

2019 APA-RI Award Winners

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA RI) recently awarded six winners for outstanding projects and plans.

The projects recognized were:

Award for Resilience Planning - The City of Providence's *Climate Justice Plan* (The City of Providence's Office of Sustainability and the Racial and The Environmental Justice Committee of Providence (REJC)). The Plan includes seven key objectives, 20+ targets, and over fifty strategies that leverage climate action for climate justice, aiming to create an equitable, low-carbon, climate resilient city.

Award for Excellent Comprehensive Plan- The RI State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (RI Department of Environmental Management, RI Division of Statewide Planning, Weston & Sampson Inc). The 2019 SCORP relied on a number of public engagement techniques including studies by URI, surveys of local recreational directors, and a multiyear analysis of operation and maintenance of state recreational facilities that resulted in a comprehensive action plan.

Award for Excellence in Plan Implementation- The *Pawtucket/Central Falls Station District Vision Plan* Implementation (Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls, The Horsley Witten Group). Action items from the Vision Plan included creating a TOD district, adopting uniform zoning, approving design guidelines and creating a district-wide stormwater management plan.

Award for Outstanding Public Space- Payne Park Renovations (City of Pawtucket). The redesign of this existing park includes a new splash park, in-ground and above ground spray features, renovations to the existing basketball courts, benches, new LED sports lighting, a revamped playground, a new shade structure, space for public art, and rain gardens.

Paul Davidoff Award- The Georgiaville Village Green project (Gemini Housing Corporation, Coventry Housing Associates, Barbara Sokoloff, Robinson Design Inc, Stand Corporation and the Smithfield Planning Department). The Town of Smithfield's first 100% affordable rental project was many years in the making and provides affordable rental housing for low-to-moderate income families and the rehabilitation of a brownfield site.

Student Award- "Revitalizing the Seekonk River and Henderson Bridge Corridor" project (University of Rhode Island Landscape Architecture LAR444 Sustainable Design Studio class, The Seekonk Riverbank Revitalization Alliance, The East Providence and Providence Departments of Planning & Development). The project focused attention on the future of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway, adjacent land parcels, and the Seekonk River in addressing the needs of citizens in both cities.

President's Award- Roberta Groch, AICP, is an Assistant Chief in the RI Division of Statewide Planning and has been a planner for twenty-five-year years. Her planning career has included working for the

City of Providence, the East Providence Waterfront Redevelopment District, The Louis Berger Group, and the Town of Framingham. Roberta has advanced the field of planning in RI through her fifteen years volunteering on the annual Southern New England Conference of the American Planning Association (SNEAPA) and serving on the RI Chapter Board of the APA since 2015.