



Access Your Coast

A Brief Guide to Rhode Island's
Rights-of-Way to the Shoreline

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Take a walk. Swim.
Fish. Launch a boat.
Your shoreline is
public land.

What is a Right-of-Way?

A right-of-way (ROW) provides lawful passage to tidal waters of the state across a parcel of land. ROWs allow the public to access the shoreline for a variety of activities.

What is a "designated" ROW?

There are over 300 coastal access points in RI. Of these, more than 225 are state-designated ROWs, which means that they are protected for public use in perpetuity.

Who designates ROWs?

The RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) discovers and designates ROWs.

Who maintains ROWs?

Cities, towns, nonprofit organizations, and members of the public work to maintain rights-of-way to the shore. At some locations this includes installing signs, holding cleanups, and keeping ROWs clear and open for public passage.



Whatever it is you like to do...



...there are rights-of-way for you

Protect your rights-of-way:



Pick up trash and participate in clean-ups



Use a leash and clean up after your pet



Respect sensitive habitat & creatures



Show courtesy for residents



Be mindful of your noise levels



Report problems and obstructions of ROWs

INTERACTIVE MAP

Discover public
rights-of-way to
the shore in
Rhode Island.



Join the Conversation!

Discover even more public access points and coastal activities at shoreline-ri.com



Help designate new rights-of-way in RI and report ROW obstructions to the CRMC at crmc.ri.gov



Learn more about coastal access in the Ocean State at ci.uri.edu/access

