  - General education of the public around regulations/enforcement
  - Swim lessons as a gap across the state





An aerial photograph of a crowded beach. The beach is filled with people, many sitting on towels or blankets. Numerous colorful beach umbrellas are scattered across the sand. The ocean is visible in the background, with waves breaking on the shore. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is a busy, sunny day at the beach.

# Drafting the SCORP

# What Informs the SCORP?

- Focus groups
- Public survey data
- SCORP Advisory and Workgroup
- Earlier SCORPs
- Technical studies on demand and need
- State Guide Plan and National Park Service requirements
- Our professional understanding



# How will the SCORP be Used?

- Provides a unifying vision for outdoor recreation in RI
- Helps to direct state priorities, e.g., funding programs
- As an element of the State Guide Plan it guides state and local policy



**Dream**



**Vision**



**Goals**



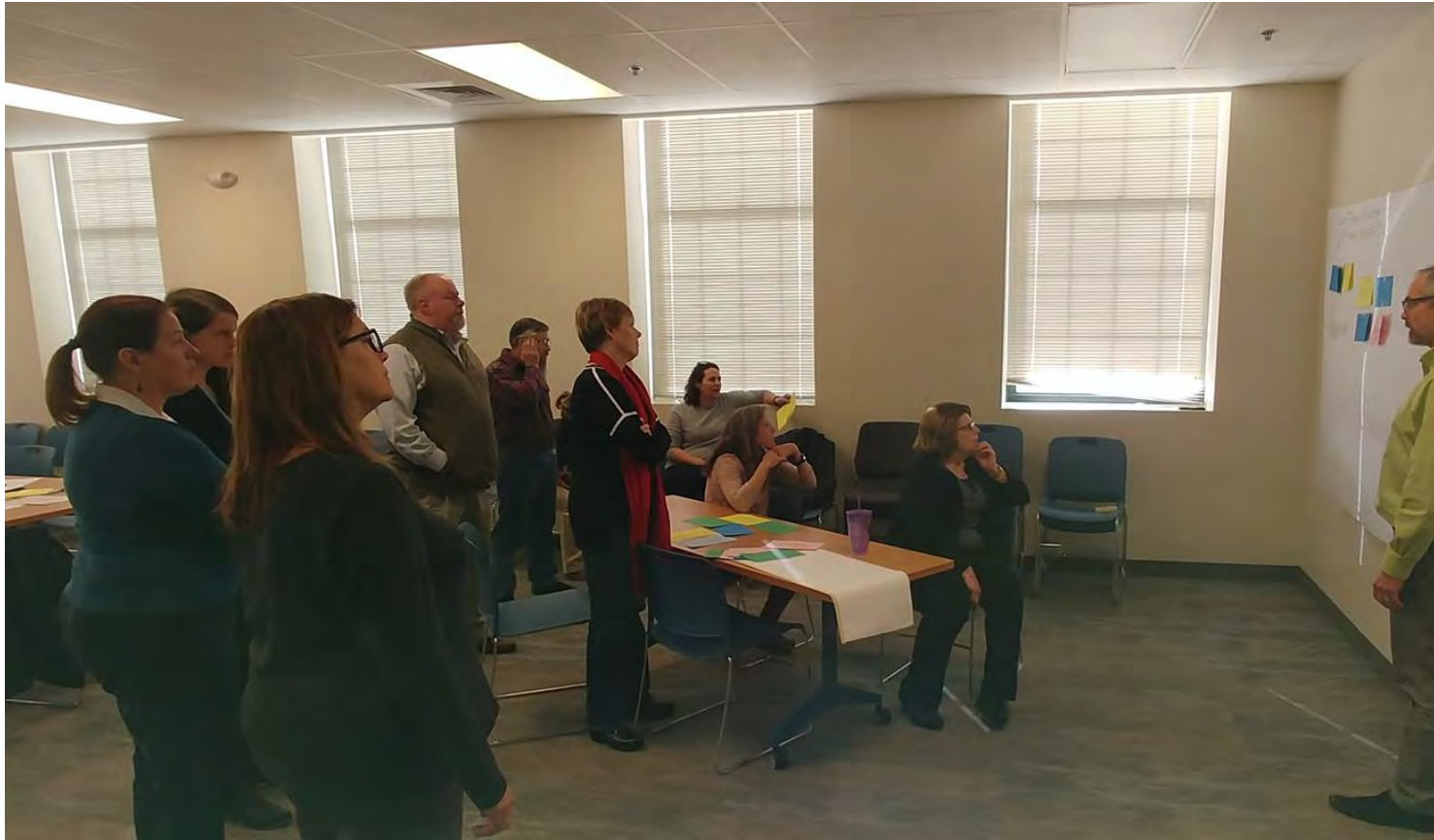
**Action Plan**



**Success**

Identifying Vision  
& Goals

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- **Brainstorming and Cardstorming**
- **SWOT Analysis**
- **Carousel Workgroups**
- **Action Planning**

**Facilitated Process**

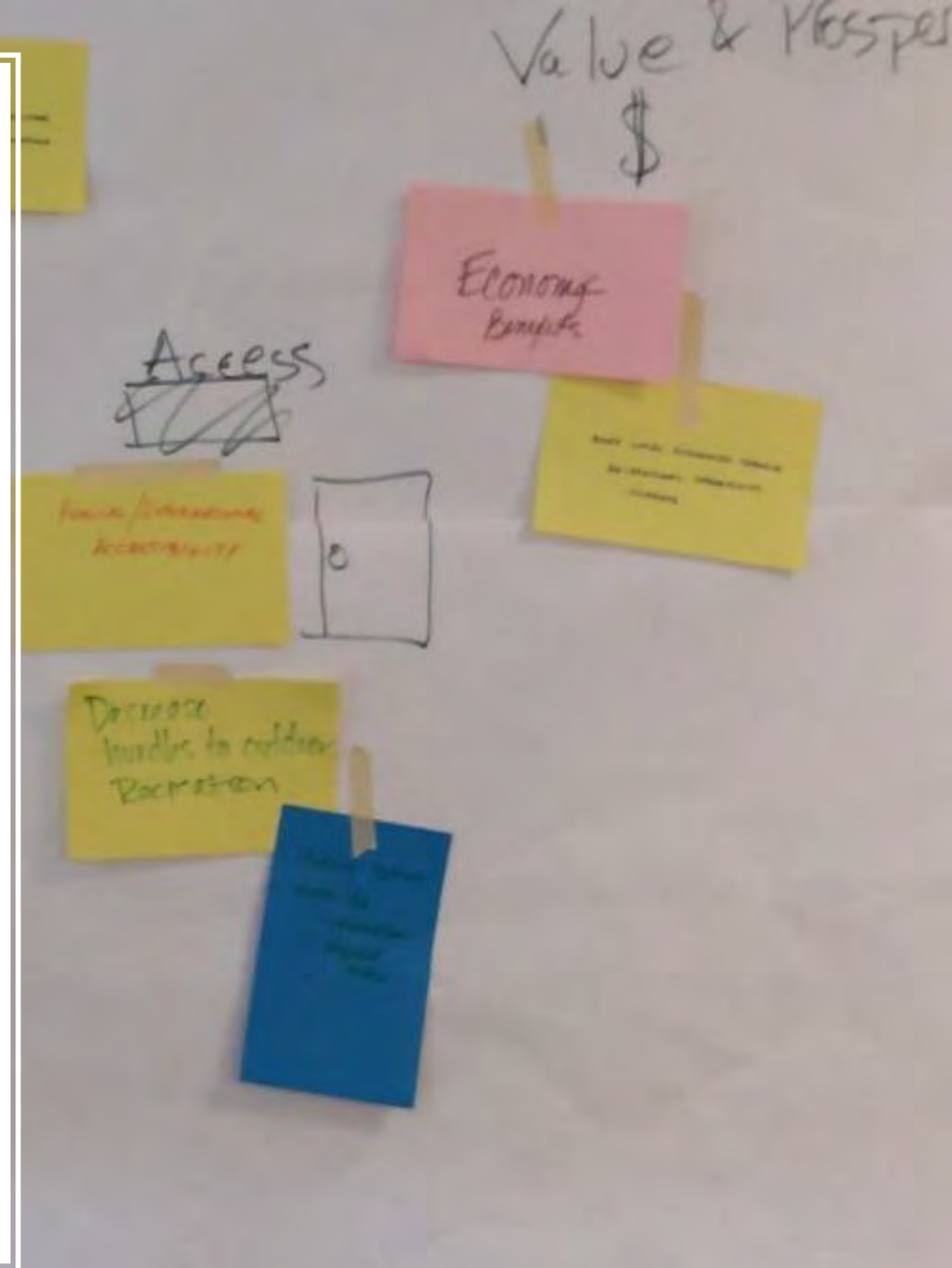
# Vision

Rhode Island welcomes and inspires residents and visitors to enjoy our iconic and connected outdoor recreation network with diverse opportunities across a variety of geographies. The recreation network ensures inclusive opportunities that inspire a culture of stewardship, wellbeing and shared resources.



# Goals

- Strengthen, expand and promote the statewide recreation network while protecting natural and cultural resources as well as adapting to a changing environment.
- Invest in new and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation to meet the public's needs, promote wellness and create economic benefits.
- Ensure sustainable operation, maintenance and management of the statewide outdoor recreation network.
- Improve access to the outdoor recreation network by removing barriers and enhancing information and communication systems.



# Format of the SCORP and General Outline

- Highly Graphic and Engaging
- Relatively Short Narrative Port
  - Part 1: Background, Purpose and People's Involvement
  - Part 2: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
  - Part 3: Plan for Action
- Other Information in Appendices







MAY WE ANSWER  
YOUR QUESTIONS?

