

Rhode Island State Wetland Programs Summary



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Section A. Quick View

Description of State's Wetlands

The primary types of wetlands in Rhode Island are palustrine (including primarily forested, scrub-shrub, emergent and open water wetlands) and estuarine wetlands (including mostly emergent and flat wetlands). The state also has marine and lacustrine wetlands.

State Definitions of Wetlands

Rhode Island laws describe three categories of wetlands: "freshwater wetlands," "freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast," and "coastal wetlands." The three major categories of defined wetlands reflect the regulatory jurisdiction of RIDEM and RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). The scope of wetlands regulation in Rhode Island extends to all wetlands in the state without exception. Moreover, most freshwater and coastal wetlands areas are ascribed an "upland buffer" area subject to state regulation. RI DEM has authority over 93% of the freshwater wetlands in the state. The CRMC has exclusive jurisdiction of all coastal wetlands in the state and those "freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast." Maps showing the freshwater wetland jurisdictional areas for CRMC and DEM are found here:

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=4e89b67882164f7ebfa4f5a1447ba94b&extent=-72.3519,41.0577,-70.6655,42.1055>

Freshwater wetlands are defined under current statute as areas that "include but are not limited to marshes, swamps, bogs, ponds, rivers, river and stream floodplains and banks, areas subject to flooding or storm flowage, emergent and submergent plant communities in any body of fresh water including rivers and streams, and the area of land within fifty feet of the edge of any bog, marsh, swamp or pond." Freshwater wetland areas meeting specified sizes are ascribed the additional 50 foot perimeter or a 100 foot or 200 foot riverbank area subject to regulation. (Note: proposed legislation has been filed that would change wetland definitions, increase jurisdictional areas, and provide for specific setbacks and buffers through state agency rule-making. Legislation is pending approval of the RI General Assembly.)

Coastal wetlands are defined in RI General Laws § 46-23-6(2)(iii)(E) as areas that any salt marsh bordering on the tidal waters of this state, whether or not the tidal waters reach the littoral areas through natural or artificial watercourses, and those uplands directly associated and contiguous thereto which are necessary to preserve the integrity of that marsh.” The statute goes on to describe the species that constitute coastal wetland vegetation. The CRMC regulations for coastal wetlands are found in Section 210.3 within the Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) and define coastal wetlands to also include freshwater or brackish wetlands contiguous to salt marshes or physiographical features along the coast.

Historic Wetland Loss/Gain

Original Wetland Acreage	Remaining Wetland Acreage	Acreage Lost	% Lost
102,690 (Dahl, 1989)	65,154 (Dahl, 1989) 71,000 acres (Tiner)	37,536 (Dahl, 1989)	37% (Dahl, 1989)

Note: Original data is provided from the US Fish and Wildlife study by Dahl (1989). EPA Region 1 gathered estimated Rhode Island losses and provided a range of freshwater wetlands. This includes a 50% loss of salt marsh.

Primary State Freshwater Wetlands Webpage

RI Department of Environmental Management has two key freshwater wetland web pages:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/fresh/index.htm>

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/index.htm>

Coastal Resources Management Council regulations for wetlands:

Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast

[http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh Water Wetlands.pdf](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh_Water_Wetlands.pdf)

Coastal Wetlands – CRMP Section 210

<http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/RICRMP.pdf>

State Wetland Program Plan

Rhode Island State Wetland Program Plan

<http://www.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/rhode-island-wpp.pdf>

RI DEM completed an update of the WPP which is currently under review by EPA. The new plan extends from 2014-2106.

No Net Loss/Net Gain Goal

Although RIDEM strives for no net loss by requiring avoidance and minimization (per rules), the no net goal is not stated in freshwater wetland law or rules.

The CRMC has a “no net loss” policy for coastal wetlands as specified in CRMP Section 210.3. The filling of coastal wetlands is prohibited under CRMC regulations. In those cases where the filling of coastal wetlands is unavoidable and necessary to construct a project that “serves a compelling public purpose,” then wetland mitigation is required by creating wetlands at a CRMC approved site on a 2:1 ratio. See CRMP Section 300.12 – Coastal Wetland Mitigation.

State Resources for Wetland Work

State Name	Core element #1: Regulation	Core Element #2: Monitoring and Assessment	Core Element #3: Wetland Water Quality Standards	Core Element #4: Voluntary Wetland Restoration
Agency	RIDEM – Office of Water Resources	RIDEM	None	RIDEM
Source(s)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Amount	\$2.1 million	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Staffing	13 FTE	<1 FTE (small % of two staff positions)	Unknown	No dedicated staff
Agency	CRMC - Office of Compliance	RI Natural History Survey		CRMC
Source(s)	Unknown	Contract through EPA grants		Unknown
Amount	Unknown	Unknown		(Seeking to finish Strategy for Coastal Marshes)
Staffing	4+ FTE	Unknown		<1 FTE
Agency		CRMC		
Source(s)				
Amount				
Staffing		<1 FTE		

State Permitting Fees

State Permitting Fee	State Name
Yes/No	Yes, application fees. See DEM wetland rule 7.11 @ http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/wetInd14.pdf Yes, application fees required. See CRMC FWW Rule 7.11
Amount (range)	\$150.00 to \$20,000.00
Agency	RIDEM CRMC (same fee range)

Innovative Features

- Rhode Island's Wetland Restoration Team meets monthly to discuss projects; guide them through the regulatory process; help offer technical assistance.

Models and Templates

- Rhode Island has an Office of Customer and Technical Assistance with a Permit Application Center. Once a permit is submitted at the Center, it is processed quickly. Ensures that the right people are at the table to process the permit.

Section B. Regulation

How are Wetlands Regulated in Rhode Island?

Rhode Island has two state wetland permitting programs. Rhode Island adopted legislation in 1971 to regulate both freshwater wetlands under the Freshwater Wetlands Act and coastal wetlands with the creation of the RICMRC. In 1996, the state General Assembly divided the state freshwater wetland jurisdiction between the two state agencies. RIDEM and RICRMC cooperatively administer the state's two parallel freshwater wetland programs, while only the CRMC regulates coastal wetlands of the state. Rhode Island's wetland regulatory programs are not based on statutory authority to provide water quality under section 401 of the Clean Water Act; however, Section 401 authority does provide an important supplement to the state's programs, thus providing comprehensive protection for wetland resources.

Freshwater wetlands are regulated under the State's Freshwater Wetlands Act, which requires wetland permit applicants to demonstrate that: proposed projects or activities do not include any random, unnecessary, or undesirable alteration of wetlands; all alternatives to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands have been pursued; and the proposed project adheres to the technical permit review criteria. The Act is administered by the RIDEM through its *Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act*. The CRMC regulates freshwater wetlands within its jurisdiction pursuant to its *Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast*. Essentially the CRMC freshwater wetland rules mirror the DEM rules with the exception of some administrative and procedural matters. Permit review includes consideration of the cumulative impacts of incremental alterations to freshwater wetlands, which may be considered significant even if a proposed alteration is considered insignificant. Certain limited activities are exempt from permitting requirements, provided they are carried out in accordance with conditions specified in the respective rules.

Both CRMC and DEM issue two types of freshwater wetland permits. Property owners submitting a "Request for Preliminary Determination" may be granted an "insignificant alteration permit" for activities that would result in minimum impact to wetlands. Property owners submitting an "Application to Alter" may be granted a "significant alteration permit." Alterations of the perimeter and riverbank wetlands are permitted more frequently than alteration of other wetland types.

Coastal Wetlands are regulated by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, which was created in 1971 to preserve, protect, develop, and restore the coastal areas of the state. RICRMC operates as a state agency and is administered by a council representing the public, state and local government, and resource professionals. RICRMC's permit system for coastal wetlands differs from RIDEM's freshwater wetland permit system, although it is no less stringent and includes a "no net loss"

policy. An RICRMC “assent” is required for any alteration or activity proposed on shoreline features, which by definition includes coastal wetlands, or the 200-foot contiguous area to a shoreline feature. Shoreline features are defined in CRMP Section 210.1 through 210.7.

Filling, removing or grading, dredging and dredged materials disposal, significant cutting of vegetation, excavation, draining, damming, and/or diverting of hydrological flows in a coastal wetland are considered alterations requiring a permit. RICRMC may also review any activity within the watersheds of poorly flushed estuaries. Like RIDEM, RICRMC also has a preliminary determination request process that facilitates accurate identification of wetlands within its jurisdiction. Under RICRMC rules, certain activities are prohibited outright within particular coastal wetland areas. RICRMC also oversees permitting for freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast that lie within their jurisdiction seaward of a boundary jointly established by the two agencies in response to state law in 1996; permit requirements and procedures for freshwater wetlands are similar to those of RIDEM.

Wetland Delineation

Delineation Guidance	Yes	No	Detail
Use State’s Own Method	X		State rules and regulations outline delineation criteria for vegetated wetlands, perimeter wetlands, flowing and standing water wetlands, riverbank wetlands, and flood plain wetlands. The state’s method is more inclusive, but is generally parallel.
Use Corps’ 87 Manual and Regional Supplement	X		State will accept for purpose of identifying the edges of vegetated wetlands. (see Appendix 2A5)
Other (Please describe)		X	

Description: A field inspection by a wetland scientist is required to delineate freshwater or coastal wetlands for regulatory purposes

Evaluation Methodology

RIDEM does not require a specific methodology for freshwater wetland evaluation. Best professional judgement is used. See rule 10.02 E for the evaluation requirements for applications to alter a freshwater wetland. The rules can be found at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/wetlnd14.pdf>

Exempted Activities

Normal farming and ranching activities are exempt from the freshwater wetland law’s requirements. According to rules, limited maintenance and repair activities, demolition of buildings, limited changes to single family residences, emergency environmental protection, utility lines and emergencies, monitoring and research activities, temporary recreation structures, moorings and anchorage and emergency water withdrawal activities do not require written permission from RIDEM or CRMCM. DEM does not review exempted activities.

Special Provisions for Agriculture and Forestry

For agriculture, see rule 6.12 on page 24, For forestry see limited exemption rule 6.02 D on page 18 .

Penalties and Enforcement

Enforcement is conducted by the state. Enforcement requirements are found in the state’s Wetland Act. See law sections 2-1-23 and 2-1-24 and more about compliance office at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/compinsp/index.htm>

Permit Tracking

The state does tack permits. Permitting decisions are tracked and available to public through the following website: <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/wetlands/>.

State General Permit (statewide vs. regional coverage)

Permit Coverage	Yes	No	Detail (Type of Permit)
Regional General Permit		X	
Statewide General Permit	X		With US Army Corps of Engineers for Section 404 permitting. The Corps meets monthly with RI DEM and CDRM wo conduct joint review of applications.

Assumption of 404 Powers

Assumption Status	Yes	No	Detail
Assumed		X	
Working Toward Assumption		X	
Explored Assumption		X	

Joint permitting

Rhode Island does have coordinated permitting with the Corps. RI DEM’s permit serves as the Corps’ permit, but coastal wetland permits are separate from the Corps’ permits for coastal wetlands.

Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs and ADIDs)

RI DEM does not have any SAMPs or ADIDs. However, the CRMC has jurisdiction within several poorly-flushed estuaries of the state and regulates specific watershed activities through Special Area Management Plans (SAMP). Contact Jim Boyd. See <http://www.crmc.state.ri.us/samps.html>. The implementation of rules governing tributary wetlands differs from DEM within the CRMC’s Narrow River and Salt Pond Region SAMPs. Tributary wetlands are defined as freshwater wetlands within the watersheds that are connected via a watercourse to a coastal wetland or tidal waters. Activities abutting these tributary wetlands within the SAMPs require a 200 foot setback for Self-Sustaining Lands and a 225 foot setback in Lands of Critical Concern. See Section 920.1.A and 920.1.B, respectively in the SAMPs. These setbacks are greater than what would typically be required under the freshwater wetland rules, but are required to protect water quality within the coastal watersheds and the down stream coastal resources.

Buffer Protections

RID DEM requires a 50-foot perimeter for regulated wetland areas if disturbed and require a 100-200-foot width for riverbeds (including wetlands).

Buffers for coastal wetlands are required in accordance with CRMP Section 150, which requires buffers based primarily on the lot size and CRMC water type designation. A limited portion of the buffer may be managed for view corridors and access to the shoreline, but must adhere to CRMC rules for such. Contact Jim Boyd at CMRC regarding CRMC's buffer management policy.

As part of the freshwater wetland application process, CRMC and DEM can require buffer plantings near the limits of work in wetlands. DEM commonly permits buffer plantings "along the limit of disturbance" in a backyard, as well as along both sides of a wetland crossing. Two to three rows of plantings provide more buffering effect than a single row; however, a single row is preferable if additional rows involve an increase in clearing and alteration. The following factsheet provides additional information:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/pdfs/wfs10.pdf>

Mitigation Policy

RIDEM and CRMC rules and regulations for freshwater wetlands include strict avoidance and minimization provisions, requiring that all probable impacts to freshwater wetlands be avoided to the maximum extent possible, and if unavoidable, be minimized to the maximum extent possible.

RIDEM does not have formal guidelines on compensatory mitigation for *freshwater* wetlands, as they only allow mitigation under unusual circumstances. Functional criteria for this discretionary mitigation work focuses on the nature and values of the wetland, as well as the area of the replacement wetland. Curious where from – pers. communication? I am not aware of this in writing.

RICRMC has adopted compensatory mitigation guidelines for *coastal* wetlands as specified in CRMP Section 300.12. To fulfill its no net loss policy, RICRMC requires all altered coastal wetlands to be replaced by wetlands of a similar type and that provide an ecological value equal or greater to the altered wetland. The ratio of replacement to permanently altered or lost coastal wetland is 2:1; specific replacement requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis. RICRMC's rules and regulations explicitly prohibit monetary compensation as an acceptable form of mitigation.

Mitigation Database

RI DEM does not maintain a mitigation database. USACE uses RIBITS and RIDOT has a database for state transportation related.

Section C. Monitoring and Assessment

Agency Responsible for Wetland Monitoring and Assessment

Rhode Island does not have a formal wetland monitoring and assessment program. The state has received a successive series of progressive EPA grants to support wetland monitoring and assessment work in Rhode Island. The RI DEM Office of Water Resources, with Clean Water Act grant funding from EPA has developed tools and coordinated efforts to monitor and assess freshwater wetlands in the state. Stream monitoring is conducted under the RI DEM's monitoring program for all "waters of the

state". Additional monitoring and assessment is conducted by the Rhode Island Natural History Program.

Mapping/Inventory

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) developed the state's National Wetland Inventory (NWI) wetland maps as part of a statewide effort in 1988. The state completed revisions and updates to the maps in 2010 (NWI+) and published a summary report in 2014.

State Wetland Mapping Public Portal

Rhode Island maps are available digitally at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/wetldocs.htm>

The state resource maps are now hosted on ArcGIS Online here:

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=b24d6c60ff3a4947a14fbd15a66390c6&extent=-72.3519,41.0712,-70.6655,42.0922>

Wetland Classification and Assessment

The state has developed a Rhode Island-specific rapid assessment method (RI-RAM), built on work that was completed by other states. After testing Ohio RAM and the Delaware RAP, Rhode Island developed their own tool. Use of the RI-RAM facilitates watershed-based condition reporting and supports objectives identified in the state's wetland plan. The RI-RAM tool can be downloaded at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/wetldocs.htm>

For streams, a variety of assessment methodologies is employed, including biological sampling and water chemistry sampling. Stream data feeds into the state's 303(d) listing and 305(b) reporting.

Statewide Wetland Monitoring Plan

The New England Interstate Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), with support from EPA, assisted RIDEM with the development of a draft plan for systematic monitoring of freshwater wetlands. This initial plan (2006) included a three-tiered approach to monitoring to meet the overall goal of improved protection and management of wetlands. A draft plan (expected 2015) has been developed by the RI Natural History Program. This planning work synthesized what has been learned by the state in this area and strengthened connections with other state water resource programs.

For streams, a program monitoring strategy is in place can includes sampling designs and monitoring strategies to protect the designated uses of the state's waters.

Overall Wetland Gain and Loss Tracking System

The state does not have an overall wetland gain and loss tracking system. However, some of this information could be mined from the state's FoxPro database. Information in this database is high quality for permit-related gains and losses, but is not complete for all work in the state.

Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Characteristics

Level	None	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<i>Rhode Island</i>		X	X (RI-RAM)	Exploring a floristic quality approach (not committed to it yet); State has an Odenata Index of Wetland Integrity

Type	None	IBI	Condition	Functional
<i>Rhode Island</i>		-	X	-

Frequency	None	Project Specific	Ongoing
<i>Rhode Island</i>		X	X (Through successive grant* projects)

Note: Staff time is used as match for grants.

Participation in National Wetland Condition Assessment

NWCA Study Type	Yes	No
National Study	X	
State Intensification Study		X

Note: The state was not involved in staffing or coordinating the NWCA work in Rhode Island.

Section D. Water Quality Standards

Wetland and Water Quality Standards

Type	None	Use Existing WQ Standards	In Process	Adopted	Future Direction
<i>Wetland-specific Designated Uses</i>				X	
<i>Narrative criteria in the standards to protect designated wetland uses</i>		X			
<i>Numeric criteria in the standards based on wetland type and location to protect the designated uses</i>	X				

Anti-degradation policy includes wetlands		X (Wetlands are explicitly included in the policy)			
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(For more information contact Alicia Richardson at RI DEM)

Description: There is currently no intention by the state to pursue the development of additional wetland-specific water quality standards, as wetlands are well-protected by the current standards. All public and private wetlands in the state are subject to 401 Water Quality Certification. RIDEM has promulgated narrative water quality standards for all state waters, which include wetlands. These standards are used to determine if a proposed activity would result in a significant adverse impact to the water quality of wetlands. State water quality standards designate wetland-related uses, including fish and wildlife habitat and primary and secondary contact recreational activities. Wetlands are also included under Rhode Island’s anti-degradation policy. The state Freshwater Wetland Act requires that all activities in all wetlands and anything altering the character of a regulated wetland is subject to permit review.

Section E. Voluntary Wetland Restoration

Types of Wetland Restoration Work Funded by the State:

Type of Work	YES	NO	Description
Fund Wetland Restoration (may include easement agreements)	X		RIDEM, RICRMC, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program; \$250k Oil Spill Response Fund
Private Land Restoration	X		Coastal and estuarine restoration work
Public Land Restoration	X		Competitive RFP – planning, design and construction
Technical Assistance	X		
Tax Incentives		X	
Other		X	

Description:

Rhode Island does not have a formal, statewide voluntary wetland restoration program. However, the state does have a range of diverse restoration activities. There is no formal strategy or priorities for this work. The state is actively involved in proactive restoration projects spearheaded by RIDEM, RICRMC, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, as well as other federal, state, local and watershed based agencies and organizations. The Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team, pursuant to the Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund, drafted and adopted the State Estuary and Coastal Habitat Restoration strategy, which was approved by RICRMC. According to the strategy, grant monies are disbursed for habitat restoration design, planning, construction and monitoring through the state Coastal Habitat Restoration Trust Fund that is administered by the CRMC.

The Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team Coordinated planning in the state. RICRMC has also spearheaded the development of the RI Habitat Restoration Portal, to provided data and information about habitat restoration in the state to other agencies and nonprofit groups. The associated Project Inventory is a database designed to help users identify restoration opportunities and completed projects in RI watersheds. RIDEM, working with the University of Rhode Island and supported by EPA, has completed the development of a watershed-based methodology to identify and determine priorities

among freshwater wetland and buffer restoration sites. In cooperation with the local watershed council, methods have been successfully piloted in the Woonasquatucket River Watershed.

Voluntary Wetland Restoration Program Components

Wetland Restoration Efforts	Nothing in the Works	Planning	In Progress	Mature/ Complete
Program has a set of restoration goals		Drafting Strategy		
Coordinate with relevant agencies that outline restoration/protection goals and strategies and timeframes		Drafting Strategy		
Developed multi-agency body to coordinate restoration/protection efforts	X			
Set restoration goals based on agency objectives and available information		Drafting Strategy		

Goals for Restoration Projects

Goal	Yes	No	Description
No Net Loss	X		
Reverse Loss/Net Gain	X		Reverse loss of wetlands
Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS)/WQ			Water quality
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs)	Unknown		
Habitat	X		
Coastal Protection	X		http://www.crmc.ri.gov/habitatrestoration.html
Floodwater Protection	X		
Groundwater	Unknown		
Other (please describe)		X	

Landowner Guides and Handbooks to Assist with Voluntary Wetland Restoration Efforts

Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Portal
<http://www.edc.uri.edu/restoration/index.htm>

Restoration Kit for Freshwater Wetlands
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/pdfs/wr8.pdf>

Section F. Innovative and/or Highly Effective Education and Outreach

None.

Section G. Climate Change and Wetlands

While the state wetland permitting program does not work on climate change issues, the state’s wetland monitoring and assessment plan does address climate change and freshwater wetlands. Most of the planning work for climate change is done at a higher level in the state administration and is not wetland-specific. The Director of RI DEM is also the director of Climate Change for the state. The state has seen changes in regional hydrology and is working to describe it and connect this work with wetlands.

Rhode Island has developed a RI Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) project to evaluate the impact of sea level rise on coastal wetlands statewide and identify upland parcels that provide areas for wetland migration. The CRMC has adopted the SLAMM maps for adaption planning and coastal wetland restoration purposes as part of CRMP Section 210.3. Maps are available for inundation at one, three and five feet. The SLAMM maps are available online here: http://www.crmc.ri.gov/maps/maps_slamm.html. These maps are used by the Coastal Program. Contact James Boyd at CMRC for more information.

Section H. Integration

Entity/Program Area	Yes/No	Description of the Connection
NPDES/Stormwater	X	
303(d)	Unknown	
305(b) reporting on wetlands	YES	But not in a while
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs)	YES	Not extensive, but considered
Climate Change/ Resiliency	Yes	RI SLAMM project (applying across areas and scenarios), hydrology assessment
Land Use /Watershed planning	YES	Office of Water Resources has develop watershed management plans including water quality and habitat (including wetlands and buffer habitat); lots of staff are involved; in support of 319 program.
Flood/Hazard Mitigation	NO	100-year flood is addressed through wetland law; fill requires compensation; but no real coordination
Coastal Work	YES	
Wildlife Action Plan	YES	RI DEM staff sit on Habitat Team that coordinated the development of the Wildlife Action plan
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)	YES	RI DEM staff helped with latest section
Other – (e.g. Transportation)	YES	Monthly coordination meetings (Wetland chief, engineers, DOT Natural Resources Unit); MOU with state agency

State Wetland Program Development Continuum

Continuum Stage		Core Element 1: Regulation	Core Element 2: Monitoring & Assessment	Core Element 3: Wetland Water Quality Standards	Core Element 4: Voluntary Restoration
Mature Stage	High	X State Program		X (Designated Uses)	
Initial Implementation Stage	↑				
Development Stage			X (in the works)		X
Early Stage	Low			X (Other)	

State Wetland Program Contact and Other Relevant Contacts

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 4808 Tower Hill Road
 Wakefield, RI 02879-1900
 (401) 783-3370 Voice
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Section J. Useful Websites

State Government Programs

1. Department of Environmental Management
 - a) Office of Water Resources
 - i. Freshwater Wetlands Permitting Program
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/fresh/>

- Restoration
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/restfresh.htm>
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/woonrest/files/p2.pdf>
 - Monitoring
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/monitor.htm>
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/pdfs/plan.pdf>
 - Wetland Program Core Elements Plan
<http://www.epa.gov/region1/topics/ecosystems/pdfs/RIWPP.pdf>
 - Wetland Best Management Practices Manual
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/fresh/wetbmp.htm>
- ii. Water Quality
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/index.htm>
2. Water Resources Board
<http://www.wrb.ri.gov/>

Federal Government Programs

1. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wetlands Reserve Program
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ri/programs/easements/wetlands/>

Other Organization Programs

1. University of Rhode Island: Dept. of Natural Resources Science
 - a) Habitat Restoration
<http://www.edc.uri.edu/restoration/>
2. Narragansett Bay Research Reserve
<http://nbnerr.org/>
 - a) Coastal Training Program
<http://www.nbwctp.org/index.html>
3. Northern Rhode Island Conservation District
<http://nricd.org/>
4. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
<http://www.wrwc.org/>
 - a) Wetland Restoration Project
<http://www.wrwc.org/wetland.php>
5. Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
 - a. www.crmc.ri.gov

- b. Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund
<http://www.crmc.ri.gov/habitatrestoration.html>