

1 control and regulation of the use of the natural resources of the state and for the preservation,
2 regeneration and restoration of the natural environment of the state."

3 **45-36.1-2. Power to declare municipal land as public trust land.**

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

12 **45-36.1-3. Process for municipal declaration of municipal land as public trust land.**

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

19 **45-36.1-4. Restrictions applicable to municipal public trust land.**

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

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

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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.

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