



1 environment of the people of the state by providing adequate resource planning for the control and  
2 regulation of the use of the natural resources of the state and for the preservation, regeneration and  
3 restoration of the natural environment of the state."

4 **45-36.1-2. Power to declare municipal land as public trust land.**

5 Pursuant to the proper delegation of powers vested in the general assembly by the Rhode  
6 Island Constitution, Article I, Section 17, cities and towns may formally dedicate any property they  
7 hold that was donated to the city or town, or acquired by the city or town for use as a park or for  
8 other conservation purposes as a public trust land, to be perpetually protected from conversion to a  
9 use other than the use for which it was originally obtained and from development that is inconsistent  
10 with the primary recreation, open space and natural resource purposes as a natural resource land of  
11 the state and as a natural environment for the people of the state and to reduce risks of confusion  
12 or misunderstanding regarding acceptable and non-acceptable uses of land held by a municipality  
13 for outdoor recreation, open space benefits and natural resource conservation.

14 **45-36.1-3. Process for municipal declaration of municipal land as public trust land.**

15 Cities and towns may formally dedicate any property they hold for use as a park or for  
16 other conservation purposes as a public trust land, to be perpetually protected from conversion to a  
17 use other than the use for which it was originally obtained and development that is inconsistent  
18 with its primary purpose as a recreation, open space and/or natural resource land of the state and as  
19 a natural-environment for the people of the state through a duly approved resolution of a city or  
20 town council or through any other legally sufficient municipal process. Said resolution or other  
21 municipal approval shall be recorded in the municipal land evidence records.

22 **45-36.1-4. Restrictions applicable to municipal public trust land.**

23 Once a city or town dedicates property it holds as a public trust land, such land shall be  
24 perpetually protected from conversion to a use other than the use for which it was originally  
25 obtained and development that is inconsistent with its primary purpose as a recreation, open space  
26 and natural resource land of the state and as a natural environment for the people of the state.  
27 Acceptable uses of the land so dedicated shall only be those that perpetuate outdoor recreation,  
28 open space benefits and natural resource conservation on the land.

29 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC000716/SUB A  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES

\*\*\*

1           This act would create a voluntary mechanism for municipalities to use to dedicate a park,  
2 conservation or other land they own as public trust land in perpetuity, to protect and preserve its  
3 future use.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC000716/SUB A  
=====