

Rhode Island Land Trust Council

2026 Legislative Round-Up

The Rhode Island General Assembly adjourned on June 11th, bringing an end to a successful legislative session for the land trust community. Thanks to the work of our legislative champions, coalition partners, and advocates from across the state, *every Rhode Island Land Trust Council priority advanced this year!*



We Made the Green Bond Greener!

When we started this legislative session, the draft budget left out funding for the critical conservation programs that we depend on. One of the session's biggest accomplishments was getting that funding included in the Green Bond before it heads to voters in November. The final bond package includes:

- \$3 million for farmland protection
- \$3 million for the State Open Space Program
- An additional \$5 million for the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund

While we were disappointed that funding for Local Open Space Grants and additional Outdoor Recreation Grant funding was not included, the final package represents an important investment in Rhode Island's lands, open spaces, farms, forests, and climate resilience.

Other Legislative Wins in 2026

Rhode Island Invasive Plant Management Act (H7071A / S2352A) phases out the sale and distribution of select invasive plant species that threaten Rhode Island's forests, wetlands, and native habitats.

Rodenticide Reform (H7222 / S2795) regulates the use of anticoagulant rodenticides that unintentionally poison raptors and other wildlife while encouraging safer alternatives to rodent management.

The Small & Urban Farm Success Act (H7242 / S2827) improves access to agricultural tax programs for farms under 5 acres in size, helping strengthen Rhode Island's local food system and making it more equitable for small farmers.



Uniform Partition of Heirs' Property Act (H7210 / S2394) protects families who inherit property without a formal estate plan by providing additional safeguards before inherited land can be sold, helping preserve generational ownership and strengthening protections for underserved communities.

The Bad Bill That Didn't Pass: Public Use of Private Lands legislation (H7761 / S3188), which would have removed important liability protections for outdoor recreation on state and municipal properties, did not advance this session. Preserving these protections helps ensure that public lands remain open and accessible for recreation and protects municipal land trusts.



RILTC in Action. The Rhode Island Land Trust Council serves as the voice of Rhode Island's land trusts at the Rhode Island State House. During the 2026 legislative session, we:

- Tracked **129 bills** & submitted testimony on **22 bills**.
- Mobilized hundreds of conservation advocates through weekly legislative updates and action alerts.
- Successfully advanced **all** of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council's legislative priorities for 2026.

Our accomplishments were made possible by the many legislators, friends, and partners who contacted lawmakers, testified, attended hearings, and spoke up for conservation throughout the legislative session.

Did you know: The RI Land Trust Council sends weekly legislative updates during the session through the RI Land Trust Google Group. [Join here!](#)

Help Keep the Momentum Going!

Advocacy is one of the most important services that the Rhode Island Land Trust Council provides to the Rhode Island's land trust community. It is also the hardest part of our work to fund! While many grants and funders support our programming and technical assistance, very few support the policy work that strengthens our land trusts and shapes the future of conservation across Rhode Island.

If you value having a strong, trusted voice for conservation at the State House, please consider making a gift to the Rhode Island Land Trust Council today. Your support ensures that we can continue tracking legislation, educating policymakers, mobilizing advocates, and advancing policies that protect Rhode Island's land, water, farms, forests, and communities.



Behind every strong land trust is a strong network. Your support keeps that network working for Rhode Island.



[Donate to the Council](#) to support our legislative work.