



Open Space



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Intense Development Pressure In Narragansett Bay Region

About a third of the land available for development in 1995 is now gone, but RI, CT and MA have made commitments to preserving open spaces through state-wide and local bond referenda, and by supporting the work of local land trusts.

80% of RI Farmland Lost to Development Since 1940

Today less than 7% (40,000 acres) is in active agriculture, and only one quarter of that is protected, but working farms contribute to the local and state economy, community character, quality of life, local food production and food security.

Extending Wetland Buffers Improves Water Quality

Development and “impervious cover” lower water quality. Lands adjacent to waterways are protected by state regulations, and extending these buffer areas with protected, undeveloped land provides additional water quality protection.

Open Space Protection Mitigates Flooding

The floods of March 2010 displaced over 6,200 people, closed over 200 companies, and caused enormous economic damage to RI, but floodplains reduced the risk of flood damage to other areas of the watershed.