

# 2008 Rhode Island Land Use & Natural Resources Training Survey

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 219 responders
  - Number of respondents by affiliation
    - Professional planners: 43
    - Municipal elected/appointed officials: 118
    - Natural resource/conservation community: 71
    - Designers and Builders: 44
  - Geographical distribution
    - Responders lived in 33 cities and towns
    - Responders worked in 36 cities and towns
- Appointed/elected municipal officials length of service
  - <1 year: 15.3%
  - 1-3 years: 25.2%
  - 4-6 years: 22.1%
  - >6 years: 37.4%
- Total hours of conferences/workshops currently attending vs hours interested in attending

<u>Current</u> (180 responders)	<u>Future interest</u> (182 responders)
3-6 hours: 44.4%	3-6 hours: 13.2%
7-15 hours: 26.7%	7-15 hours: 34.6%
16-35 hours: 28.9%	16-35 hours: 39.0%
	36-50 hours: 13.2%

- Factors influencing decision to participate in workshop/training (listed in order of average rating):

	<u>Strong Influence</u>
Speakers' expertise	71.3%
Timing/convenience	57.1%
Cost	56.7%
Distance to travel	42.5%
Opportunity to network	26.7%
Endorsement by professional organization	17.4%
Other attendees	14.3%
Professional credits	16.4%
Gives my firm a marketing advantage	5.7%

- Why responders might not have attended past trainings (80 responders)
  - Not aware of programs available 47.5%
  - Scheduling conflicts 36.3%

Topics weren't of interest	28.8%
Programs too expensive	23.8%
Don't have time to attend	23.8%
Location too far away	12.5%
Don't need further information	2.5%
None	17.5%

- Usefulness of training announcement methods (listed in order of average rating):

	<u>Most useful</u>
Workshop-specific emails	69.9%
Electronic newsletters	47.2%
Websites	20.3%
Electronic calendars	18.7%
Snail mail	10.7%
Local newspaper listings	8.7%

- How likely respondents are to make use of information offered in each of the following formats (listed in order of average rating):

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Not Likely
Half-day conferences	47.8% (87)	39.6% (72)	8.2% (15)	4.4% (8)
Informational workshops	44.2% (80)	45.9% (83)	5.5% (10)	4.4% (8)
Workshops with a hands-on component	47.4% (83)	37.1% (65)	10.9% (19)	4.6% (8)
Field exercise/site visit	41.6% (74)	41.0% (73)	10.1% (18)	7.3% (13)
Printed materials	31.5% (57)	48.6% (88)	13.3% (24)	6.6% (12)
Website information	25.0% (45)	48.9% (88)	16.1% (29)	10.0% (18)
Full-day conferences	23.3% (42)	43.3% (78)	18.9% (34)	14.4% (26)
Education programs delivered via Internet or CD/DVDs	16.1% (29)	35.6% (64)	27.8% (50)	20.6% (37)

- How convenient it is for respondents to attend programs at the following times

	Convenient	Somewhat Convenient	Not Convenient
Weekday Mornings (around 9am - 12 noon)	51.1%	27.5%	21.4%
Weekday Afternoons (around 1-4pm)	47.5%	31.5%	21.0%
Weekday Evenings (around 5 - 9pm)	28.7%	43.7%	27.6%
Full Weekday	31.6%	31.0%	37.4%

(around 9 am - 3 pm)			
Saturday Mornings (around 9am - 12 noon)	22.5%	31.5%	46.1%
Full Saturday (around 9am - 3pm)	12.6%	25.3%	62.1%

- If WEEKDAY workshops are convenient, the days which are best

	Most Convenient	Convenient	Somewhat Convenient	Not Convenient
Monday	21.6%	28.1%	25.5%	24.8%
Tuesday	28.8%	32.1%	21.8%	17.3%
Wednesday	30.4%	33.5%	17.1%	19.0%
Thursday	29.1%	36.1%	17.7%	17.1%
Friday	23.5%	26.2%	19.5%	30.9%

- If WEEKDAY EVENING workshops are convenient, the days which are best

	Most Convenient	Convenient	Somewhat Convenient	Not Convenient
Monday	17.6%	27.0%	22.3%	33.1%
Tuesday	23.8%	24.5%	24.5%	27.2%
Wednesday	25.3%	30.0%	19.3%	25.3%
Thursday	27.2%	30.6%	23.1%	19.0%