

Planning for Barrington's Future

Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 Update

Workshops

Town of Barrington



What is the Comprehensive Plan?

- Comp. Plan sets Town's goals and policies addressing issues such as : housing, land use, transportation, parks & recreation, community services & facilities, environmental protection.
- Basis for zoning, development/subdivision regulations, capital improvement budgets, State grant applications, and approvals

State Requirements

- Communities are now required to plan for:
 - Natural Hazards
 - Sea level rise/climate change
 - Flooding, hurricanes, winter storms, etc.
 - Energy
 - Energy use inventory
 - Energy reduction strategies
 - Agriculture
 - Economic strategies supporting farming

State Requirements

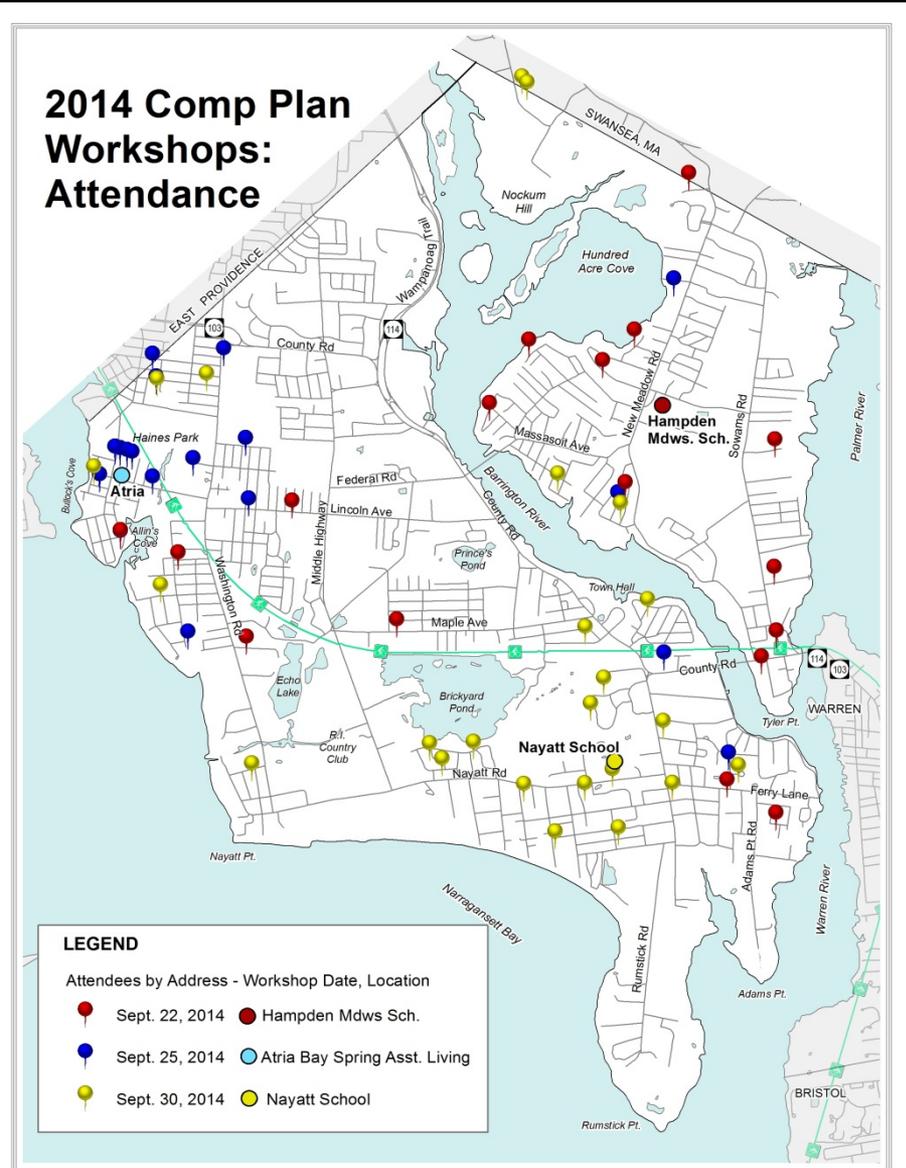
- State of RI requires cities and towns to update their local Comprehensive Plans
- Plan last approved by the State in 2010; approval expires Jan. 18, 2015
- This plan will be valid for 10 years (previously State approvals were good for 5 years)

What has been done so far?

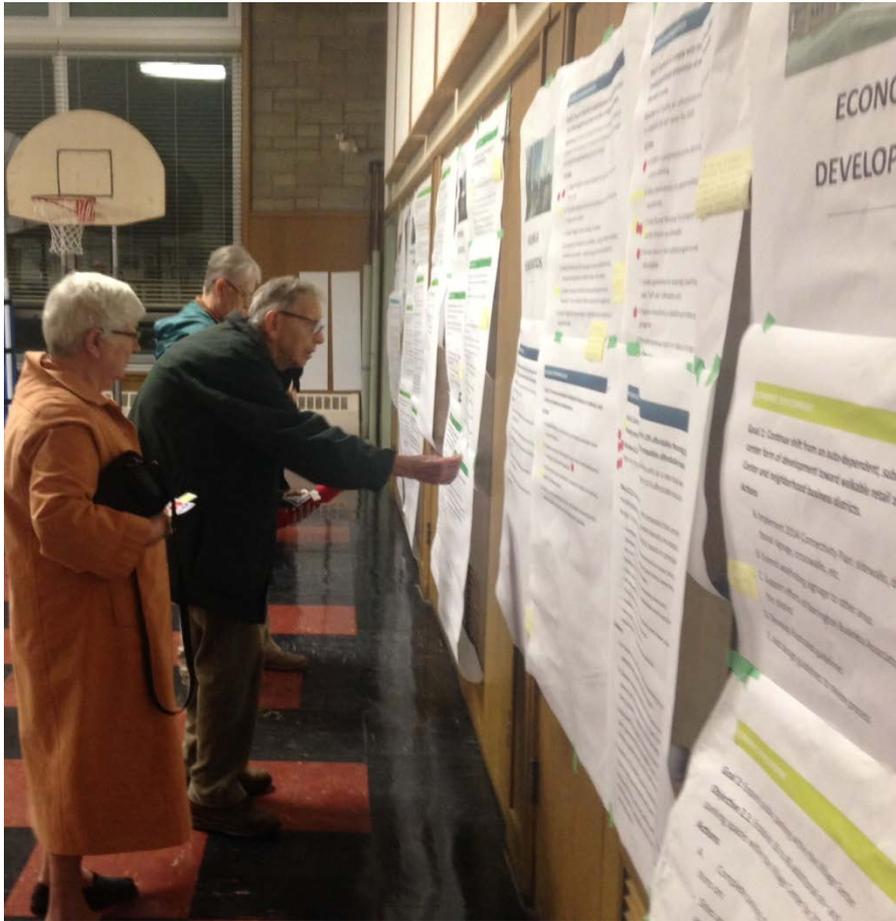
- Planning Board has worked on the update over the past year
- Established (3) subcommittees to revise all elements except Land Use and Implementation
- Meetings with Boards, Commissions
- Initial State input on some sections
- Public workshops held in September – Nayatt School, Atria-Bay Spring Village, Hampden Meadows School

Workshops – Public Feedback

- Postcard invitations mailed to all addresses
- More than 60 people attended

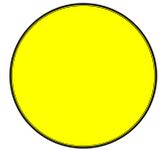


Workshops – Public Feedback

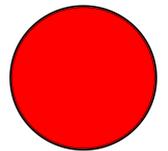


“Sticky Dot” feedback

Yellow dot =
High priority
action items



Red dot = do not
support



Next Steps

- Planning Board meeting (11/4) to review draft - including Implementation and Land Use elements
- Planning Board finalizes draft – based on public input, State comments
- Public hearing with Town Council (date TBD)
- Town-approved plan to be sent to State for final review by RI agencies and approval

SUMMARY OF PLANNING BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Structure of the Plan: Elements

- 1) Housing & Neighborhoods
- 2) Economic Development
- 3) Circulation
- 4) Community Services & Facilities
- 5) Natural & Cultural Resources
- 6) Open Space & Recreation
- 7) Natural Hazards
- 8) Energy
- 9) Land Use
- 10) Implementation

Key Issues: Community Character



Key Issues: Village Center



Key Issues: Aging Population



Key Issues: Energy Conservation

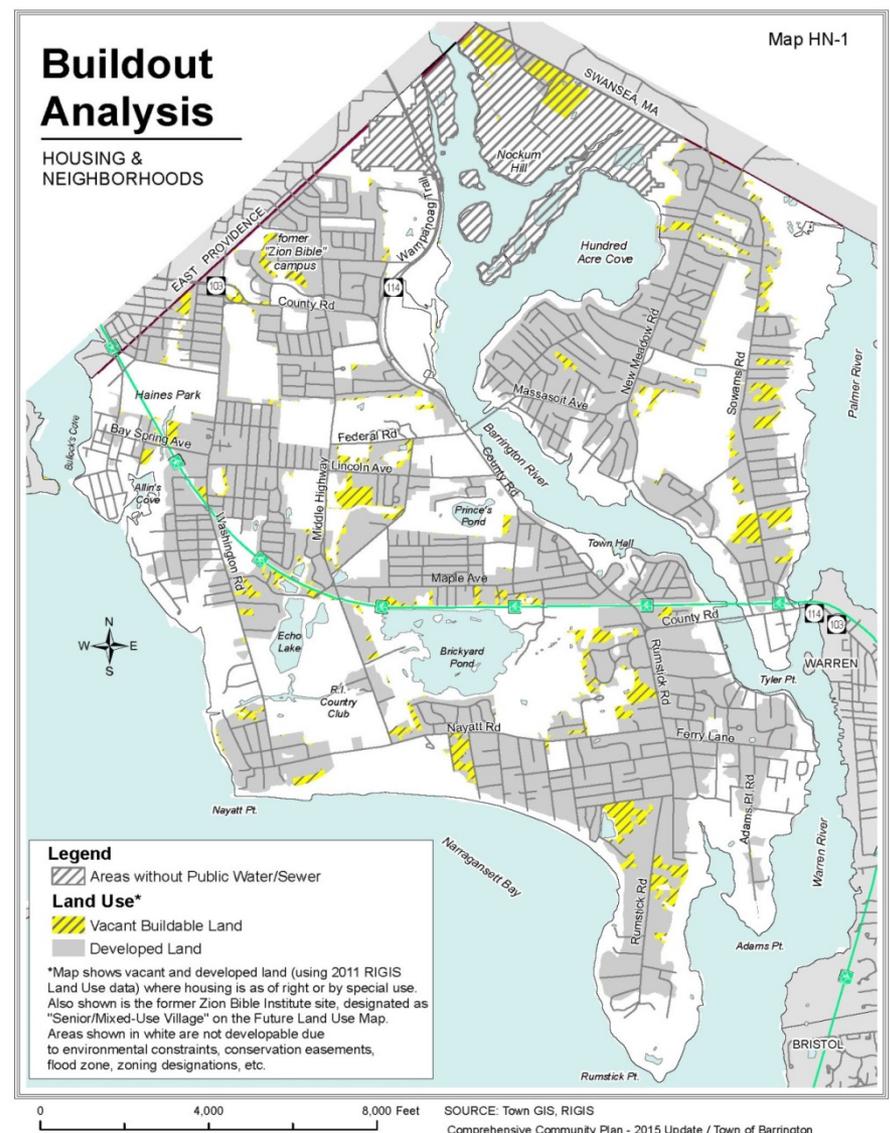


Key Issues: Natural Hazards



1. Housing & Neighborhoods

- Average permits for new units has steadily declined since 1990
- Population projected to decline through 2040 (~2% per decade)
- Declining 20-44 year olds
- Increasing 44-65 year olds
- Over 60% housing stock is more than 50 years old
- Median Sale Price in 2013 - \$372,000



1. Housing & Neighborhoods

- Increased affordable housing stock by 79% since 2007 (currently 160 units)
- Adopted new zoning:
 - Senior Residential Communities
 - Mixed-Use Development
 - Accessory Apartments
 - Affordable Housing on sub-standard Lots
 - Notification prior to demolition

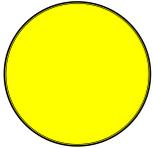


1. Housing & Neighborhoods: Recommended Goals

- 1) Ensure development is compatible with character of Barrington
- 2) Work toward 10% affordable housing goal with well-integrated, compatible affordable housing and a focus on capturing existing units
- 3) Expand supply of senior housing
- 4) Promote sustainable development features, multi-family and mixed-use projects

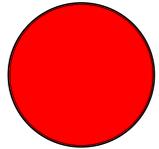
1. Housing & Neighborhoods : Public Feedback

- Expand supply of senior housing to meet growing demand of retiring Baby Boomers and the needs of residents with disabilities (8 and (1 “red”))
- Adopt incentives to capture existing houses affordable to LMI households (4)
- Consider zoning standards that would require homes on “teardown” lots to better reflect character of neighborhood (5)



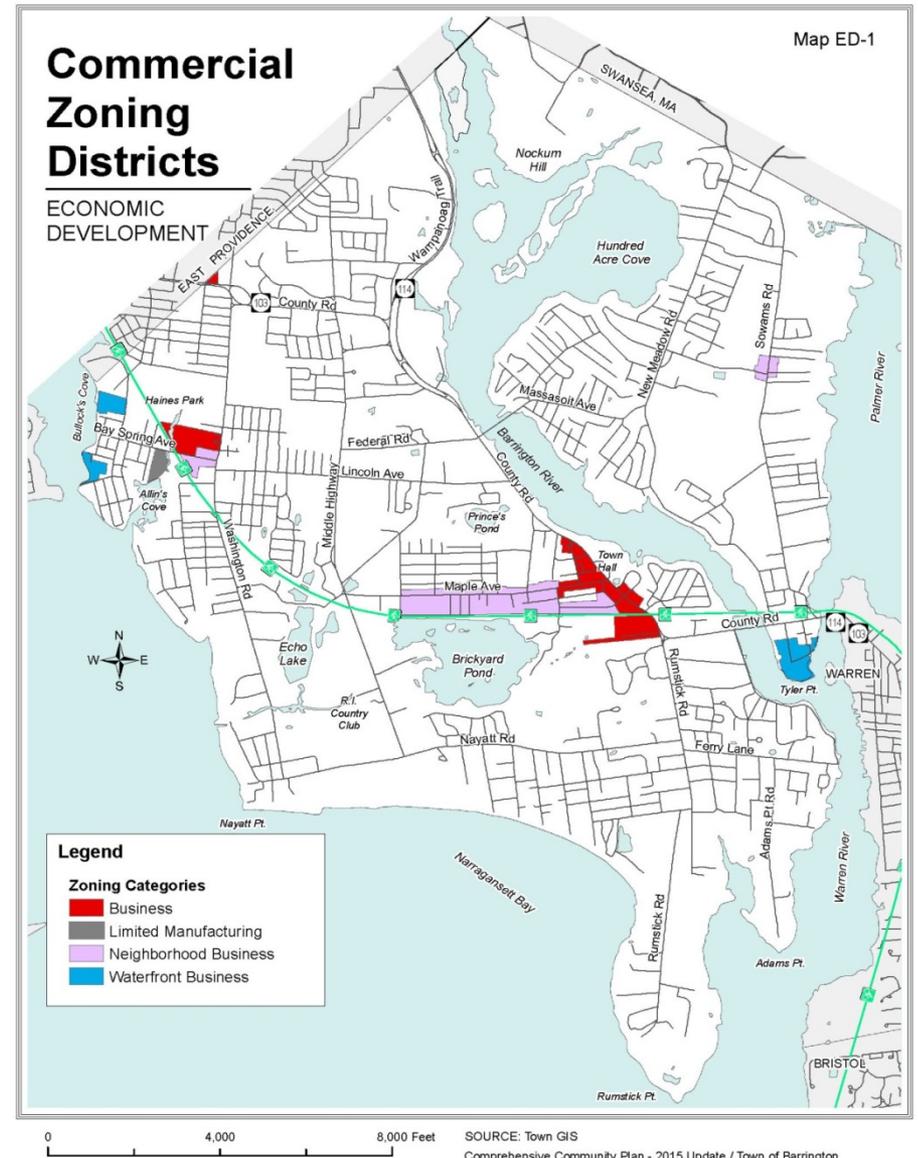
1. Housing & Neighborhoods : Public Feedback

- Continue to comply with State's 10% affordable housing goal ...(24 red, 2 yellow)
- Allow comprehensive permit proposals that provide 50% affordable housing units to be granted density increases of up to "one step" (3)
- Establish a payment-in-lieu fee as option to comply with inclusionary zoning (2)
- Create/fund Housing Trust program to buy/fix existing houses to qualify them as affordable (5 red, 4 yellow)
- Adopt flexible zoning standards for porches, stoops, bay windows, etc. (3)



2. Economic Development

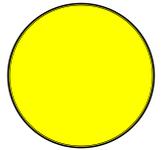
- No large scale commercial development since 2000.
- Since 2010 added ~33,000 sf
- Mixed use and pedestrian friendly development
- Connectivity plan for Town Center
- Design guidelines for town center
- Wood Avenue as mixed use connector



2. Economic Development: Recommended Goals

- 1) Create walkable retail zones in Village Center and neighborhood business districts
- 2) Expand public parking in Village Center
- 3) Expand non-residential uses with emphasis on infill development and building re-use over expansion of commercial zoning
- 4) Promote desired commercial activities in mixed-use areas
- 5) Strengthen commercial base with focus on promoting local businesses and economic sustainability
- 6) Support agriculture as a vital component of the local economy

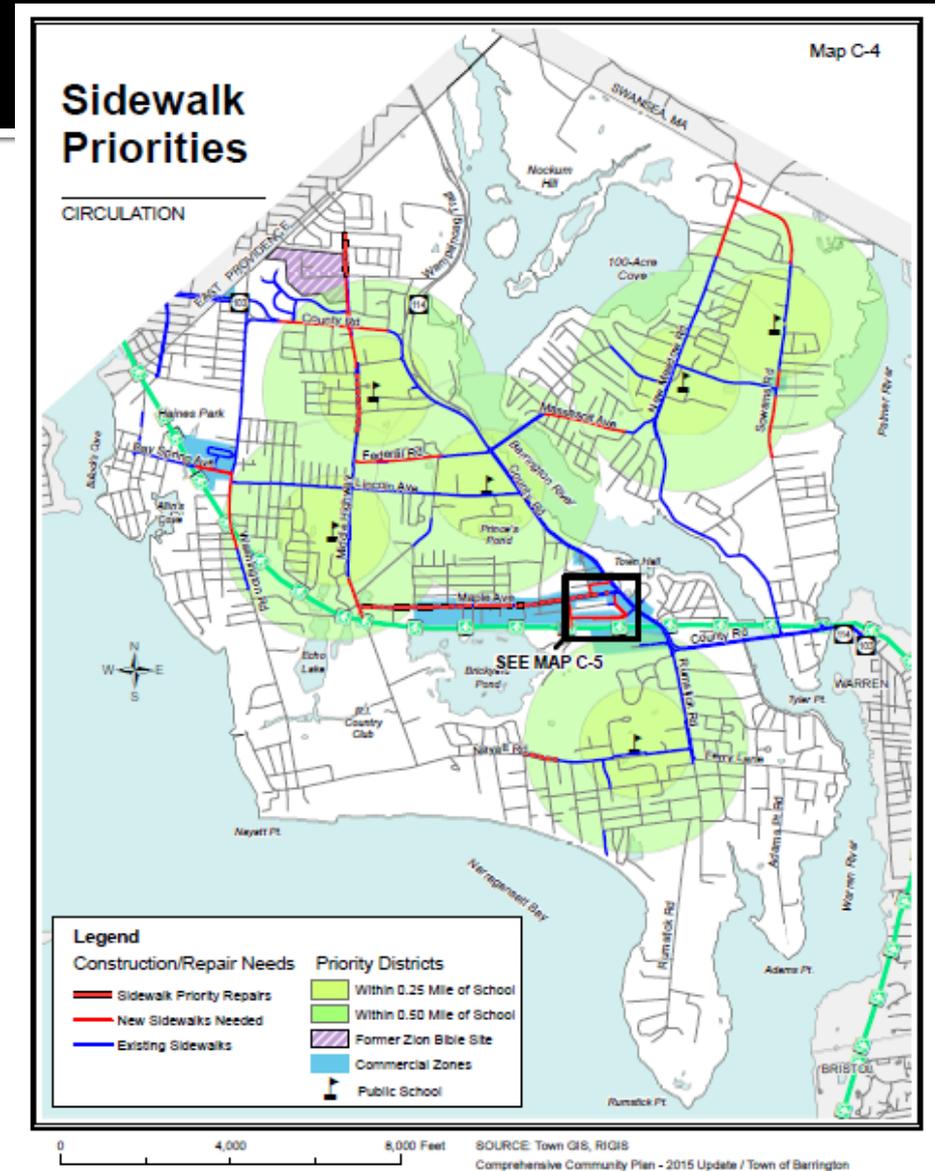
2. Economic Development: Public Feedback



- Continue shift toward walkable retail zones in the Village Center and neighborhood business districts (4)
- Implement 2014 Village Center Connectivity Plan: sidewalks, drainage, directional signage, crosswalks... (4)
- Establish zoning, design standards to promote mix of uses for future use of Zion site (5)
- Explore opportunities to acquire open space properties with agricultural values (4)

3. Circulation

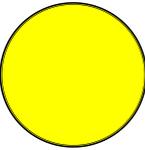
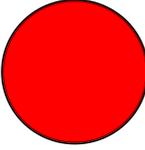
- 83% of residents drive to work alone
- 28% of residents work in Bristol County
- East Bay Bike Path is 5th busiest with 1.1 million users
- Barrington & Warren bridge reconstruction
- Massasoit Bridge under construction
- New bike path connections



3. Circulation: Recommended Goals

- 1) Provide a safe and well-maintained transportation system throughout town.
- 2) Provide a balanced multi-modal transportation system in order to enhance vitality & attractiveness of Barrington as a place to visit
- 3) Relieve growing traffic congestion on County Road/Route 114
- 4) Better manage parking in commercial areas to support economic development and to make our villages more attractive places to visit and shop

3. Circulation: Public Feedback

- Maintain and install sidewalks in high priority areas to enhance pedestrian safety (12) 
 - Increase share of local trips made via walking and biking ... to school, parks, village commercial areas (5)
 - Create Barrington Bike Subcommittee to develop bike routes and implementation plan (5)
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- Pursue local vehicular connection across the Bike Path at the Barrington Shopping Center (6) 

4. Community Services & Facilities

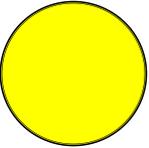
- School enrollment expected to decline in next decade
- 23% decrease in crime
- 29.5% recycling rate
- 14% reduction in water usage over the last decade
- \$14 million of improvements to sanitary sewer system
- Renovations to schools and Bay Spring Community Center



4. Community Services & Facilities: Recommended Goals

- 1) Provide high quality public facilities and services for residents of all ages
- 2) Provide facilities and services as necessary to meet future demand
- 3) Encourage businesses, residents to adopt sustainable practices

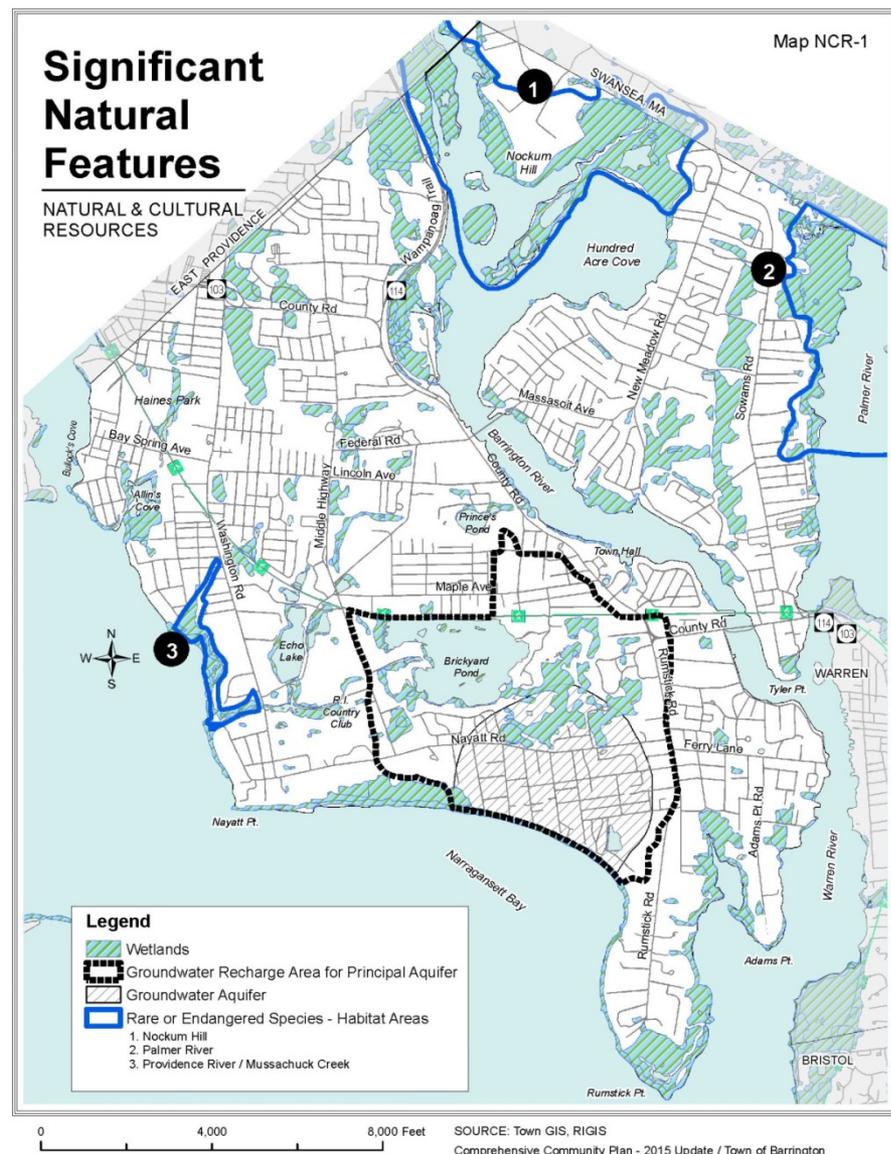
4. Community Services & Facilities: Public Feedback



- Design new Middle School, through public process; emphasize energy efficiency (4)
- Limit further development in the Nockum Hill area (4)
- Re-evaluate recommendations for new community/senior center (3)

5. Natural & Cultural Resources

- Allin's Cove restoration
- Walker Farm restoration
- Mussachuck Creek restoration
- Management plans
 - Nockum Hill
 - Hampden Meadows Greenbelt
 - Hundred Acre Cove
 - Brickyard Pond
- National Register listings
- 157 "plaqued" buildings

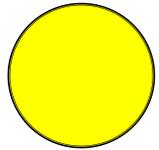


5. Natural & Cultural Resources: Recommended Goals

- 1) Protect important natural areas - wetlands, wildlife habitats, salt marshes ...
- 2) Create effective, standardized management plans to maintain values of cultural and natural resources
- 3) Work to protect and restore water quality, including in Hundred Acre Cove, Brickyard Pond and Prince's Pond
- 4) Protect critical historic properties and areas of historic significance.
- 5) Adopt protections for scenic resources.
- 6) Preserve the character of rural areas.

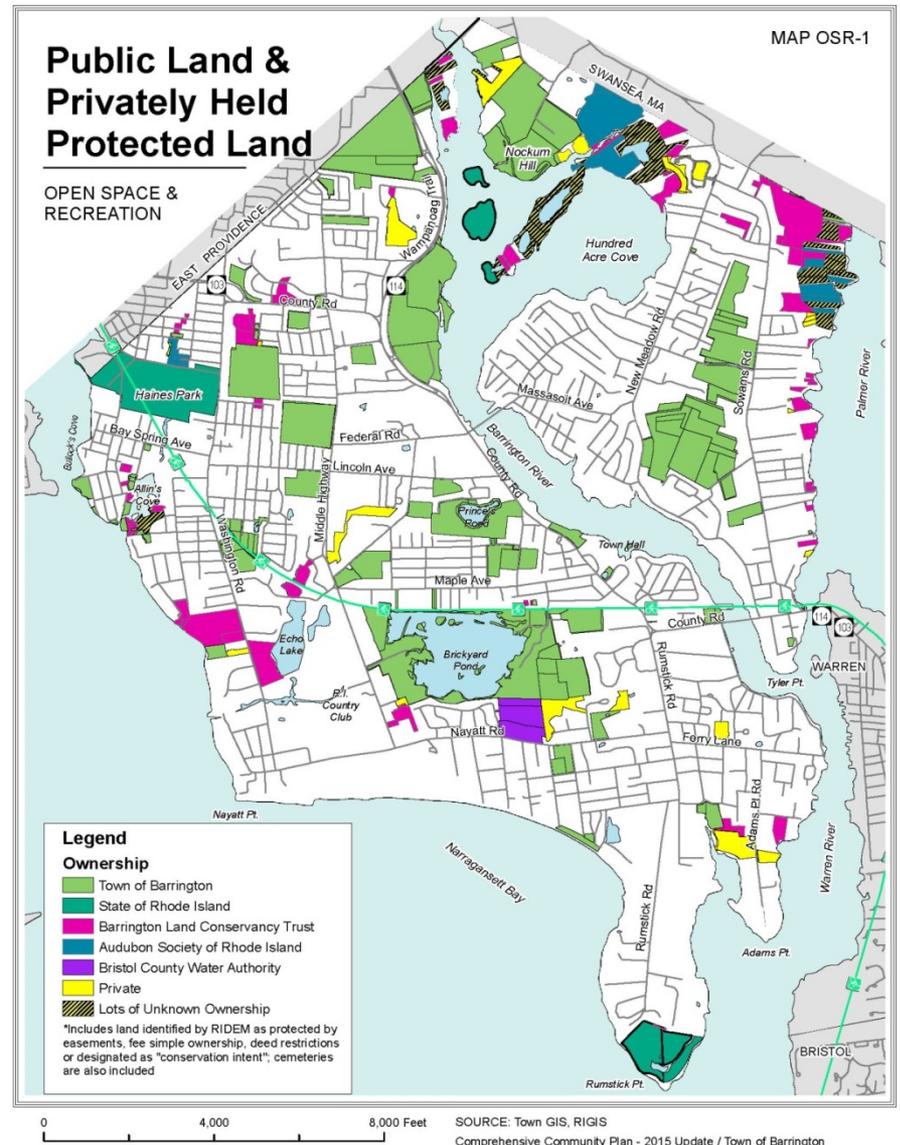
5. Natural & Cultural Resources: Public Feedback

- Seek grants and other funding sources for open space acquisition and conservation easements (9)
- Work to add neighborhood districts and individual properties to the State and National Registers (8)
- Explore creation of National Register District in the George Street area (6)
- Use zoning and other regulations to limit impacts of development on rural character of George Street area (16)
- Continue providing option of leasing (for farming) Town properties at Nockum Hill and Vitullo Farm (7)



6. Open Space & Recreation

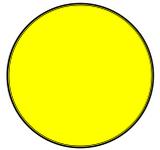
- 900 acres of open space
- Recent acquisitions:
 - St. Andrews Farm
 - Sowams Road Greenbelt
 - Brickyard Wetlands
 - Vitullo Farm
 - George Street Parcel
 - Sowams Woods (Land Trust)
- Recent Improvements
 - Lincoln Avenue Tennis Courts
 - Middle School Basketball Courts
 - Kids Kove Playground
 - Sherwood Park
 - Town Beach
 - Chianese Park
 - Latham Park
 - Police Cove



6. Open Space & Recreation: Recommended Goals

- 1) Provide vibrant, multiple-use parks that are sensitive to the environment, well-connected, accessible, safe, and aesthetically pleasing.
- 2) Create an “emerald chain” of parks by establishing and improving linkages between and within recreational areas throughout town.
- 3) Manage open space properties to protect the recreation, conservation, historic and other values.
- 4) Meet the recreation program needs of residents of all ages in Barrington.

6. Open Space & Recreation: Public Feedback



- Identify opportunities to expand linkages from East Bay Bike Path to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to parks / other recreational sites (9)
- Work with the Land Trust and other stakeholders to establish the proposed Sowams National Heritage District (5)
- Evaluate and prioritize unprotected privately owned open space parcels for permanent protection through easements or acquisition (6)

7. Energy

- Exceeded goal to reduce energy by 10% below 2009 levels (14%)
- Energy bill now 28% lower
- High School & Middle School are largest energy users
- Member East Bay Energy Consortium

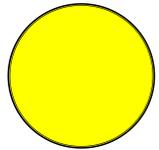


7. Energy: Recommended Goals

- 1) Continue to make prudent investments in strategies to reduce energy usage and costs. *Reduce Town & School building energy use (2009 Baseline) by 20% by 2020 ("20 by 2020")*
- 2) Improve vehicle fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles
- 3) Provide resources to achieve the Town's energy goals.
- 4) Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy installations throughout the broader community.

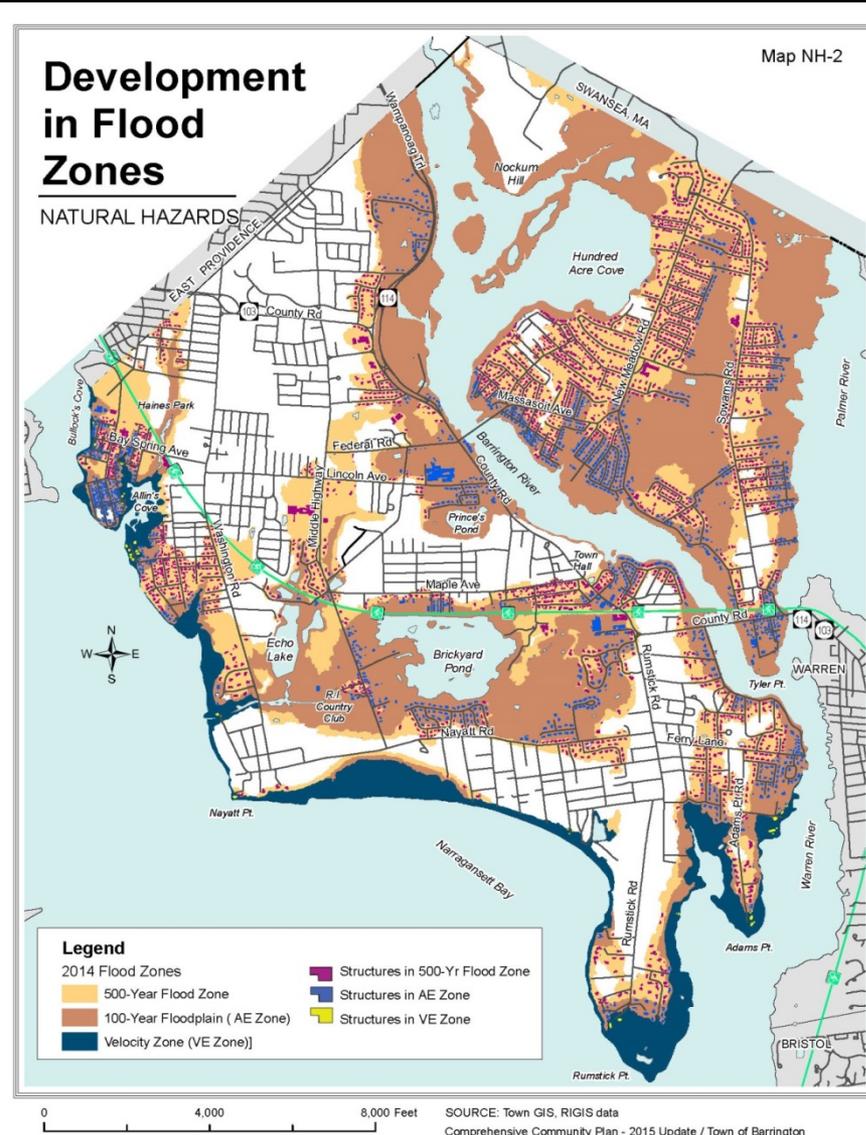
7. Energy: Public Feedback

- Convert streetlight fixtures and parking lot lighting to LED (3)
- Establish sustainability goals for new construction, including Middle School (3)
- Establish a Revolving Energy Fund to create a more sustainable funding stream for energy efficiency and clean energy programs (3)



8. Natural Hazards

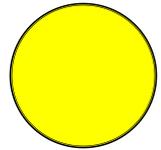
- 19.6 miles of coastline
- 1,058 National Flood Insurance Policies in place
– Total Coverage \$294M
- Annual Premium - \$1.45M
- Total Claims - \$1.4M



8. Natural Hazards: Recommendations

- 1) Mitigate risk of natural hazards and sea level rise to the built environment (new and existing).
- 2) Preserve and enhance capacity of natural environment to improve Barrington's resilience against impacts of natural hazards.
- 3) Participate in FEMA's Community Ratings System to reduce the cost of flood insurance.
- 4) Improve the community's awareness of threats to minimize risk to the public.

8. Natural Hazards: Public Feedback



- Assess potential impacts, physical and financial, of projected sea-level rise on publicly and privately owned buildings, sites, and infrastructure (4)
- Complete steps required to enroll in National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (7)