



**RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-222-4462

March 8, 2014

Dear Conservation Partner:

I am extremely pleased to announce the Department of Environmental Management will be accepting applications for Rhode Island Local Open Space Matching Grants for land preservation projects beginning March 10, 2014. These grants will provide up to 50% matching funds to municipalities, land trusts and nonprofit land conservation organizations to preserve valuable open space in Rhode Island.

This year, the Department may provide up to \$5 million for projects with a maximum grant of up to \$400,000. The Department will also provide an additional 50% overhead funds within set parameters to successful projects for appraisal, title and survey services provided the services are competitively bid with appropriate documentation.

As many of you know, this grant program has provided funding for the preservation of over 10,000 acres of land across the State since its inception in 1985. We have completed 165 easement transactions with land trusts and local communities to date – these new funds will go a long way in furthering our joint mission of preserving our precious resources and increasing the public's access and enjoyment of our natural lands.

The application period for submissions will be from Monday, March 10, 2014 through Friday, June 6, 2014. All grant applications will be reviewed and scored by the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Preservation Commission Advisory Committee according to the "Rules and Regulations" for the program. The highest scoring grant applications will be forwarded to the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Preservation Commission for approval. Grants will be awarded from the 2008 and 2012 Open Space Bond Authorizations.

The grant application, rules & regulations and information on the process are available from:
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Planning & Development
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

A downloadable form can be accessed from the DEM website at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/plandev/grants.htm>

If you need additional information please call Lisa Primiano, Deputy Chief, Division of Planning and Development at (401) 222-2776 extension 4307 or email Lisa at lisa.primiano@dem.ri.gov. As you know, these grants are competitive and you are encouraged to carefully review the grant scoring criteria and to consult with DEM as needed. We are looking forward to working with many of you on exciting conservation projects this coming year.

Sincerely,

Janet Coit

Janet L. Coit, Director