

CanVis

**Event was held on Friday, October 3, 2008
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
RI Department of Administration, Providence , RI**

Participants learned how to better communicate planning alternatives to local stakeholders by attending a computer training on CanVis, a product developed by the USDA National Agroforestry Center . CanVis is a visual simulation tool for resource planning that can be used as a planning and design tool to present alternatives and solicit feedback, a method of documenting and analyzing visual impacts, a training aid to help employees visualize new concepts, a marketing aid for new programs and activities, a construction aid to contractors, and a post-construction evaluation tool to assess project compliance. Simulations encourage stakeholders to invest time in the planning process and offer feedback on alternatives. This participatory process greatly increases a sense of ownership in a plan, which leads to enhanced acceptance and adoption of the proposed action. Simulations can also help shorten the time it takes to plan because decisions can be made more quickly since planning options are easier to understand. Participants received free copies of the CanVis software to take with them.

Partner: NOAA Coastal Services Center

To learn more about CanVis please visit <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/canvis/> . This website provides several examples of CanVis applications, extensive resources such as PowerPoint presentations and step-by-step guidance documents to help you get started with visualizations, and allows you to download coastal objects (including docks, boats, and houses) for use in visualizations, and order a free copy of the software (which includes additional guidance and an instructional video).

Would you like to learn how to better communicate planning alternatives to local stakeholders?

Learn about CanVis: A Visual Simulation Tool for Resource Planning

Despite the use of plans and written descriptions, many people still have difficulty conceptualizing what a proposed activity will look like on their landscape after it has matured. Now, with the aid of image-editing software, you can create photo-realistic visual simulations of proposed projects to help convey practice or system alternatives.

What is visual simulation?

Visual simulations graphically represent what a proposed activity would look like on the land from a particular viewpoint. Simulations communicate ideas in ways that plan drawings and words cannot, making this technology appropriate for any activity, program, or project where visualization would enhance communication. A simulation can be used as:

- A planning and design tool to present alternatives and solicit feedback
- A method of documenting and analyzing visual impacts
- A training aid to help employees visualize new concepts
- A marketing aid for new programs and activities
- A construction aid to contractors
- A post-construction evaluation tool to assess project compliance

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CanVis is an entry-level program that allows for the creation of photo-realistic simulations with minimal computer skills. However, two types of skills will aid in creating realistic simulations:

- The ability to read site plans and understand spatial relationships of proposed design features.
- Basic knowledge of land surveying, drafting, and construction as well as art and computer graphics.

CanVis is a product of  a partnership of  

For more information please contact Jennifer West, Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, at jennifer@nbner.org or 401-222-4700, x 7413