2013 Award Winners

Special Topic: Food Systems
New Urban Farmers
The New Urban Farmers, led by Bleu Grijalva and Emily Jodka, work to increase healthy food access and nurture minds in Pawtucket, Central Falls, Warren and surrounding areas by eliminating barriers to healthy food and empowering low-income individuals, families, and at-risk-youth with education and collaboration. Through a small system of satellite farms they not only grow food but rebuild their communities. It is their belief that the community that grows together - GROWS together! http://www.newurbanfarmers.com/

Neighborhood Planning
Woonsocket Main Street Livability Plan
The Woonsocket Main Street Livability Plan will assist in the rejuvenation and revitalization of Main Street through the development of streetscape design, innovative zoning recommendations, and transportation and parking study. RiverzEdge Arts Project and YWCA Northern Rhode Island served as partners to the planning process along with the City. The goal of the plan is to reinvigorate and reposition the historic Main Street area as a more livable, vibrant and pedestrian-friendly district. http://www.ci.woonsocket.ri.us/Woonsocket_Main_Street_Livability_Plan_Final_Report_April_20.pdf

Plan Implementation
East Providence Waterfront Special Development District Plan
The East Providence Waterfront Special Development District Plan was adopted in 2003. The Plan defined a system of connected public spaces and public sector improvements to form a framework for high-quality private development. This comprehensive tool has served to propel the East Providence waterfront in a new direction. The Waterfront Plan, District and Commission are already creating new housing, recreational, civic and cultural opportunities, in spite of the economic downturn of the past five years. http://eastprovidenceri.net/filestorage/662/684/694/1131/2003_Waterfront_SDD_Prelim.pdf

Comprehensive Planning
Richmond Comprehensive Plan
For Richmond, the product of a complete, coherent, reformatted and professionally prepared document was a vast improvement from previous plans, and a great example of what can be accomplished on a small budget with limited staff, consultants, and volunteers. The Richmond Planning Board recently sent a set of 13 high priority zoning text amendments to the Town Council, and the new Plan has already been used to support the findings for new uses such as multifamily housing, mixed use development, equestrian centers, and renewable energy. http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/approved/130319_Adopted_Richmond_Comp_Plan_FULL_PLAN_SSPApproved_1107.pdf

Public Space
Lots of Hope
The Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) in partnership with the City of Providence developed a new initiative called 'Lots of Hope' to transform city-owned vacant lots into urban farms. SCLT has helped identify open spaces throughout Providence that have the potential to function as productive urban farms. The City then leases these lots to SCLT at a low-cost, with SCLT subleasing them to community members and organizations for farming in turn. This is a marvelous and innovative way to activate and beautify public space. https://www.providenceri.com/efile/5537
Student Award
Dale Carlia Corners (South Kingstown/URI)

The URI Landscape Architecture program developed a studio class focused on the Dale Carlia Corners section of Wakefield, RI. The results of this studio are tangible ideas for retrofitting suburban strip development that can be applied all over the state. Suggestions included a mixed-use development plan with improved bus service, and landscaped boulevard for Old Tower Hill Road that would provide for improved safety, green infrastructure, increased carbon sequestration, improved storm water management and opportunities for walking and biking.

The Awards committee was tremendously impressed with the other three student award nominees this year, and would like to formally recognize and publicize their great work.

Samuel Cohen, Undergraduate Student at Brown University
Project: “Measuring Business Improvement Districts: An Empirical Analysis of BIDs as Mechanisms to Facilitate Urban Revitalization and Economic Development”

Daniel Kopin, Undergraduate Student at Brown University
Project: “Coastal Transfer Development Rights in Rhode Island”

Roger Williams University – Community Partnerships Center
Project: “Bristol Maritime Project: Phase 1 and Phase 2 Business Case for the Conversion of the Historic Naval Reserve Armory into a Maritime Center”

Leadership
Bonnie Nickerson
Director of Long Range Planning
Providence Department of Planning & Development

President’s Award
Sheryl Guglielmo
Senior Project Engineer
DiPrete Engineering Associates