

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to the University of Rhode Island train land use managers in the use of geospatial technologies for natural resource management. The program provides guidance in the integration of these technologies into the public policy decisionmaking framework affecting the stewardship of forest resources and their watersheds. The RREA initiative leverages approximately \$13 of additional funding for every dollar of USDA CSREES support.

In FY 2008, RREA funds were used to support several successful initiatives.

- Educational classes, seminars, and events attended by more than 500 municipal officials, educators, resource management professionals, and citizen volunteers that address the use of geospatial data and technologies, and how they support stewardship and conservation plans.
- Land conservation initiatives that ultimately resulted in the protection of more than 2,000 acres of open space in Rhode Island.
- High volume geospatial data downloads (360,788 downloads-680 gigabytes) were made from the Rhode Island Geographic Information System and GPS data distribution systems (<http://www.edc.uri.edu/rigis>). These data are the scientific basis for work by citizens, decisionmakers, and resource managers in Rhode Island for community planning, emergency response, forest and agricultural management, land conservation, academic research, environmental stewardship, and more.

"Both instructors were extremely knowledgeable, friendly, and patient with my persistent questions. I would definitely recommend this course to others..."
– GIS training course student.

"Reliable access to the RIGIS database provided by the University of Rhode Island continues to be an essential component of many of our ongoing efforts in environmental stewardship." – Paul Jordan, RI Department of Environmental Management.



An important audience for Rhode Island RREA programming is the 26,000 Rhode Islanders who own woodland parcels of 10 acres or less.

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Rhode Island RREA contact:
Dr. Peter August

Department of Natural Resources Science
University of Rhode Island
1 Greenhouse Road, Kingston, RI, 02881
Tel. (401) 874-4794 email: pete@edc.uri.edu