



TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

PLANNING BOARD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE MEETING

Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting Agenda
Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 5:30 PM
Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Agenda Items

B1. B1. Review Draft of Services and Facilities Element
(continued from May 28th meeting)

B2. B2. Review Draft of Natural Resources Chapter

C. Adjournment

Date Posted: June 5, 2026

Posted By: mbw

Services and Facilities Implementation Actions (5/21/2026 DRAFT)				
ID	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Parties	Included in CIP
FS-1	Renovate the former Guiteras School for use as a new Town Hall and plan for the adaptive reuse, redevelopment, or disposition of former municipal office buildings and facilities following municipal facility transitions. Prioritize redevelopment planning for properties including the former Reynolds School/municipal offices property on High Street and former Town Hall/10 Court Street to encourage productive reuse, support housing and economic development opportunities, private investment, and return underutilized properties to the tax roll.	Short-Term	Town Council, Town Administrator, Department of Community Development	Yes
FS-2	Advance feasibility, design, and implementation planning for a new Police Station on existing site and adjacent lot to meet current and future operational, staffing, training, technology, and public safety needs consistent with modern policing standards.	Mid-Term	Police Department, Town Council, Town Administrator	Yes
FS-3	Evaluate long-term adaptation strategies for the Everready Fire Station in response to sea level rise and flooding vulnerability, including floodproofing measures, emergency operational planning, temporary relocation options during storm events, and identification of potential future station or apparatus locations to ensure continued emergency response capability.	Long-Term	Fire Department, Department of Community Development, Town Council, Town Administrator	
FS-4	Design and construct a new salt storage facility to replace the existing deteriorating structure currently located in a flood-prone area near Tanyard Brook, ensuring continued operations and protection of materials during storm events.	Short- to Mid-Term	Public Works, Town Council, Town Administrator	Yes
FS-5	Plan for and construct a modernized Department of Public Works facility to replace the existing mechanic's garage and support safe, efficient municipal operations, including vehicle and equipment maintenance, ADA accessibility improvements, upgraded HVAC and fire suppression systems, staff training and meeting space, and appropriate employee support facilities.	Short- to Mid-Term	Public Works, Town Council, Town Administrator	Yes
FS-6	Install an ADA-accessible shower at the Quinta-Gamelin Community Center, where the Parks and Recreation Department offices are located, to improve accessibility and enhance the facility's ability to function as an emergency shelter during extreme weather or other events.	Short-term	Department of Public Works; Parks and Recreation; Emergency Management; Town Council	Yes
FS-7	Install backup generators at the former Guiteras School (future Town Hall) and the former Walley School (future community/senior center) to ensure continuity of municipal operations and support emergency response and continued operations during power outages.	Short-term	Department of Public Works; Emergency Management; Town Council	Yes

ID	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Parties	Included in CIP
FS-8	Support the Fire Department in sustaining its volunteer workforce by developing outreach and recruitment programs targeted to local students ages 15 to 18, including partnerships with schools, junior firefighter programs, and mentorship opportunities to build long-term interest in volunteer service.	Short-term; Ongoing	Fire Department; School Department; Town Administration	
FS-9	Upgrade sewer infrastructure where necessary, with priority given to low-lying and flood-prone areas, to improve system reliability and support pre-disaster mitigation and resiliency efforts.	Mid- to Long-Term	Water Pollution Control, Town Council, Town Administrator	Yes
FS-10	Upgrade wastewater disinfection processes by transitioning from chlorine-based systems to ultraviolet (UV) disinfection to improve environmental performance, reduce chemical handling risks, and enhance compliance with evolving regulatory standards.	Mid-term	Department of Public Works; Water Pollution Control Department; Town Council; Town Administrator	Yes
FS-11	Expand wastewater treatment capacity through the addition of equalization or storage tanks to better manage wet weather flows, reduce system surcharging, and improve treatment performance during storm events.	Mid-term	Department of Public Works; Water Pollution Control Department; Town Council; Town Administrator	Yes
FS-12	Invest in upgraded biosolids handling and storage facilities to address regulatory constraints and disposal limitations, including emerging contaminants such as PFAS, and to provide reliable on-site or contracted management capacity.	Short-term to Mid-term	Department of Public Works; Wastewater Division	Yes
FS-13	Implement a comprehensive infiltration and inflow (I&I) reduction program, including system mapping, inspection, repair, and targeted capital improvements to reduce excess stormwater entering the wastewater system and improve overall system efficiency.	Ongoing	Department of Public Works; Water Pollution Control Department	Yes
FS-14	Advance the relocation and replacement of the Ferry Road shoreline sewer interceptor, including securing state and federal funding, to protect critical wastewater infrastructure from coastal hazards, reduce infiltration and inflow, and improve system resilience and performance.	Mid-term	Department of Public Works; Water Pollution Control Department; Town Council	Yes
FS-15	Support enhanced stormwater infrastructure maintenance through staff training, continued asset management improvements, and evaluation of dedicated drainage maintenance staffing or operational capacity.	Ongoing	Department of Public Works	
FS-16	Assess Town-owned buildings for structural, safety, and energy efficiency needs and implement prioritized improvements, including establishing a baseline and achieving measurable reductions in municipal energy use.	Ongoing	Town Administrator	
FS-17	Develop and implement a strategy to achieve state-mandated recycling and waste diversion targets, including expansion of composting, special waste collection programs, and public education efforts.	Short- to Mid-Term	Public Works, Town Administrator, Town Council	

ID	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Parties	Included in CIP
FS-18	Evaluate and consider adoption of a deconstruction and material reuse ordinance for certain demolition projects to promote salvage, reuse, and recycling of building materials and reduce construction and demolition (C&D) waste.	Mid-Term	Department of Community Development, Building Official, Town Council	
FS-19	Promote water conservation and efficiency measures, including use of low-flow fixtures and efficient systems, by incorporating requirements into municipal projects and encouraging adoption in new commercial and industrial development.	Ongoing	Department of Community Development, Building Official, BCWA	
FS-20	Evaluate opportunities for rooftop solar panels and other energy efficiency improvements at Rogers Free Library.	Long-Term	Rogers Free Library; Town Council	
FS-21	Explore installation of rain barrels to support library landscaping and gardens.	Short-Term	Rogers Free Library	
FS-22	Identify and evaluate municipal and other suitable sites for solar and renewable energy generation projects and pursue available state, utility, and federal funding opportunities to support implementation.	Mid-Term	Department of Community Development; Town Council; Town Administrator	
FS-23	Utilize current technologies to improve municipal operations, service delivery, and communication with residents, including digital platforms and data management systems.	Ongoing	Town Administrator; Fire/EMA	
FS-24	Evaluate redundant emergency communication systems, including outdoor warning sirens and other backup notification methods, to improve emergency preparedness during communication or power outages.	Short- to Mid-Term	Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Management	
FS-25	Evaluate and pursue shared services opportunities with neighboring municipalities to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance service delivery where appropriate.	Ongoing	Town Council, Town Administrator	
FS-26	Maintain and improve public boardwalk infrastructure through regular inspection, repair, and replacement of decking, structural supports, and pilings, as needed, to ensure long-term durability and public safety.	Continual	Department of Public Works; Harbormaster	
FS-27	Develop and implement a routine inspection and condition assessment program for all public boardwalks and similar coastal access structures to identify maintenance needs, prioritize repairs, and proactively address safety concerns.	Ongoing	Department of Public Works; Harbors; Harbormaster	
FS-28	Advance design, funding, and phased replacement of aging piers and related infrastructure at Rockwell Marina, including new aluminum dock systems, electrical upgrades, and other resiliency and operational improvements.	Mid-Term	Harbormaster; Town Council; Town Administrator	Yes

ID	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Parties	Included in CIP
FS-29	Evaluate options for management of animal shelter, including partnerships with private or nonprofit organizations such as the Humane Society, to provide cost-effective shelter services in lieu of Town ownership and operation	Short-Term	Police; Town Council	
FS-30	Repair and rehabilitate the seawall at Independence Park to address structural deterioration, improve shoreline stability, and protect adjacent public infrastructure and recreational areas.	Mid-Term	Harbormaster; Town Council	Yes
FS-31	Replace the roof at the Maritime Center/Harbormaster Office building, which was repurposed in 2015 but did not include roof replacement at that time, to prevent water intrusion, extend the life of the structure.	Short-Term	Harbormaster	Yes
FS-32	Install a backup generator and upgrade the HVAC system at Rogers Free Library to improve resiliency, energy efficiency, visitor comfort and the library's ability to function as a community cooling and warming center during emergencies.	Mid-Term	Rogers Free Library; Town Council	Yes
FS-33	Pursue acquisition of a mobile library e-bike to expand outreach services, library programming, and access to library resources throughout the community. <u>Pursue grant funding for a mobile library e-bike to serve as a small-scale, bookmobile-style outreach service, bringing library materials, programs, and educational resources directly to neighborhoods, parks, schools, and community events.</u>	Short-Term	Rogers Free Library	

Services & Facilities

Goal 1.

Provide high-quality, resilient, and efficient municipal facilities, infrastructure, and public services that support community needs and protect environmental resources.

Policies

- A. Maintain municipal buildings and facilities so that they remain safe, functional, accessible, resilient, and capable of supporting municipal services.
- B. Support efficient municipal operations through strategic investment in municipal facilities, technology improvements, co-location of services, and consolidation of municipal functions where appropriate.
- C. Pursue regional coordination, shared services, and intergovernmental partnerships where such arrangements improve service delivery, operational efficiency, or cost effectiveness.
- D. Continue to update and fund the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in order to prioritize long-term infrastructure, facility, resiliency, and operational needs.
- E. Coordinate municipal infrastructure planning with state agencies, regional partners, utility providers, and quasi-public agencies to support efficient service delivery and environmental protection.
- F. Continue to utilize technology, GIS, and asset management systems to improve municipal operations, infrastructure maintenance, and public service delivery.
- G. Support adaptive reuse, redevelopment, or disposition of underutilized municipal and institutional properties in ways that support community needs, economic activity, housing opportunities, historic preservation, and efficient use of public assets.
- H. Measure and monitor the quality of municipal services in order to maintain a high level of public service delivery.
- I. Plan for changing municipal service needs as demographics, infrastructure demands, and community needs evolve.

Goal 2.

Provide resilient, coordinated, and effective public safety and emergency response services that meet the evolving needs of the community.

Policies

- A. Continue to assess public safety facilities to ensure they are adequately sized, appropriately located, and resilient to climate impacts while supporting efficient and coordinated emergency response services.

B. Continue to modernize emergency communications infrastructure, equipment, and interoperability capabilities in order to support reliable emergency response operations.

C. Continue to evaluate long-term facility needs associated with police, fire, rescue, and emergency management operations.

D. Support continued volunteer recruitment, retention, and training efforts necessary to sustain the Town's combination fire service model.

E. Coordinate public safety planning and capital improvements with hazard mitigation, resiliency, and emergency preparedness initiatives.

Goal 3.

Protect public health, water quality, coastal resources, and infrastructure through effective wastewater, stormwater, and drainage management.

Policies

A. Maintain and upgrade wastewater infrastructure and treatment facilities in order to ensure reliable service and protect water quality in Mount Hope Bay and the Narragansett Bay watershed.

B. Continue to modernize wastewater treatment technologies and collection systems to improve operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, resiliency, and environmental performance.

C. Reduce infiltration and inflow (I&I) within the wastewater collection system through inspection, repair, maintenance, and targeted capital improvements.

D. Improve stormwater management through drainage infrastructure improvements, flood mitigation projects, and strategies that reduce runoff and improve water quality.

E. Encourage the use of low impact development (LID), green infrastructure, and stormwater best management practices in municipal projects and new development where appropriate.

F. Coordinate infrastructure planning and capital improvements with climate resiliency and hazard mitigation planning.

G. Continue road, drainage, and infrastructure maintenance programs and utilize GIS and asset management systems to support infrastructure planning and maintenance activities.

Goal 4.

Support reliable, resilient, and high-quality drinking water infrastructure and regional water supply planning through coordination with the Bristol County Water Authority and regional partners.

Policies

A. Support continued maintenance and modernization of water distribution infrastructure to improve system reliability, emergency preparedness, and fire protection capabilities.

B. Encourage water conservation and protection of regional drinking water resources through land use planning, infrastructure improvements, and public education efforts.

C. Coordinate with the Bristol County Water Authority, neighboring municipalities, and state agencies regarding long-term water supply planning, resiliency, and infrastructure improvements.

Goal 5.

Reduce solid waste disposal and increase recycling and waste diversion through efficient solid waste management and sustainable materials management practices.

Policies

A. Continue to evaluate opportunities to improve solid waste management and increase waste diversion through recycling, reuse, and other waste reduction strategies.

B. Continue public education and outreach efforts to increase awareness of recycling, waste reduction, and diversion opportunities.

C. Support programs and infrastructure improvements that improve operational efficiency, reduce disposal volumes, and preserve long-term landfill capacity.

D. Evaluate opportunities to reduce construction and demolition waste through material reuse, deconstruction, and salvage practices where appropriate.

E. Monitor evolving regulations related to biosolids management, PFAS, and waste disposal in order to identify long-term operational and infrastructure needs.

F. Continue to provide residents with opportunities for proper disposal or recycling of electronic waste and other materials requiring special handling.

Goal 6.

Promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable infrastructure and operational practices in municipal, commercial, and residential development.

Policies

A. Continue to pursue energy efficiency improvements in municipal facilities, infrastructure, vehicles, and operations in order to reduce long-term operating costs and municipal energy use.

B. Encourage incorporation of energy-efficient design, renewable energy systems, electrification opportunities, EV charging infrastructure, and LEED or equivalent sustainability principles in new municipal buildings and major facility renovations where feasible.

C. Continue to evaluate opportunities for renewable energy generation and sustainable infrastructure improvements within municipal facilities and operations.

D. Promote public awareness of available renewable energy and energy efficiency programs through coordination with state and regional partners.

E. Continue to monitor and modernize municipal equipment, vehicles, buildings, and infrastructure and prioritize energy-efficient replacements where appropriate.

Goal 7.

Support continued investment in school facilities to meet the educational and community needs of Bristol residents.

Policies

A. Continually review and seek to improve teaching and program quality through appropriate coordination of all levels of government.

B. Support ongoing investment in school facility improvements, including construction of the new high school and upgrades to existing school buildings.

C. Coordinate municipal planning and capital improvement planning with the Bristol Warren Regional School District to address long-term facility needs.

D. Recognize that Bristol's elementary schools are located in historic buildings and encourage improvements that balance facility needs with preservation of historic character.

E. Promote safe pedestrian and bicycle access to schools consistent with transportation and Complete Streets policies.

F. Encourage the shared use of school facilities for community programs and recreation.

G. Facilitate reuse or redevelopment of school properties that may become closed in the future.

Goal 8.

Maintain and enhance Rogers Free Library as an accessible, resilient, and flexible community connector that supports lifelong learning, technology access, civic engagement, and community services for residents of all ages.

Policies

A. Support continued investment in Rogers Free Library facilities, technology, collections, sustainability improvements, and free community programming.

B. Promote Rogers Free Library as a community gathering space and community connector that supports education, workforce development, financial literacy, digital access, civic discourse, and local economic development.

C. Encourage partnerships between Rogers Free Library, the Bristol Warren Regional School District, older adult/community service providers, community organizations, and municipal departments to expand outreach, programming, and public access to services and information.

D. Support continued efforts to improve accessibility, neighborhood outreach, and equitable access to library services, programs, and resources for all residents.

Introduction

Municipal facilities and services in Bristol support the day-to-day functioning of local government, public safety, infrastructure systems, and community services that are essential to public health and quality of life. These include public buildings and roads, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, solid waste management, all of which require ongoing maintenance, coordination, and capital investment.

This element documents existing conditions, evaluates the adequacy of facilities and services, and identifies future needs to support the community over the twenty-year planning horizon. As a largely built-out coastal community, Bristol's focus is on maintaining and upgrading existing public services and facilities, addressing aging infrastructure, and incorporating resilience to flooding and sea level rise.

Progress Since the 2016 Comprehensive Plan

Since adoption of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, the Town has implemented several actions identified in the implementation program related to public services and facilities. Completed actions include improvements to municipal facilities, drainage infrastructure, and municipal energy efficiency initiatives.

Completed actions include:

- Implementation of drainage improvements at the Police Station and Guiteras parking lots to address stormwater runoff and water quality concerns.
- Completion of drainage improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Implementation of improvements associated with Phase 2 of the Tanyard Brook and State Street Reservoir project, including successfully securing federal and state grant funding to supplement Town bond financing and support project implementation
- Completion of an energy audit of municipal buildings to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce long-term operating costs
- Implementation of LED streetlight upgrades to improve energy efficiency and reduce municipal energy use
- Adoption of a resolution designating Bristol as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Municipality

- Adoption of a new Public Institutional Zone to allow a mix of uses in decommissioned school buildings on High Street (Walley and Byfield on Town Common), and completed planning and secured funding for the reuse of the former Walley School.

These completed actions demonstrate progress toward improving municipal infrastructure, addressing stormwater management issues, and increasing energy efficiency in municipal operations.

Municipal Facilities

Maintaining, modernizing, and efficiently utilizing municipal facilities remains an ongoing priority to ensure that public buildings effectively support municipal operations, public services, long-term space needs, and responsible use of taxpayer resources. The Town is undergoing a significant transition in its municipal facilities system, including the relocation of municipal departments, repurposing of existing public buildings, and evaluation of surplus municipal properties for future reuse or redevelopment.

The Town is in the process of repurposing the former Guiteras School into a consolidated municipal government center. Beginning in 2026, several municipal departments currently located in multiple buildings throughout the community will transition into the renovated facility, improving operational efficiency, interdepartmental coordination, and long-term space planning for municipal services.

This transition will also require evaluation of the future use, redevelopment, or disposition of existing Town office buildings that may become surplus following consolidation of municipal functions. Potential future uses may include adaptive reuse, housing, mixed-use redevelopment, municipal or community-serving uses, or other private investment opportunities that support economic activity and return underutilized properties to the tax roll.

Several additional significant municipal facility needs have been identified by the Town:

- The Department of Public Works is in need of a new salt storage shed. The existing structure is deteriorating and is located adjacent to the Tanyard Brook floodplain, creating operational and environmental concerns. Replacing the facility would help reduce the potential for salt-related impacts to nearby water resources, habitat, and wildlife.
- The DPW mechanic's garage is at the end of its useful life and should be replaced to support the safe and efficient maintenance and repair of the Town's vehicle fleet.
- The Town's Police Station, originally constructed in the 1970s, no longer adequately meets the operational, space, technology, security, and accessibility needs of a modern police facility. The Town should continue planning for substantial modernization or development of a new police facility, potentially on the existing site, to support long-term public safety operations and service delivery.
- The Everready Fire Station is located within a flood hazard area, creating potential long-term vulnerability concerns. The Town should evaluate flood mitigation improvements, retrofitting options, or potential long-term relocation strategies for the facility.

- The Water Pollution Control Facility is in need of continued upgrades and modernization to improve treatment efficiency, operational resiliency, regulatory compliance, and the use of newer treatment technologies.

Public Input

Public engagement conducted as part of the Comprehensive Plan update identified several priorities related to public facilities and municipal services. Residents noted concerns regarding aging infrastructure, including stormwater systems, roadways, and certain public facilities. Roadway conditions and drainage issues were frequently cited, particularly in areas experiencing flooding or infrastructure limitations.

Participants also expressed interest in developing a coordinated Townwide facilities plan to help guide future capital investments and ensure that municipal facilities continue to support community needs. Public feedback emphasized the importance of maintaining strong public safety and public works services while making targeted improvements to infrastructure systems and municipal facilities.

Residents also expressed interest in expanding community spaces and amenities within public facilities. Ideas included additional meeting spaces, performing arts and cultural programming, and the use of public buildings for community events and activities. Recreation opportunities for youth and families were also identified as an area for potential expansion.

Public feedback also highlighted interest in improvements to municipal services such as recycling education, composting programs, and broadband access. Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining existing infrastructure while continuing to modernize public facilities and services to support the needs of Bristol residents.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure Mapping

The following maps provide an overview of the Town's public facilities and infrastructure systems and support planning, maintenance, and capital investment decisions. Select maps are accompanied by tables identifying specific facilities or system components.

Map SF-1 – Public Facilities

Map SF-1 shows the location of municipal facilities, including public safety, administrative, educational, and community facilities. Facilities are generally concentrated in the downtown and waterfront areas, with additional sites distributed throughout the town.

Map SF-2 – Water Supply System

Map SF-2 displays the public drinking water system for Bristol, which includes Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA) water towers, water mains and hydrants. The BCWA supplies water to Barrington, Warren and Bristol.

Map SF-3 – Sewer System

Map SF-3 depicts sewered areas, sewer lines, and pump stations serving the Town's developed areas. The accompanying table identifies pump station locations. (maybe remove this level of detail and just

have dots on the map and remove table from narrative or put in an appendix – pump station at animal control center added to map and table).

Label	Location Description
1	South end of Clubhouse Lane near North Farm Yacht Club
2	South of Clubhouse Lane, east of East Bay Bike Path, west of Seabreeze Lane
3	North of Patricia Ann Drive, east of East Bay Bike Path, west of Seabreeze Lane
4	North of Tupelo Street, near 17 Tupelo
5	South of Tupelo Street, near 86 Tupelo
6	North of Brooks Farm Drive, near 23 Brooks Farm Driver
7	North of Broadcommon Road, east of 97 Broadcommon Road
8	South of Kickemuit Ave and Wilcox St. intersection, near 2 Harrison Street
9	South of Peter Road, near 12 Peter Road
10	North cul-de-sac of Leila Jean Drive, near 20 Leila Jean Drive
11	South of the east-most end of Annawamscutt Drive, near 2 King Philip Ave
12	Colt State Park; southwest of the Chapel by the Sea, east of Colt Drive.
13	Colt State Park; east of 1 Colt Drive
14	Colt State Park; near pavillions in northeast section of the park.
15	South of Poppasquash Road, near 1 Poppasquash Road
16	West of Monroe Ave and Creek Lane intersection; in Veterans Park
17	West of 7 Kennedy Ct; south of Almeida Flats apartments.
18	Near animal shelter (10 Minturn Farm Road)
19	South end of Thames Street; east of 1 Thames Street
20	South of Burke Road, near 8 Burke Road
21	Southeast of 3 Sequoia Ct
22	North of Plant Ave, near 2 Plant Ave.
23	West of Ferry Road and Fairview Drive intersection; west of 155 Ferry Road
24	RWU; near North Campus Office Building (Roger Williams Lane #0)
25	RWU; south of US Sailing Center (1 Roger Williams Univ Way) in athletic fields
26	RWU; east of Bayside Courts
27	RWU; south of Maple Hall
28	RWU; south of Cedar Hall
29	RWU: south of Willow Hall

Map SF-4 – Stormwater System

Map SF-4 illustrates the general extent of Bristol’s stormwater infrastructure, including stormwater pipes, outfalls, and known and mapped private stormwater systems

Wastewater Infrastructure

Wastewater collection and treatment services are provided through the Town's wastewater system and Wastewater Treatment Facility. The system serves most developed areas of the community and plays an important role in protecting water quality in Mount Hope Bay and the broader Narragansett Bay watershed.

Because Bristol is largely built out, infrastructure planning is focused primarily on maintaining and improving existing systems rather than expanding service areas. Continued investment in wastewater infrastructure is necessary to ensure reliable service, meet regulatory requirements, and protect environmental resources, and improve long-term system resiliency.

The Town continues to pursue improvements to wastewater infrastructure and the Wastewater Treatment Facility through maintenance projects, system upgrades, and long-term capital planning. Priority improvements include modernization of treatment technologies, evaluation of tertiary treatment and nutrient removal improvements, reduction in chemical use where feasible, and evaluation of photovoltaic systems.

In addition to completed projects, the Town has secured funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to support the design and engineering of additional wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements. These projects include evaluation of system deficiencies, upgrades to aging infrastructure, and improvements to outfalls and drainage systems, including areas such as the Ferry Road corridor.

The Town continues to make targeted investments in its wastewater treatment and collection systems to improve performance, address aging infrastructure, and respond to evolving regulatory requirements and climate-related risks. Maintaining a reliable and efficient wastewater system is essential to protecting public health, water quality, and the Town's coastal resources.

At the treatment facility, the Town is planning for a series of upgrades to improve operational efficiency and environmental performance. These include transitioning from chlorine-based disinfection to ultraviolet (UV) systems, which reduce chemical handling and improve treatment outcomes, as well as evaluating the need for additional capacity through the construction of equalization or storage tanks to better manage wet weather flows. The Town is also evaluating improvements to biosolids handling and storage, as disposal options have become more constrained due to emerging contaminants such as PFAS and changing regulatory requirements.

Within the collection system, the Town is prioritizing efforts to reduce infiltration and inflow (I&I), which can strain system capacity and increase treatment costs. Ongoing and planned work includes system inspection, repair, and targeted capital improvements to reduce excess stormwater entering the system.

A key infrastructure priority is the planned relocation or replacement of a sewer line along Ferry Road, which is currently vulnerable to coastal flooding and sea level rise. This project, supported through Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank funding for design, represents a critical investment in protecting essential infrastructure and improving long-term system resilience.

Together, these initiatives reflect a comprehensive approach to wastewater system management that integrates capital improvements, regulatory compliance, and climate resilience planning. The Town will continue to pursue state and federal funding opportunities to support implementation of these projects over the planning horizon.

Stormwater Management and Water Quality

Stormwater management is an important municipal service in Bristol due to the Town's coastal location, historic development patterns, and aging drainage infrastructure. Effective stormwater management helps protect water quality, reduce localized flooding, and support the health of Mount Hope Bay and Narragansett Bay.

Stormwater runoff contributes to water quality impairments in several local water bodies, including Bristol Harbor, the Kickemuit River, and Mount Hope Bay. The Kickemuit River and Mount Hope Bay are waterbodies subject to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, which establish limits on pollutants such as bacteria and nutrients and require municipalities to implement measures to reduce pollutant loading from stormwater runoff.

Bristol is regulated as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community under the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES). As part of this program, the Town is required to implement a comprehensive stormwater management program that includes:

- Public education and outreach
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction and post-construction stormwater management
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices
- Water quality monitoring and reporting

The Town has undertaken a range of stormwater and water quality initiatives in response to these requirements. Efforts include drainage improvements in areas experiencing runoff and infrastructure limitations, public education programs, shoreline cleanups, and storm drain marking. The Town has also participated in water quality monitoring efforts in Bristol Harbor, Silver Creek, and the Kickemuit River, in partnership with Save Bristol Harbor.

A significant focus of recent stormwater planning and investment has been the Tanyard Brook watershed, which is a key drainage system in Bristol and a contributor to downstream flooding and water quality impacts. The Town has completed improvements associated with the Tanyard Brook and State Street Reservoir project, including drainage upgrades and system improvements designed to increase capacity, reduce flooding, and improve water quality. These efforts were supported through a combination of Town funding and federal and state grants.

The Town continues to evaluate opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) techniques, such as rain gardens, infiltration practices, and reduction of impervious surfaces, to improve stormwater management and water quality outcomes. These approaches are particularly important in a largely built-out community where traditional infrastructure expansion is limited.

Future Needs

- Continue investment in the Tanyard Brook and Silver Creek watersheds and other priority drainage areas to reduce flooding and improve water quality.
- Upgrade aging stormwater infrastructure, including pipes, culverts, and outfalls.
- Reduce impervious surfaces and expand the use of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques.
- Maintain compliance with MS4/RIPDES permit requirements and advance progress toward TMDL pollutant reduction targets.
- Establish sustainable funding mechanisms, such as a stormwater management district or utility.
- Incorporate climate resilience into stormwater system design, including consideration of sea level rise and increased storm intensity.
- Prioritize ongoing maintenance of stormwater infrastructure and staff training to ensure proper system management.

Water Supply

Public water service in Bristol is provided by the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA), which serves Bristol, Warren, and Barrington. BCWA obtains its drinking water supply from Providence Water's system of surface water reservoirs located in northwestern Rhode Island. The primary source is the Scituate Reservoir, which, together with five tributary reservoirs, provides approximately 41 billion gallons of total storage capacity.

The Bristol County Water Authority continues to invest in long-term system reliability and resiliency improvements. Following a major leak in the East Bay Pipeline, BCWA prioritized development of a redundant emergency water supply connection through the Pawtucket Pipeline Project, which will improve emergency interconnections and system reliability within the East Bay region.

Continued maintenance and upgrading of water distribution infrastructure remains important to ensure reliable service, adequate water pressure, fire protection capabilities, and long-term system resiliency. BCWA is also continuing efforts to identify and replace lead service lines within the regional water system, including programs intended to assist property owners with replacement of older private-side service lines.

Public Works

The Town continues to evaluate long-term Department of Public Works facility needs to ensure that municipal operations, fleet maintenance activities, roadway maintenance, drainage operations, and public service functions can be conducted safely and efficiently. The existing DPW mechanic's garage and related facilities are aging and no longer fully meet current operational and employee support needs. Identified deficiencies include limitations related to ADA accessibility, outdated HVAC systems, lack of fire suppression infrastructure within vehicle storage areas, inadequate employee locker and support facilities, and limited space for staff training, meetings, and operational coordination. The significant February 2026 snowstorm demonstrated the importance of adequate employee support

facilities, as DPW staff worked extended and overnight shifts to maintain roadways and respond to emergency conditions, highlighting the need for improved locker, changing, and rest areas within the facility.

A feasibility study completed for the facility evaluated existing conditions and operational needs and developed conceptual design options for modernization and future expansion of the Department of Public Works complex (see illustration - awaiting). Recommended improvements included upgraded maintenance and operational space, employee support facilities, and operational enhancements such as a drive-through truck wash to improve fleet maintenance efficiency and year-round operations.

The Department of Public Works has also continued to modernize municipal operations through the use of technology and data-driven asset management systems. DPW field crews utilize mobile tablets and GPS-based systems to document drainage infrastructure maintenance activities and track field operations in real time. The Town also utilizes a pavement management system to evaluate roadway conditions and prioritize road resurfacing and reconstruction projects as part of long-term capital planning and infrastructure maintenance efforts.

Consistent with the Capital Improvement Program, the Town will continue to evaluate options for modernization, expansion, or replacement of DPW facilities to support long-term municipal operations, infrastructure maintenance, emergency response capabilities, and workforce needs.

Solid Waste Management

The Bristol Department of Public Works (111 Mount Hope Avenue) is responsible for curbside trash and recycling collection for Town residents. Trash pickup occurs Monday through Friday according to neighborhood routes using Town-owned automated trucks. The Town enforces a “no bin, no barrel” policy, which requires that a recycling bin be placed out with the trash for collection, reinforcing participation in the recycling program.

Solid waste services for Bristol residents are provided through a combination of municipal collection programs and regional disposal facilities. Trash collected within the Town is transported to the transfer station located at 6 Minturn Farm Road, where it is processed before being transported to the Central Landfill in Johnston. The transfer station also supports recycling and composting operations and plays an important role in reducing the volume of material ultimately disposed of at the landfill.

The Town has implemented a range of programs to support waste diversion and reduce disposal volumes. These include quarterly e-waste collection events, special pick-up services for large items and materials requiring additional handling. In addition, a private subscription-based food waste composting collection service is available to Bristol residents, providing an additional opportunity to divert organic waste from the solid waste stream.

Historically, the Town also produced compost through biosolids processing associated with the Wastewater Treatment Facility. However, due to evolving regulations and concerns related to PFAS and other emerging contaminants, the Town is no longer able to continue this composting practice. These changes have created additional challenges related to biosolids handling, storage, and disposal, and may require future investment in alternative management approaches consistent with regulatory requirements.

As of 2025, Bristol's solid waste performance exceeds statewide averages but has not yet met state-mandated targets:

- **Bristol MRF Recycling Rate (2025): 25.3%**
- **Bristol Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill (2025): 31.9%**

For comparison:

- **State MRF Recycling Rate: 17.8%**
- **State Overall Diversion Rate: 29.8%**

State law requires municipalities to achieve a minimum 35% recycling rate and 50% overall diversion rate. While Bristol performs above the state average, additional progress is needed to meet these benchmarks.

Long-term solid waste planning is also influenced by regional capacity constraints. The Central Landfill is projected to reach capacity around 2046, underscoring the importance of reducing disposal volumes, increasing diversion, and planning for future waste management strategies.

The Town continues to evaluate opportunities to improve solid waste management programs, increase recycling participation, expand composting, and reduce the volume of material entering the regional waste stream. Additional strategies for consideration include adoption of a deconstruction and material reuse ordinance for certain demolition projects, consistent with state planning recommendations, to promote salvage and recycling of building materials and reduce construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

Continued refinement of solid waste programs, policies, and infrastructure will help improve operational efficiency, reduce long-term disposal costs, and support environmental sustainability.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Public safety services in Bristol are provided through the Town's police, fire, and emergency medical services. These services rely on specialized facilities, personnel, and equipment to provide timely emergency response, fire protection, and public safety services to the community. Maintaining functional, well-located, and adequately equipped public safety facilities is essential to supporting modern emergency response operations, including space needs for personnel, equipment storage, and training functions.

The Bristol Police Department (395 Metacom Avenue) is centrally located within the community, east of downtown. The Department is nationally and state accredited and includes approximately 40 sworn law enforcement personnel. Services include a special operations unit, mobile command center, detectives, as well as marine, patrol, drone, and bike units. In 2025, the Police Department responded to over 35,000 service calls. The Department is well staffed, funded, and equipped to respond to a wide range of public safety needs, and its efforts have contributed to Bristol consistently being recognized as one of the safest communities in Rhode Island.

The Town secured approximately \$966,000 in federal funding to support an interoperable encrypted radio communications project for the Police and Fire Departments. The funding will support upgraded communications equipment, including portable radio units, to improve interoperability, coordination, and communications reliability among public safety agencies. The improvements will support day-to-day emergency response operations as well as periods of increased public activity and large community events.

The Bristol Fire Department operates out of four stations distributed throughout the community:

- Defiance Hose Company No. 1 (1124 Hope Street)
- Hydraulion Engine & Hose Company No. 1 (4 Annawamscutt Drive)
- Ever-Ready Engine & Hose Company No. 2 (189 Thames Street)
- Dreadnaught Hook, Ladder & Hose Company No. 1 (72 Church Street)

The Bristol Fire Department is primarily volunteer-based, with five full-time staff positions supported by a volunteer force of approximately 150 to 200. The Department also provides emergency medical services and manages contracts with paramedical service providers. As a combination department, the volunteer force provides the majority of emergency response capacity.

There are no hospitals located within Bristol. The nearest major medical facilities include Rhode Island Hospital in Providence and Newport Hospital in Newport. Within Bristol, the Bristol Medical Center (1180 Hope Street), operated by Medical Associates of Rhode Island, provides walk-in and routine medical care to residents.

Future Needs

Maintaining effective public safety services will require continued investment in facilities, equipment, and infrastructure to meet evolving service demands and environmental conditions.

The Town is continuing long-range planning efforts related to Police Department facility needs to ensure that public safety operations remain effective and responsive to evolving service demands. The existing facility has operational limitations related to space, employee support areas, training capacity, and modernization needs associated with contemporary policing standards.

As part of these efforts, the Town has acquired adjacent property on Bayview Avenue to support future planning and expansion opportunities. Environmental remediation activities have been completed and the property has received RIDEM approval for future commercial or industrial construction use. Consistent with the Capital Improvement Program, the Town will continue feasibility analysis and long-term planning for potential expansion or construction of a modernized Police Department facility to support future operational, staffing, training, technology, and emergency communication needs.

Three of the Town's four fire stations are more than 100 years old and were not designed to accommodate the size and operational needs of modern fire apparatus. In addition, the Ever-Ready Fire Station is located within a flood hazard area and may become increasingly vulnerable to coastal flooding and sea level rise. The Town should continue evaluating long-term modernization, retrofitting, and potential relocation needs for fire facilities.

Public Education

Existing Conditions

The Town of Bristol is part of the Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD), which provides a shared middle and high school system for both communities, while elementary schools remain locally based. Kickemuit Middle School, located in Warren, serves students in grades 5–8 as of the 2026 school year following the addition of fifth grade, and Mt. Hope High School, located in Bristol, serves all district high school students.

BWRSD consists of five school buildings, three of which are located in Bristol:

- Colt Andrews School – Grades K–4 (570 Hope Street, Bristol)
- Rockwell School – Grades K–4 (1225 Hope Street, Bristol)
- Mt. Hope High School – Grades 9–12 (199 Chestnut Street, Bristol)

Additional educational facilities include a private Pre-K through Grade 8 school located at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church (127 State Street).

The School District had a total enrollment of 2,621 students for the 2025–2026 school year, which represents a 21.2% decrease from enrollment a decade earlier (3,328 students in the 2015–2016 school year). Drops in enrollment, coupled with facility maintenance issues, led the School District to close the Guiteras Elementary School at the end of the 2024–2025 school year.

Table SF2: Bristol Warren Regional School District Enrollment: October 2025

School	Total	PK	PF	KF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bristol Warren School District	2,621	57	0	166	174	182	210	205	169	202	217	222	200	203	190	224
Colt Andrews Elementary	409	0	0	59	57	70	79	79	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockwell Elementary	255	0	0	42	39	40	48	47	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Hope High School	788	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	197	199	185	207
Kickemuit Middle School	629	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	211	218	0	0	0	0
Hugh Cole Elementary	491	57	0	65	78	72	81	75	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District Outplacement	49	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	2	6	4	3	4	5	17

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education

Capital Improvements

A major capital improvement project is currently underway for BWRSD facilities. The passage of the Statewide School Construction Bond in 2018 enables communities to access capital funds, reimbursement, and bonds from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

In 2023, Bristol and Warren voters approved \$200 million in bonds for the BWRSD to update existing school buildings and replace Mt. Hope High School. Through the Statewide School Construction Bond, the State is providing 63% of the budget for the capital plan, with an additional 20% reimbursement potential at the completion of the project.

Extensive community input has been solicited for the construction plans through input sessions held at schools within the district and informational tables at community events in Bristol and Warren. The capital improvement project goals are to improve health and safety in school buildings while enhancing educational opportunities.

Construction began in Summer 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by May 2027, with courses being held in the new high school beginning in Fall 2027. Construction work will continue on the site 2027-2028 with the demolition of the existing school building and the installation of sports fields.

The following facility improvements are underway or planned for the three school buildings in Bristol:

- Colt Andrews School – installation of a new membrane roof, electrical and wiring upgrades, construction of two new bathrooms, improved HVAC system, and installation of various safety systems
- Mt. Hope High School – construction of a new two-story high school including a gym, auditorium, career technical education shops, cafeteria, and a media center/library; new site facilities include an athletic turf field, softball field, tennis courts, lighting, new parking areas, and stormwater/drainage improvements
- Rockwell School – exterior façade work, plumbing upgrades, HVAC upgrades, stormwater infrastructure installation, and assorted flooring and ceiling work

These improvements are intended to ensure that the physical facilities in the BWRSD are able to function effectively and support educational programming over the 20-year planning horizon.

The New England School Development Council prepared an enrollment projections report for the BWRSD through the 2032–2033 school year. Enrollment is projected to increase slightly for younger grade levels, with 26 additional students in grades K–5. Enrollment for older students is projected to decrease, with 12 fewer students in grades 6–8 and 125 fewer students in grades 9–12. This projected decline in high school enrollment is consistent with the Town’s overall modest population decline.

Table SF3: Projected Enrollment for the BWRSD

Year	PK- 5th	K- 5th	6th - 8th	9th - 12th
2026-27	1251	1187	580	796
2027-28	1255	1190	560	778
2028-29	1250	1184	560	753
2029-30	1271	1204	546	731
2030-31	1301	1233	526	704
2031-32	1296	1227	534	692
2032-33	1283	1213	568	671

Source: NESDEC

Public Library Services

Existing Conditions

Rogers Free Library, located at 525 Hope Street, serves as Bristol's public library and is an important civic, educational, and community facility located within the downtown. The library consists of the original 1877 historic brownstone building and a 2008 addition, which expanded capacity and improved accessibility, including ADA-compliant access. The facility contains more than 28,000 square feet across three stories.

The library employs 31 staff members and is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees appointed by the community. The library is also supported by the Friends of Rogers Free Library, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps fund expanded programming, community events, and facility improvements.

In addition to traditional library services, Rogers Free Library provides a broad range of educational, technological, and community services that reflect evolving resident needs. These services include public access computers, printers, high-speed internet, technology assistance, meeting rooms, archival collections, and historical resources. These resources are increasingly important for residents accessing online services, education, employment opportunities, and remote work resources.

The library hosts free programming for children, teens, adults, and older adults, including educational programs, cultural events, workforce development initiatives, civic and legislative discussions, and workshops related to topics such as stormwater management, composting, sustainability, and other community initiatives. Through these services, Rogers Free Library functions as both an educational resource and an important community gathering space that supports public engagement and broader municipal initiatives.

The library collaborates with the Bristol Warren Regional School District, the Benjamin Church Senior Center, local organizations, and municipal departments to expand educational opportunities and outreach services. Coordination with the Senior Center includes library staff presentations and programming offered directly at the Senior Center to improve accessibility and participation for older residents. Located on a RIPTA bus route and designed with ADA accessibility improvements, the library serves as an accessible and inclusive facility for residents of all ages and abilities.

In addition to traditional library functions, Rogers Free Library supports financial literacy, workforce development, small businesses, and local economic development initiatives, consistent with broader goals identified in Rhode Island's statewide library strategic planning efforts.

The Town recently completed a series of capital improvements and operational upgrades at Rogers Free Library supported through a \$1.9 million United States Treasury Community Facilities Grant administered by the Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office. Improvements included creation of a maker space, development of a "Library of Things," upgrades to meeting and programming spaces, storage improvements, and enhanced space efficiency within the building. These investments support implementation of the Rogers Free Library Strategic Plan through FY 2029, which emphasizes financial sustainability, expanded programming, accessibility, workforce development, and flexible community-centered spaces and services.

Rogers Free Library is a member of the Ocean State Libraries consortium, a statewide network that allows patrons to access and borrow materials from participating libraries across Rhode Island through a shared catalog and resource-sharing system. Participation in the consortium expands access to collections and services beyond the local library, including specialized materials such as the statewide floating large print collection.

Bristol also benefits from the presence of Roger Williams University. The University's library resources are available to the public, providing residents with additional opportunities for research, study, and access to specialized collections. Opportunities for collaboration between Rogers Free Library and Roger Williams University may further enhance educational programming and lifelong learning opportunities for residents.

Future Needs

Future improvements at Rogers Free Library should focus on maintaining reliable operations, improving energy efficiency, expanding outreach services, and supporting the library's role as a flexible community resource and emergency support facility.

Priority facility needs include installation of a backup generator and replacement of the aging HVAC system serving the historic portion of the library. These improvements would improve energy efficiency, visitor comfort, continuity of operations during outages, and the library's ability to function as a community cooling and warming center during emergencies and severe weather events.

The Library will continue implementation of grant-supported programming and service commitments associated with recent facility improvements funded through the United States Treasury Community Facilities Grant. These initiatives include workforce development programming, educational programming, community health-related initiatives, expanded technology access, flexible programming space, and other community-centered services identified in the Rogers Free Library Strategic Plan. Continued investment in technology, accessibility, flexible community space, and community partnerships will help ensure that Rogers Free Library remains responsive to evolving community needs over the planning horizon.

Additional sustainability improvements may include evaluation of rooftop solar panels and use of rain barrels or other water conservation measures to support landscaping and garden maintenance. The library is also interested in expanding neighborhood outreach services through acquisition of a mobile library electric bicycle that could bring books, library card applications, and library program information directly into neighborhoods and community gathering spaces.

Community and Senior Centers

The Quinta-Gamelin Community Center (101 Asylum Road) is located in the former Quinta-Gamelin Army Reserve Building, which became available for reuse following the 2005 base closure. The Town assumed ownership of the property in 2008. The Community Center is overseen by Bristol's Parks and Recreation Department and serves as a hub for a wide range of recreational and community activities. Its location adjacent to the Town Beach and athletic facilities allows for integration with other recreational services and programs.

The Benjamin Church Senior Center (1020 Hope Street) is a nonprofit organization that provides services for Bristol residents ages 50 and older, including a daily lunch program, transportation to medical appointments and grocery stores, volunteer opportunities, and social and recreational programming. The Center has operated out of the historic Benjamin Church House since 1972 and is located north of downtown adjacent to Bristol Housing Authority properties, with which it partners to provide services.

Funding is provided through a combination of municipal support, state grants, and nonprofit contributions.

The Town supports senior services through a coordinated partnership with the Benjamin Church Senior Center, a private nonprofit organization that serves as a primary provider of programming, meals, and transportation for older adults. The Town's Recreation Department includes a Senior Services Coordinator who works collaboratively with the Center and other outside agencies to connect residents with services and resources. The Town has also supported operations by funding a bus used by the Center for transportation services. Building on this partnership, the Town will open a new activity space for seniors at the former Walley School on the Town Common in July 2026. This new municipal space is intended to expand opportunities for recreation and social engagement while complementing, rather than duplicating, the services already provided by the Benjamin Church Senior Center.

The Bristol Health Equity Zone (HEZ) is a place-based collaborative established in 2015 to reduce health disparities and address social determinants of health. The HEZ is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), with additional support from its backbone agency, East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP). The HEZ partners with local organizations to collect data, engage residents, and coordinate services that support community health. In Bristol, HEZ initiatives focus on food security, physical activity, bicycle safety, substance use, and mental health and suicide prevention. Programming has included meal distribution and cooking demonstrations in partnership with the East Bay Food Pantry, supporting the adoption of an ordinance prohibiting smoking in Town parks, and collaboration with the Bristol Police Department to establish a recovery support and treatment referral station. HEZ also received a federal grant to explore the housing crises from a grass roots perspective that will involve community outreach to identify barriers to housing.

The Town Senior Services programming also partners with AARP and has provided assistance for a walkability audit and small grants for increased pedestrian safety.

Future Needs

The Town is advancing the adaptive reuse of the former Walley School, a historic building located on the Town Common, as a community-focused public facility. Current plans include space for a Town-operated older adult/community services center, along with human services and community policing functions. Funding has been secured to support rehabilitation of the building. Reuse of the Walley School will reactivate a currently vacant yet prominent historic civic structure while co-locating public services in a central Downtown location.

Harbor Department and Waterfront Facilities

The Harbor Department manages and maintains a range of public waterfront facilities that support recreational boating, commercial marine activity, tourism, public access, and harbor operations. These facilities include public docks, moorings, marina infrastructure, boat ramps, waterfront access points, and support buildings that contribute to the Town's coastal economy and quality of life.

Continued investment in harbor and marina infrastructure remains important to maintaining safe and reliable public access to Bristol Harbor and supporting long-term waterfront resiliency. Several waterfront facilities are aging and require ongoing maintenance, repair, or replacement due to exposure to coastal weather conditions, saltwater, and long-term wear.

One of the Town's major planned waterfront infrastructure projects involves replacement of the aging piers at Rockwell Marina, which are approximately 35 years old. The Town is evaluating phased replacement of the existing dock systems with modern aluminum pier infrastructure and associated utility upgrades, including electrical improvements. Planning efforts also include refinement of project costs, evaluation of materials and phasing strategies, and identification of potential State and federal funding opportunities to support implementation through the Capital Improvement Program.

The State Street Boat Ramp and associated dock facilities provide an important public access point to Bristol Harbor and support recreational boating, commercial marine activities, and harbor operations. The Town should continue to evaluate opportunities to repair, upgrade, and modernize these facilities to improve safety, accessibility, operational efficiency, and long-term resilience to coastal hazards (add implementation action?).

The Town will continue to prioritize maintenance and resiliency improvements to waterfront infrastructure, including docks, piers, seawalls, boardwalks, and related public access facilities, to support harbor operations, public safety, coastal recreation, and long-term adaptation to coastal flooding and sea level rise.

Energy Production and Consumption

Improving energy efficiency in municipal operations reduces long term operating costs and supports environmental sustainability goals. The Town has undertaken efforts to evaluate municipal energy use and identify opportunities for improvement, including completion of an energy audit of municipal buildings and conversion to LED streetlighting. These initiatives have reduced energy consumption and improved operational efficiency. The Town will continue to pursue additional energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings, infrastructure, and operations as part of ongoing capital planning and facility upgrades.

The Town of Bristol supports the use of renewable energy technologies and reduced dependence on fossil fuels, consistent with Rhode Island's clean energy goals. The Town has made investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy over time, including upgrades to municipal facilities and support for local and regional energy initiatives. The Fire Department headquarters at 4 Annawamscutt Drive has achieved Silver LEED certification, reflecting the Town's commitment to incorporating energy efficient design into public facilities. The Town will continue to consider high performance building practices, including LEED or comparable standards, in the design and construction of new or substantially renovated municipal facilities, as appropriate.

In addition to municipal investments, institutional and private sector partners have contributed to local energy efficiency efforts. Roger Williams University has developed multiple LEED certified buildings, including a residence hall and admissions center, demonstrating the role of institutional partners in advancing energy efficiency and sustainable design within the community.

Bristol currently receives electricity from Rhode Island Energy, with generation sources that remain largely dependent on natural gas. At the state level, Rhode Island's renewable energy portfolio is dominated by solar and offshore wind, with smaller contributions from onshore wind, hydroelectric generation, and landfill gas or anaerobic digestion. Bristol has contributed to these efforts through local

renewable energy generation, including a significant recent investment in solar energy on municipally owned land.

In 2024, the Town completed development of a large-scale solar installation on the closed Bristol Landfill through a partnership with private and institutional partners. The project occupies more than 90 acres of capped landfill and includes over 20,000 solar panels, generating approximately 8,700 megawatt hours of electricity annually, or enough to power more than 700 homes and businesses. This project represents the largest capped landfill solar installation in Rhode Island and demonstrates how previously developed municipal sites can be repurposed to support critical infrastructure needs. The project reflects a collaborative effort among the Town, state agencies, and private partners, and advances both local energy objectives and the State's Renewable Energy Standard (R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26, as amended), which requires that 100 percent of electricity demand be offset by renewable energy by 2033.

Future Needs

Additional opportunities exist to expand renewable energy generation on municipal and private properties. The Town can identify sites suitable for solar or other renewable energy projects and leverage available funding programs, including Rhode Island Energy and the Rhode Island Commerce Renewable Energy Fund.

The Town can also support energy efficiency improvements at the building scale. Given Bristol's large inventory of historic structures, incremental upgrades such as insulation, window improvements, and heating system upgrades represent an important opportunity to reduce energy consumption. Programs offered by Rhode Island Energy, including free home energy assessments and rebate programs available through Clean Heat Rhode Island, provide tools to support these improvements.

Continued investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and energy supply options will help reduce long-term energy costs, improve environmental sustainability, and support statewide clean energy goals.

Definitions

MRF Recycling Rate: This is our simplest measure of recycling, which divides the total tons of mixed recyclables (materials placed in your bin/cart at home) sent to Resource Recovery's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) by the total of these tons plus the tons of trash delivered to Resource Recovery for landfilling. Resource Recovery automatically collects both of these numbers when your city or town's trucks cross our scales.

Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill: This measure expands on the previous one even more, by adding in all other materials that are diverted from the landfill for reuse or recycling such as books, bulky rigid plastics, cooking oil, electronic waste, food scraps, (recyclable) mattresses, motor oil & filters, paint, paper shredded at special events and tires. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of landfilled trash.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Introduction

Bristol's natural resources contribute significantly to the community's environmental health, scenic character, quality of life, and economic vitality. As a peninsula extending into Narragansett Bay, Bristol's identity is closely tied to its coastal setting, water resources, natural landscapes, and open spaces. The protection and stewardship of these resources have long been priorities for the Town and are reflected in ongoing open space preservation initiatives, watershed planning efforts, stormwater improvements, urban forestry programs, and partnerships with conservation organizations.

Bristol's significant natural resources include:

- Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay, Bristol Harbor, and associated coastal waters;
- Wetlands, coastal marshes, and shoreline habitats;
- The Silver Creek, Tanyard Brook, Sowams, Upper East Passage, Mount Hope Bay, and Barrington-Warren River watershed systems;
- Natural Heritage Areas, significant habitat areas, and approximately 90 acres of mapped salt marsh habitat;
- Approximately 1,326 acres (21% of the Town's land area) of permanently protected open space and conservation lands;
- Approximately 2,578 acres of Prime Farmland soils and 615 acres of soils of statewide importance; and
- Bristol's urban forest and tree canopy.

These resources contribute to biodiversity, water quality, recreation, tourism, agriculture, and community character while supporting the long-term sustainability of the Town.

This element provides an overview of Bristol's natural resources and establishes a framework for their continued protection and stewardship. Issues related to flooding, sea level rise, climate adaptation, and natural hazard mitigation are addressed in greater detail in the Natural Hazards and Climate Change Element.

Implementation Progress Since 2016

Since adoption of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, Bristol has made significant progress toward protecting natural resources, improving water quality, and advancing environmental stewardship initiatives. Notable accomplishments include:

- Continued implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) requirements through the Subdivision and Development Review Regulations to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality.

- Completion of stormwater and drainage improvement projects within the Silver Creek and Tanyard Brook watersheds to address flooding and water quality concerns.
- Ongoing implementation of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program, including public education and outreach regarding stormwater management and pollution prevention.
- Preservation of agricultural land through the acquisition of development rights on the Fales and Pagnano Farms.
- Continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS), resulting in reduced flood insurance premiums for eligible property owners.
- Continued implementation of municipal tree planting, tree inventory, and urban forestry programs through the Conservation Commission and Tree Commission.
- Ongoing acquisition and protection of open space and environmentally sensitive lands consistent with the Town's Open Space Plan.
- Participation in regional watershed planning and water quality initiatives affecting the Bristol-Kickemuit River, Barrington-Palmer-Warren River, Silver Creek, and Tanyard Brook watersheds.
- Continued protection and enhancement of public access to coastal resources, conservation lands, and waterfront areas.

Natural Resource Maps

Map NR1: Wetlands displays the location, extent, and classification of wetlands within Bristol. Wetlands include freshwater and coastal systems that provide important ecological functions such as flood storage, water quality improvement, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat. Data is sourced from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory.

Map NR2: Agricultural Soils identifies the location of approximately 2,578 acres of Prime Farmland soils and 615 acres of soils of statewide importance within Bristol. These soils represent lands with agricultural potential and help inform farmland preservation efforts and land use planning decisions.

Map NR3: Habitats illustrates significant habitat areas and ecological communities within Bristol. Approximately 2,603 acres of designated Natural Heritage Areas and approximately 90 acres of mapped salt marsh habitat are shown, along with deciduous forests, woodlands, plantation forests, and ruderal forests.

Map NR4: Water Resources displays Bristol's water resources, including streams, ponds, wetlands, watersheds, Bristol Harbor, Mount Hope Bay, Narragansett Bay, and other coastal waters. As a peninsula community, Bristol's natural systems and community character are closely tied to these resources.

Map NR5: Protected Open Space identifies approximately 1,326 acres of permanently protected open space and conservation lands within Bristol, representing approximately 21 percent of the Town's land area.

Water Resources

Water resources are among Bristol's most significant natural assets. The Town is bordered by Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay, and Bristol Harbor, while numerous streams, wetlands, and coastal resources contribute to the ecological health of the community.

Bristol contains portions of several watershed systems, including the Silver Creek, Tanyard Brook, Sowams, Upper East Passage, Mount Hope Bay, and Barrington-Warren River watersheds. These watershed systems influence local water quality, drainage patterns, habitat resources, and coastal conditions throughout the community.

The Town has participated in watershed planning initiatives and implemented stormwater management projects designed to reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality, and address localized drainage concerns. Continued implementation of stormwater management practices and low impact development techniques will support the long-term protection of Bristol's water resources and Narragansett Bay.

Management of Bristol Harbor is guided by the Town's Harbor Management Plan, which supports water quality protection, resource stewardship, navigation, and public access.

Wetlands and Coastal Resources

Wetlands provide valuable environmental functions, including flood storage, groundwater recharge, water quality improvement, erosion control, and wildlife habitat. Bristol contains a variety of freshwater and coastal wetlands, including estuarine and marine wetlands, freshwater emergent wetlands, freshwater forested and shrub wetlands, freshwater ponds, and riverine systems.

Coastal wetlands and shoreline habitats support fisheries, migratory birds, shellfish resources, and other wildlife species. These areas also contribute to the scenic character of the community and provide opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education.

The preservation and responsible management of wetlands and coastal resources remain important priorities for maintaining ecological functions, protecting habitat, and sustaining environmental quality.

Open Space and Conservation Lands

Protected open space provides environmental, recreational, scenic, and educational benefits throughout Bristol. Conservation lands help protect natural habitats, water resources, scenic landscapes, and community character while providing opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education.

Bristol contains approximately 1,326 acres of permanently protected open space, representing approximately 21 percent of the Town's land area. Protected lands include Colt State Park, Blithewold Mansion and Gardens, Mt. Hope Farm, Audubon Society properties, Waypoiset Preserve Trust lands, Town-owned conservation lands, recreation lands, and privately protected open space parcels.

The Town has a long history of supporting open space preservation through local bond initiatives, conservation partnerships, and land protection efforts. The Town's Open Space Plan serves as the primary guide for conservation priorities and future land acquisition efforts.

Agricultural Resources

Agricultural lands contribute to Bristol's rural character, cultural heritage, local food production, and open space network. Although agriculture occupies a relatively small portion of the community today, remaining farmland represents an important natural resource.

Bristol contains approximately 2,578 acres of Prime Farmland soils and 615 acres of soils of statewide importance. While much of the Town has developed, significant agricultural soil resources remain, particularly in the northern and southern portions of the community.

The Town has supported farmland preservation through the acquisition of agricultural development rights and participation in state and federal farmland protection programs. The preservation of remaining agricultural lands helps maintain open space, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for local agriculture.

Tree Canopy and Urban Forestry

Trees and forested areas provide numerous environmental benefits, including improved air quality, stormwater management, shade, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and aesthetic value. Street trees and landscaped public spaces contribute significantly to Bristol's character and visual appeal.

Bristol has maintained an active urban forestry program for many years and has been recognized as a Tree City USA community. The Town's Conservation Commission and Tree Commission oversee tree planting, maintenance, and stewardship activities designed to enhance Bristol's urban forest and tree canopy.

Bristol completed a Strategic Tree Canopy Plan in 2024. The assessment found that approximately 44 percent of the Town's land area is covered by tree canopy, representing approximately 2,718 acres of canopy cover. The Plan identified opportunities to expand canopy coverage, improve stormwater management, reduce urban heat island effects, improve air quality, and enhance community resilience. The Plan established a goal of maintaining at least 44 percent canopy coverage while increasing overall canopy coverage to 45 percent over the next ten years.

Key recommendations of the Plan include:

- Plant trees in rights-of-way where canopy coverage is less than 10 percent.
- Recognize trees as community infrastructure.
- Inventory heritage trees and champion trees.
- Develop a 5- to 10-year street tree planting plan.
- Retrofit properties with trees and green infrastructure to reduce impervious cover.

Continued investment in urban forestry initiatives will help improve environmental quality, community character, and resilience.

Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity

Natural habitats throughout Bristol support a variety of plant and animal species. Bristol contains approximately 2,603 acres of designated Natural Heritage Areas, representing approximately 41.4 percent of the Town's land area, and approximately 90 acres of mapped salt marsh habitat.

Significant habitat areas include salt marshes, coastal habitats, forested areas, and designated Natural Heritage Areas identified by the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program. These habitats provide important ecological functions and contribute to regional biodiversity.

The protection of habitat areas and ecological communities helps maintain healthy ecosystems, supports wildlife populations, and preserves the environmental resources that contribute to Bristol's quality of life.

Natural Resource Issues and Opportunities

Bristol's natural resources face a variety of challenges associated with historic development patterns, development pressures, stormwater runoff, invasive species, habitat fragmentation,

and the effects of climate change. Continued development and redevelopment have the potential to affect water quality, wetlands, habitat areas, and coastal resources if not properly managed.

Stormwater runoff remains a significant concern for local watersheds and coastal waters because it can transport pollutants, sediments, and nutrients into surface waters. The Town has made substantial investments in stormwater infrastructure and watershed restoration projects; however, continued efforts will be necessary to protect water quality and ecological functions.

Habitat fragmentation and the loss of undeveloped land can reduce ecological connectivity and biodiversity. Conservation of significant habitat areas, open spaces, and wildlife corridors will remain important priorities. Climate change, sea level rise, and increased coastal flooding may also affect wetlands, salt marshes, and coastal habitats over time. These issues are discussed in greater detail in the Natural Hazards and Climate Change Element.

Bristol participated in the Rhode Island Municipal Resilience Program (MRP), which identified local resilience priorities related to flooding, coastal resources, stormwater management, and natural systems. Many of the recommendations developed through the MRP process support the protection and enhancement of natural resources while also improving community resilience.

Conservation Priorities

The Town's conservation priorities include:

- Protection of significant habitat areas and Natural Heritage Areas;
- Preservation of prime farmland and soils of statewide importance;
- Protection of wetlands, coastal marshes, and riparian corridors;
- Conservation of remaining undeveloped shoreline areas;
- Expansion of ecological connections between protected open spaces;
- Acquisition of environmentally sensitive and flood-prone properties where conservation supports multiple public benefits; and
- Preservation of lands identified as priorities in the Town's Open Space Plan.

These priorities help guide conservation initiatives, land acquisition efforts, grant applications, and partnerships with conservation organizations and state agencies.

Environmental Stewardship and Education

Environmental stewardship is strengthened through public awareness, education, and community involvement. Bristol has partnered with schools, nonprofit organizations,

environmental groups, and volunteers to promote conservation, recycling, water quality protection, and environmental education.

Programs that encourage residents to understand and care for local natural resources help foster long-term stewardship and support community conservation goals. Continued partnerships and educational initiatives will remain important components of Bristol's natural resource protection efforts.

Partnerships among municipal boards, schools, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers help foster long-term conservation of natural resources and encourage residents to understand and care for the land and water resources that contribute to community character and quality of life.

Natural Resource Protection Tools

Natural resources in Bristol are protected through a combination of federal, state, and local regulations, land conservation initiatives, and stewardship programs. Key regulatory tools include RIDEM freshwater wetlands regulations, CRMC coastal regulations, municipal zoning requirements, the Town's Subdivision and Development Review Regulations, Low Impact Development (LID) standards, stormwater management requirements, and floodplain regulations. Non-regulatory approaches include conservation land acquisition, open space preservation initiatives, urban forestry programs, watershed planning efforts, and public education and outreach programs.

The Town will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of these tools and pursue updates to regulations, programs, and practices as necessary to support the long-term protection of natural resources and environmental quality.

Consistency with State Plans

This Element is consistent with the Rhode Island State Guide Plan, including *Land Use 2025: Rhode Island's State Land Use Policies and Plan*, the *Rhode Island Greenspace and Greenways Plan*, and *Rhode Island's Wildlife Action Plan*. The goals, policies, and implementation actions support the protection of water resources, habitat areas, wetlands, agricultural soils, open space, and other significant natural resources while advancing statewide conservation and environmental stewardship objectives.

Goals and Policies

Goal NR-1

Protect and enhance Bristol's natural resources, ecological systems, and environmental quality for present and future generations.

Policies

- A. Protect wetlands, floodplains, riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, and other environmentally sensitive resources through land use regulations, conservation efforts, and development review procedures.
- B. Protect water resources, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and other environmentally sensitive areas from adverse impacts associated with development and redevelopment.
- C. Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological functions through the conservation and stewardship of natural resources.
- D. Encourage land use and development patterns that minimize impacts to natural resources and environmental quality.
- E. Continue to support local, state, and regional efforts to identify, protect, and restore significant natural resources and habitats.

Goal NR-2

Protect and improve the quality of Bristol's water resources, coastal resources, and watershed systems.

Policies

- A. Support watershed-based planning and management efforts that protect and improve water quality.
- B. Continue to implement stormwater management practices and low impact development techniques that reduce runoff and improve water quality.
- C. Protect wetlands, coastal resources, and riparian areas that contribute to water quality, habitat protection, and ecological health.
- D. Promote public awareness and stewardship of Bristol's water resources and coastal environment.

E. Incorporate water quality improvements, green infrastructure, low impact development practices, and nature-based solutions into municipal infrastructure, capital improvement, and redevelopment projects where feasible.

Goal NR-3

Preserve and expand Bristol's network of open spaces, conservation lands, agricultural resources, and natural landscapes.

Policies

A. Implement the Bristol Open Space Plan and periodically update conservation priorities as needed.

B. Continue to support the protection of significant open space, agricultural land, and environmentally sensitive properties through acquisition, conservation easements, development rights programs, and other land conservation tools.

C. Protect and maintain public access to coastal and natural resources where appropriate.

D. Support partnerships with land trusts, conservation organizations, state agencies, and private property owners to advance conservation objectives.

E. Protect and enhance ecological connectivity between conservation lands, wetlands, waterways, and habitat areas where feasible.

Goal NR-4

Promote environmental stewardship, education, and sustainable management of Bristol's natural resources.

Policies

A. Support environmental education programs that increase public awareness of natural resource protection, water quality, recycling, and conservation practices.

B. Continue municipal efforts to maintain and expand Bristol's urban forest and tree canopy through planting, maintenance, and stewardship programs.

C. Encourage volunteer participation and partnerships that support environmental conservation and stewardship initiatives.

D. Promote environmental stewardship through partnerships with schools, nonprofit organizations, conservation groups, and community volunteers.

E. Incorporate natural resource protection considerations into municipal planning, capital improvements, and development review processes.

F. Support implementation of the recommendations of the Town's Tree Canopy Assessment and pursue opportunities to expand and sustain Bristol's tree canopy, particularly in areas with limited existing canopy coverage.

Supporting Plans

[1.13 Bristol RI Tree-Canopy webspreads.pdf](#)

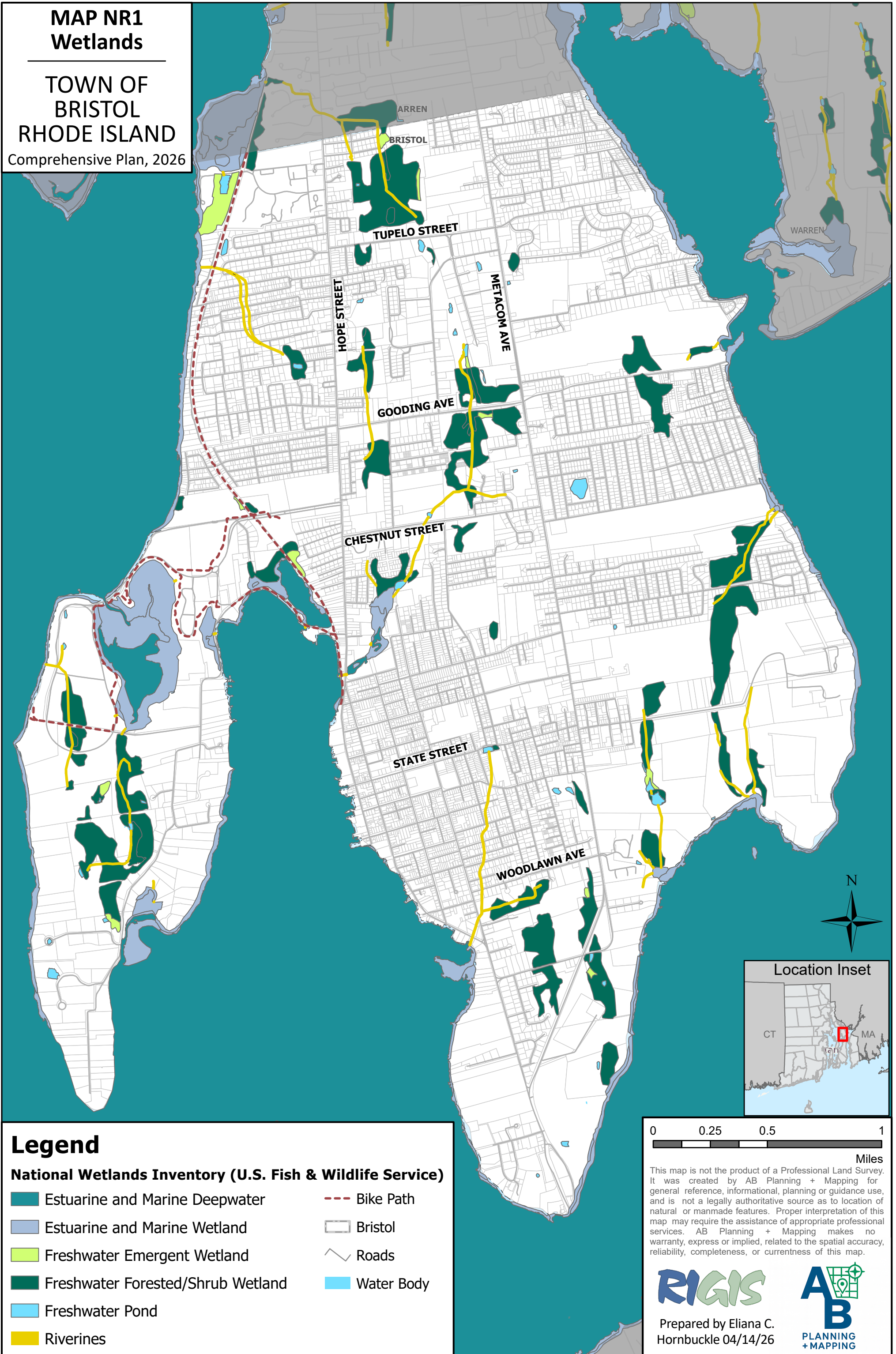
Implementation Actions			
ID	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
NR-1	Review and update the Bristol Harbor Management Plan and associated regulations as needed to support water quality protection, coastal resource management, public access, and sustainable use of Bristol Harbor.	Harbor Commission, Harbor Master, Department of Community Development, Town Council	Ongoing
NR-2	Continue implementation of stormwater management, Low Impact Development (LID), green infrastructure, and water quality improvement projects. Minimize new impervious surfaces, encourage pervious surfaces, rain gardens, bioswales, native plantings, and retrofit existing developed areas where feasible.	Department of Community Development, Department of Public Works, Planning Board	Ongoing
NR-3	Continue implementation of watershed restoration and water quality improvement projects within the Silver Creek, Tanyard Brook, and Kickemuit River watersheds, including restoration of natural hydrology, wetland and salt marsh restoration, sediment management, drainage improvements, and protection of water quality.	Department of Community Development, Department of Public Works, Planning Board, Town Council	Medium-Term
NR-4	Protect wetlands, coastal resources, riparian corridors, and other environmentally sensitive areas through mapping, regulatory protections, land conservation, and development review procedures.	Planning Board, Department of Community Development, Conservation Commission	Ongoing
NR-5	Continue implementation of the Open Space Plan and pursue acquisition of conservation lands, easements, development rights, and other conservation interests to protect significant open space, farmland, shoreline resources, habitat areas, and environmentally sensitive lands.	Department of Community Development, Conservation Commission, Bristol Land Trust, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
NR-6	Preserve and enhance public access to coastal resources through acquisition of easements, rights-of-way, shoreline access opportunities, waterfront trails, public boat launches, and protection of public viewsheds.	Department of Community Development, Harbor Commission, Conservation Commission, Town Council	Ongoing

NR-7	Continue implementation of the Town's urban forestry and tree management programs, including recommendations of the 2024 Strategic Tree Canopy Plan, inventorying public trees, identifying and protecting heritage and champion trees, developing a multi-year street tree planting program, planting trees in areas with limited canopy coverage, and maintaining or increasing overall tree canopy coverage.	Conservation Commission, Tree Commission, Department of Community Development	Ongoing
NR-8	Expand public education and outreach efforts related to stormwater management, water quality protection, environmental stewardship, recycling, native landscaping, and natural resource conservation.	Department of Community Development, Conservation Commission, Schools, Community Partners	Ongoing
NR-9	Prioritize acquisition and protection of flood-prone properties, repetitive loss properties, coastal floodplain lands, and other vulnerable natural resource areas where conservation will support environmental protection and hazard mitigation objectives.	Department of Community Development, Town Council, Conservation Commission	Long-Term
NR-10	Periodically update the Open Space Plan and utilize the Plan to guide conservation priorities, grant applications, land acquisition efforts, and stewardship initiatives.	Department of Community Development, Conservation Commission, Planning Board	Long-Term
NR-11	Periodically review and update zoning and development regulations to support natural resource protection, water quality improvement, and environmental stewardship objectives.	Department of Community Development, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
NR-12	Continue to partner with conservation organizations, state agencies, and regional partners to protect, manage, and enhance significant natural resources, conservation lands, and public access opportunities.	Department of Community Development, Conservation Commission, Bristol Land Trust, State Agencies	Ongoing
NR-13	Coordinate implementation of natural resource protection initiatives with recommendations identified through the Municipal Resilience Program, hazard mitigation planning efforts, and other resilience initiatives.	Department of Community Development	Ongoing

MAP NR1 Wetlands











TOWN OF BRISTOL RHODE ISLAND

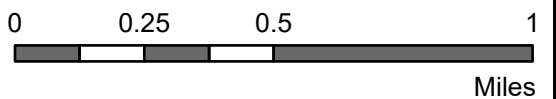
Comprehensive Plan, 2026



Legend

National Wetlands Inventory (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater |  Bike Path |
|  Estuarine and Marine Wetland |  Bristol |
|  Freshwater Emergent Wetland |  Roads |
|  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |  Water Body |
|  Freshwater Pond | |
|  Riverines | |



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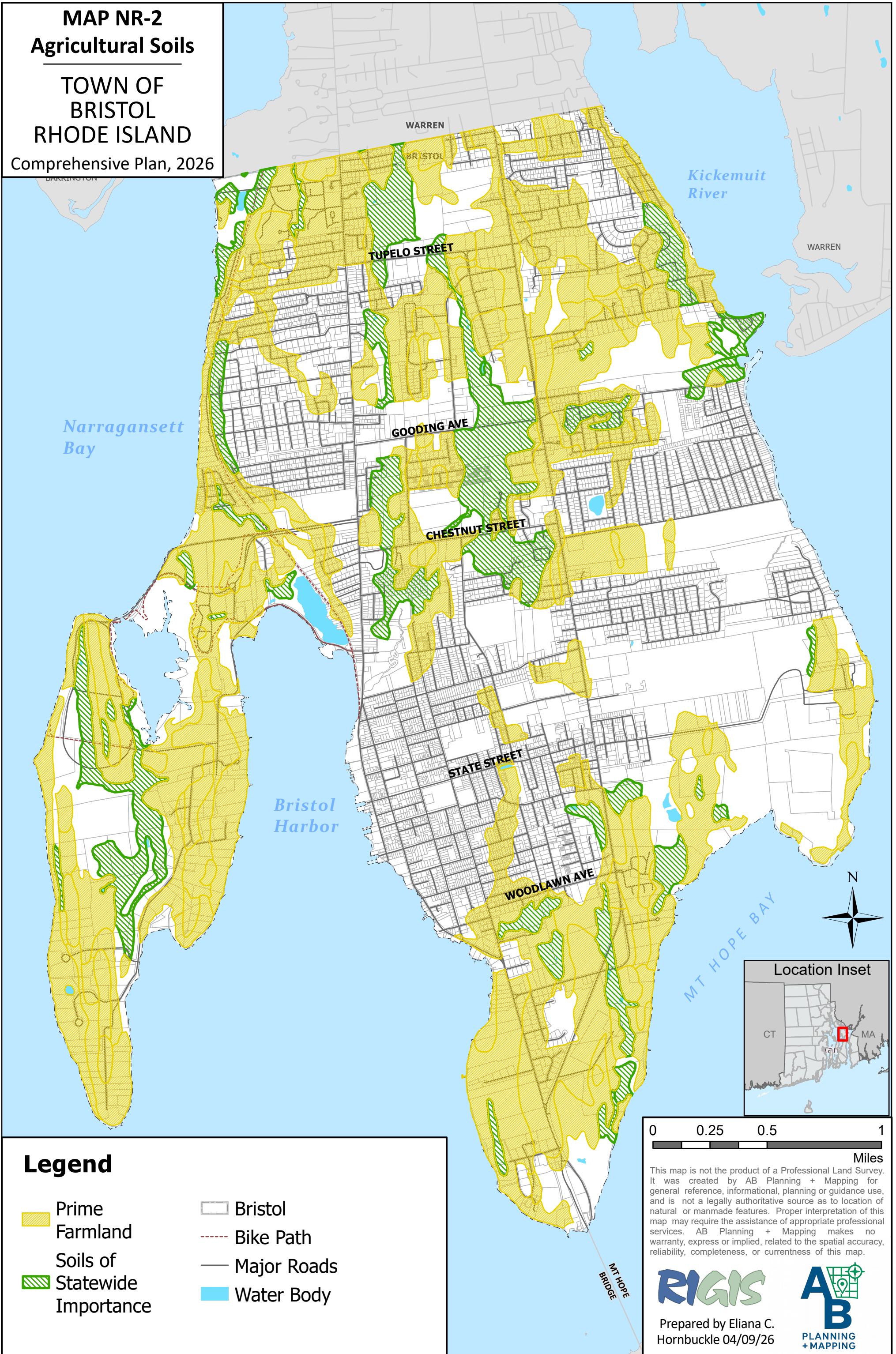


Prepared by Eliana C. Hornbuckle 04/14/26







MAP NR-2 Agricultural Soils

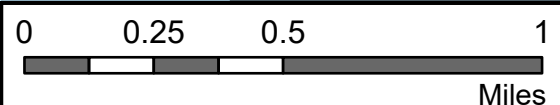
TOWN OF BRISTOL RHODE ISLAND

Comprehensive Plan, 2026



Legend

-  Prime Farmland
-  Soils of Statewide Importance
-  Bristol
-  Bike Path
-  Major Roads
-  Water Body



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RIGIS

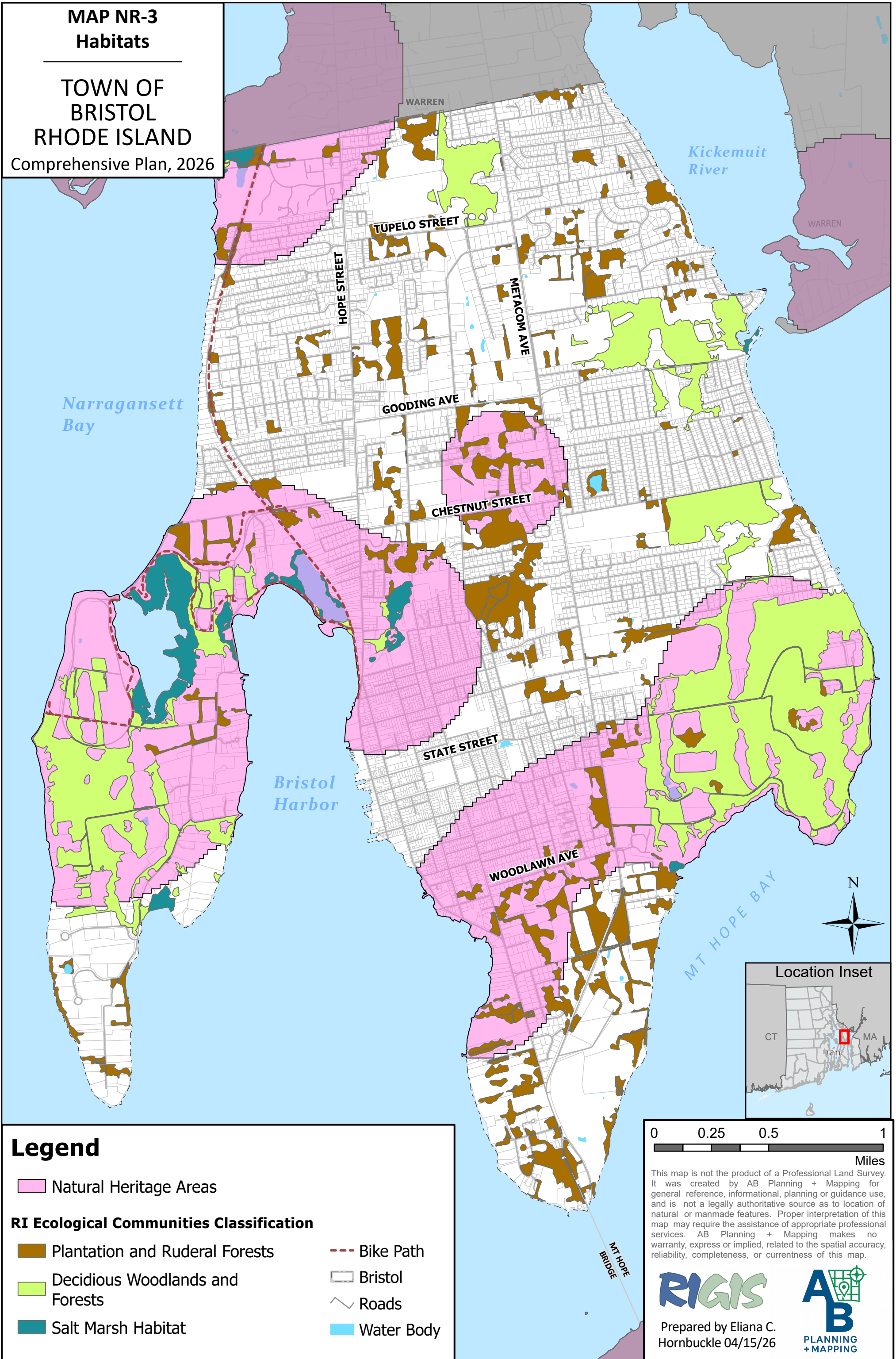
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AB
PLANNING + MAPPING

**MAP NR-3
Habitats**

**TOWN OF
BRISTOL
RHODE ISLAND**

Comprehensive Plan, 2026



Legend

Natural Heritage Areas

RI Ecological Communities Classification

Plantation and Ruderal Forests

Deciduous Woodlands and Forests

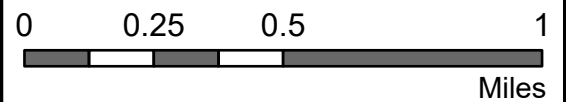
Salt Marsh Habitat

Bike Path

Bristol

Roads

Water Body



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RIGIS

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**PLANNING
+ MAPPING**

**MAP NR4
Water Resources**

**TOWN OF
BRISTOL
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**Old Mill Creek
Narragansett
Bay Watershed**

**Barrington
River - Warren
River Watershed**

**Mount Hope
Bay Watershed**

**Upper East
Passage Watershed**

Legend

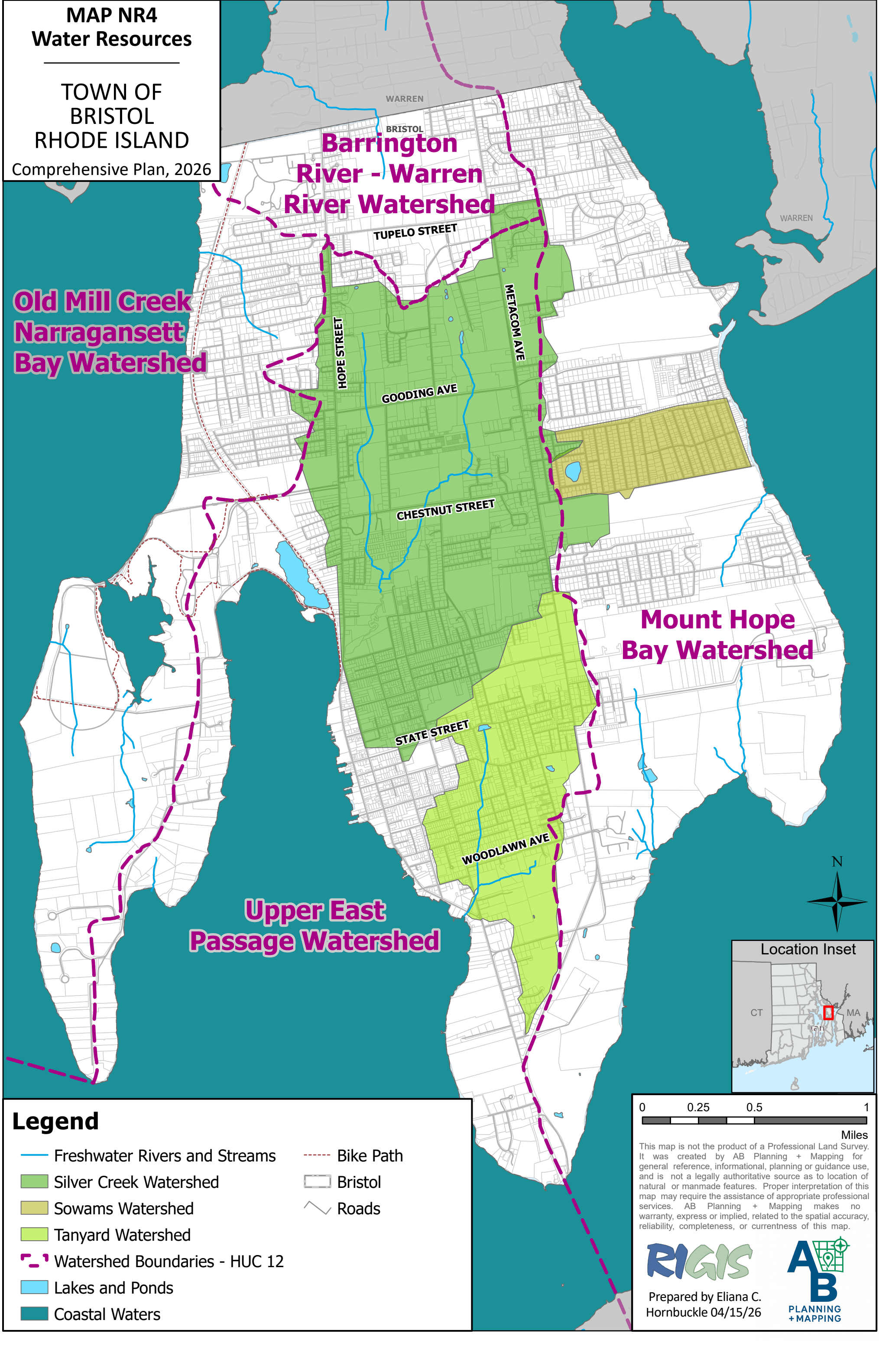
-  Freshwater Rivers and Streams
-  Silver Creek Watershed
-  Sowams Watershed
-  Tanyard Watershed
-  Watershed Boundaries - HUC 12
-  Lakes and Ponds
-  Coastal Waters
-  Bike Path
-  Bristol
-  Roads



Miles
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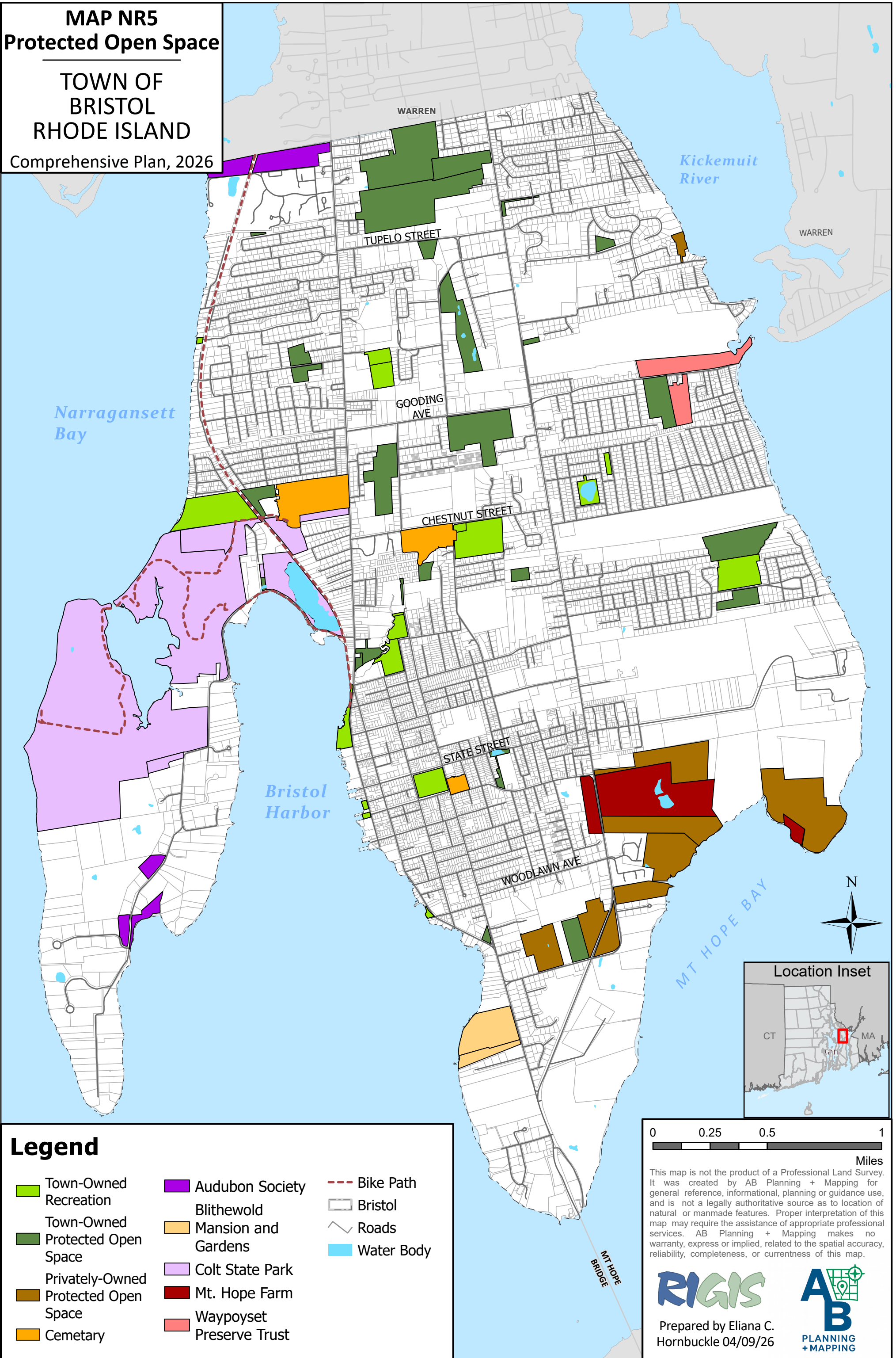
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**MAP NR5
Protected Open Space**

**TOWN OF
BRISTOL
RHODE ISLAND**

Comprehensive Plan, 2026



Legend

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Town-Owned Recreation | Audubon Society | Bike Path |
| Town-Owned Protected Open Space | Blithewold Mansion and Gardens | Bristol |
| Privately-Owned Protected Open Space | Colt State Park | Roads |
| Cemetary | Mt. Hope Farm | Water Body |
| | Waypoyset Preserve Trust | |



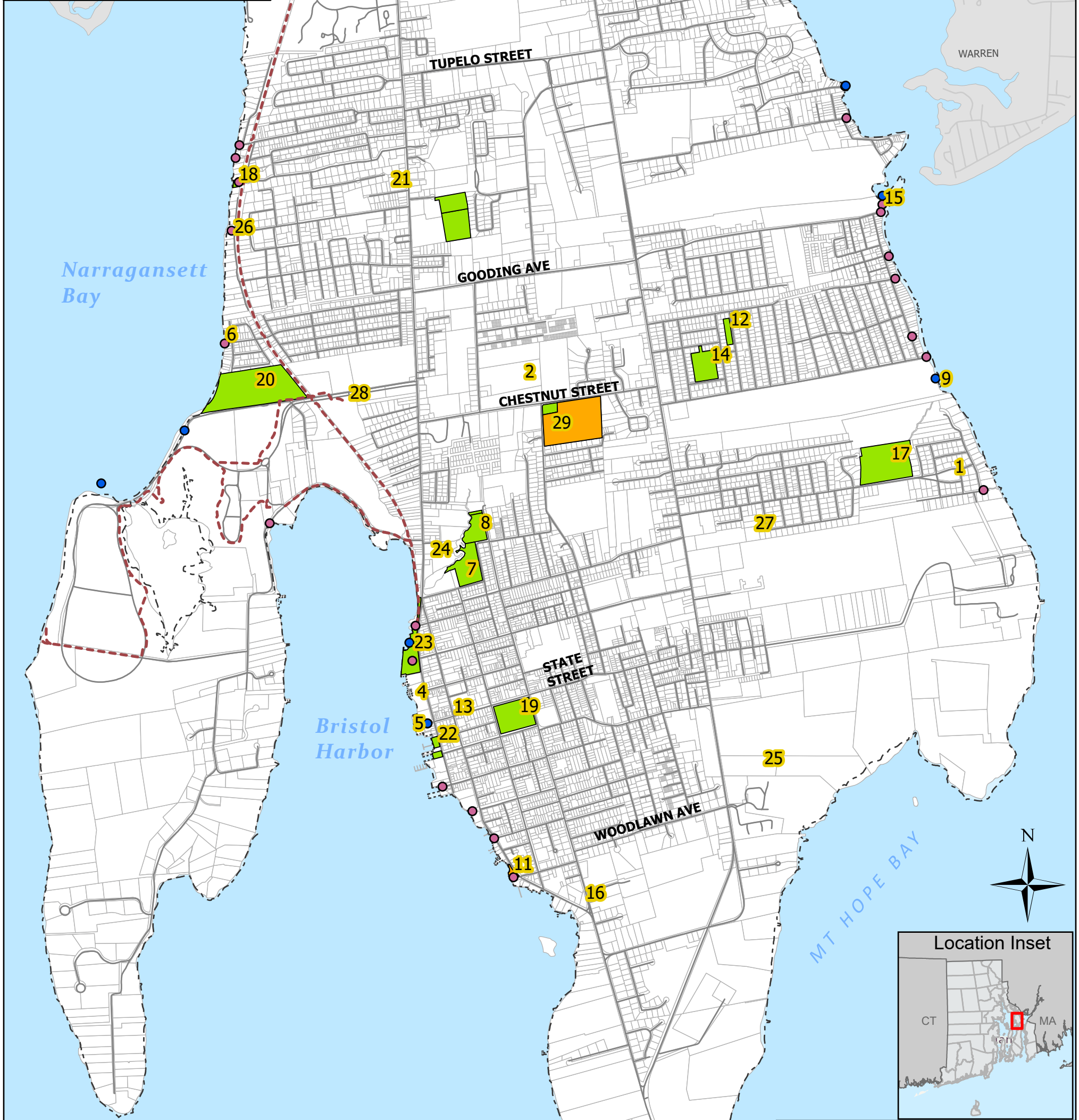
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MAP R1
Outdoor Recreation
and Public Access
TOWN OF
BRISTOL
RHODE ISLAND
 Comprehensive Plan, 2026



Legend

- Fishing / Boating Access
- CRMC ROW
- State Recreation
- Easement Property
- Town-Owned
- Recreation Property

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Facilities are from the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Inventory. See accompanying table for name and ownership.

- Bike Path
- Bristol
- Roads
- Water Body



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