PORTSMOUTH 2025

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   CONNECTED
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THEMES

**VIBRANT**
“A CITY THAT PROVIDES A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVING, WORKING AND PLAYING”

**AUTHENTIC**
“A CITY THAT TREASURES ITS UNIQUE CHARACTER, NATURAL RESOURCES AND HISTORIC ASSETS”

**DIVERSE**
“A CITY THAT WELCOMES RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES, BACKGROUNDS & ECONOMIC LEVELS & SUPPORTS A WIDE VARIETY OF BUSINESSES”

**CONNECTED**
“A CITY THAT PROVIDES STRONG LINKS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, SUPPORTS ALL FORMS OF MOBILITY, & ENCOURAGES WALKING, BICYCLING & TRANSIT”

**RESILIENT**
“A CITY THAT CONSIDERS AND VALUES THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF ITS NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENT”
GOAL 1.4
IMPROVE ACCESS TO INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.4.1</td>
<td>Enhance neighborhood parks, recreational facilities and playgrounds and add new ones where appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.2</td>
<td>Create additional outdoor recreational fields where possible.</td>
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<td>1.4.3</td>
<td>Develop a consolidated recreation facility for residents of all ages and income levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4.4</td>
<td>Seek innovative partnerships for the development of recreation facilities whose opportunities arise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4.5</td>
<td>Enhance city-owned properties such as Prescott Park, Peirce Island and Sergeant Creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.6</td>
<td>Create new public spaces that can also be used for both recreation and floodplain storage.</td>
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</table>

A vibrant city is also a healthy city. The availability of convenient and affordable recreational opportunities is associated with improved health outcomes and stronger social capital. Recreational spaces double as social spaces, making them important community investments as part of a healthy life along with healthy activities. Traffic, parks, and public recreation spaces frequently serve populations in the greatest need of health improvements and social inclusion. Continued investment in new facilities and improved pedestrian connections between neighborhoods (see Goal 4.1 and 4.9) is essential to a healthy and vibrant Portsmouth. Specific metrics to demonstrate progress could include tracking attendance in public recreation programs by various age and income levels.

GOAL 3.2
ACCOMMODATE THE HOUSING NEEDS OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME RESIDENTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION #</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Streamline the approval process for affordable housing in order to reduce development costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Promote the development of mixed-income multifamily housing in appropriate locations with incentives, tax abatements, and other benefits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Seek targeted funding to provide for the needs of special populations, including the elderly, disabled, and homeless.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>Provide education and incentives for low to moderate income first-time homebuyers to purchase homes in Portsmouth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.5</td>
<td>Encourage the creation of smaller housing units, such as micro-homes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.6</td>
<td>Encourage businesses to establish employer-assisted housing programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.7</td>
<td>Support mixed-use redevelopment of suitable Portsmouth Housing Authority properties.</td>
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In the absence of mandatory inclusionary mechanisms, the City can provide incentives to encourage needed housing production, such as reduced development requirements or streamlined approval processes. For example, reducing parking requirements could reduce the cost of housing and allow larger dwellings to be divided into smaller units to reduce the absolute rent for tenants while increasing per-square-foot return for investors. Other forms of assistance, such as workforce housing, could also reduce resident costs. The Portsmouth Housing Authority is a potential partner for the City or developers, with the ability to leverage block grants for mixed-income residential development in order to provide market rate and affordable housing together with income restricted housing. Metrics for measuring achievement include a housing affordability rate, comparing median housing price with median income, or housing production by quintile to find the distribution of affordable to luxury housing production by year.
FOCUS AREAS

- URBAN CORE
- CORRIDORS
- URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS
- SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOODS
- PARKS & OPEN SPACE
FOCUS AREAS

PORTSMOUTH 2025
## FOCUS AREAS

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.5</td>
<td>Encourage public access, use and enjoyment of the downtown waterfront.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.1</td>
<td>Enhance neighborhood parks, recreational facilities and playgrounds, and add new ones where appropriate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4.2</td>
<td>Create additional outdoor recreational fields where possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4.5</td>
<td>Enhance city owned properties such as Prescott Park, Peirce Island and Sogmore Creek.</td>
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<td>1.4.6</td>
<td>Create new public spaces that can be used for both recreation and floodplain storage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2</td>
<td>Actively protect, enhance, and acquire public waterfront access.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1.4</td>
<td>Complete the implementation of the citywide wayfinding program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.3</td>
<td>Work with state and regional partners to convert the former Hampton branch to the off road route of the New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.4</td>
<td>Identify and implement off road multi-use paths along North Mill Pond and other transportation and utility corridors.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A publicly-owned lot enjoys a new life as a pocket park with minimal investment and maintenance, bringing public green space to the Urban Neighborhood area.

Additional street trees and pedestrian infrastructure such as crosswalks help people feel more comfortable walking and improve environmental quality.

With zoning changes, a context-sensitive secondary dwelling unit could be created with a modest addition to an existing structure.

Parking standards are adjusted to consider neighborhood context and the availability of public parking.
# IMPLEMENTATION

## AUTHENTIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL/ACTION DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FOCUS AREAS</th>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
<th>TIMEFRAME</th>
<th>RELEVANT CITY PLANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Ensure that new development complements and enhances its surroundings.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Department, Planning Board</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Implement standards and guidelines to protect community character and historic fabric, including building mass, shape and scale.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Planning Board</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Consider incorporating architectural design standards into the development review process.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Planning Board</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Adjust siting, spacing standards to ensure integrity of existing neighborhood development patterns.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.4 Evaluate the Historic District boundary and adjust where appropriate.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Planning Board</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Protect and enhance the integrity of historic landmarks, cherished towns and open space.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Department, Historic District Commission</td>
<td>2000-2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Identify and protect primary corridors and priority views of the waterfront and historic structures.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Historic District Commission</td>
<td>2000-2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2 Seek funding to protect Portsmouth’s historic resources.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Historic District Commission</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3 Consider becoming a Certified Local Government to offer commercial historic property owners federal tax benefits.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Historic District Commission, City Council</td>
<td>2000-2007</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2.2.4 Develop comprehensive regional plans (open space, parks, and other assets).</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Planning Board</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Maintain and establish usable public access to and along the waterfront.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Department, Planning Board</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Ensure waterfront access when reviewing development proposals along waterfronts.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Planning Board</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2 Actively protect, enhance, and acquire public waterfront access.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, City Council</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3 Preserve water-dependent and water-related uses.</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Planning Department, Downtown Development Commission</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
IMPLEMENTATION
CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS
VIBRANT

GOAL / ACTION
Support the continued vitality of the urban core through public investment and land use regulations.
- Support reinvestment in underutilized buildings and land.

Encourage walkable and mixed-use development along existing commercial corridors.
- Encourage mixed-use development in existing commercial areas by adopting new and enhancing existing zoning techniques such as the Gateway Planned Development option.
IMPLEMENTATION
CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS
AUTHENTIC

GOAL / ACTION

Ensure that new development complements and enhances its surroundings.
- Evaluate the Historic District boundary and adjust where appropriate.

Protect and enhance the integrity of historic landmarks, cherished views, and open space.
- Consider becoming a Certified Local Government to offer commercial historic property owners federal tax benefits.

Maintain and establish usable public access to and along the waterfront.
- Actively protect, enhance, and acquire public waterfront access.
IMPLEMENTATION
CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

DIVERSE

GOAL / ACTION

Ensure that the supply and character of commercial space can adapt to a changing economy.

- Identify flexible, low-cost locations for business startups and support their development through appropriate zoning.
IMPLEMENTATION
CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS
DIVERSE

GOAL / ACTION

Adapt existing housing stock to accommodate changing demographics.

- Develop regulations for accessory dwelling units that promote affordable housing for all income levels and protect neighborhood character.
- Promote the development of mixed-income multifamily housing in appropriate locations with incentive zoning provisions, such as reductions in parking requirements and increased building heights.
- Encourage the creation of smaller housing units, such as micro-units.
- Support mixed-use redevelopment of suitable Portsmouth Housing Authority properties.

Accommodate the housing needs of low and moderate income residents.

- Streamline the approval process for affordable housing in order to reduce development costs.
IMPLEMENTATION
CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS
CONNECTED

GOAL / ACTION

Ensure that biking and walking are safe, convenient, and comfortable throughout the city.
• Update city ordinances to enhance safety and convenience for bicycles and pedestrians in development projects.

Manage public and private parking supply to serve development needs without compromising community character.
• Adjust off-street parking requirements to account for variables in public supply, neighborhood congestion, etc.
IMPLEMENTATION
CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS
RESILIENT

GOAL / ACTION

Implement best management practices and site design standards to ensure sustainability and resilience of public and private infrastructure.

- Encourage sustainable low impact building and site development through strengthened land use regulations, incentives, and education.
- Improve water conservation measures through land use regulations, grants, educations, and other incentives.

Incorporate climate change impacts and adaptation into all development review and planning efforts.

- Incorporate sea level rise projections based on up-to-date state of the art dynamic models into adaptation planning and land use regulations.
- Amend building codes to address the impacts of climate change.
- Incorporate climate change adaptation strategies into capital planning for long-term infrastructure protection.
NEXT STEPS

• Zoning revisions for housing in corridor areas (in progress)
• Zoning revisions related to workforce / affordable housing covenants
• Climate adaptation for historic district properties (in progress)
• Zoning revisions for accessory dwelling units (complete, continue to evaluate)
• Revisions/updates to Site Review and Subdivision Regulations to incorporate transportation and sustainability goals
• Creation of a city-wide Open Space Plan