



March 2016

Welcome!

This document is the 2016-2026 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for Portland. Required by Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the POCD is intended to provide guidance to elected and appointed officials with regard to the future physical, social and economic development of Portland. The overall aim of this POCD is:

- improve and maintain the overall quality of life in Portland;
- promote economic development and prosperity; and
- preserve and promote the character of Portland.

This document is called the “Strategic Element” since it identifies:

- desirable strategies related to the future conservation and development of Portland, and
- policies and action items which will help implement those strategies.

There is also a companion document called the “Implementation Element.” The Implementation Element is a working document that outlines the “leaders” and “partners” involved with implementation of the specific policies and action items. While the Strategic Element may remain unchanged over the anticipated 10-year timeframe of the POCD, the Implementation Element should be regularly updated to reflect new action items and/or policies in order to help accomplish POCD strategies.

The Planning and Zoning Commission prepared the POCD with assistance from Portland residents and municipal boards and staff who participated in the process. This Plan is an update of the 2006 POCD.

We hope you will help us implement the Plan!

Sincerely,

Bruce Tyler, Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission

A VISION FOR PORTLAND

Incentives will be created and adaptive reuse strategies instituted to preserve Portland's character while making it more energy efficient. Town policies will promote preservation as a community revitalization tool. The historic resources listed in *The History and Architecture of Portland* will serve as the inventory of resources to be preserved.

Commercial development of the Elmcrest property will result in Village District "place making," complement existing businesses and strengthen economic development.

Design improvement of both state and town roads will make them safer and more accessible for motorists, pedestrians (including those with mobility challenges), cyclists and transit users. Improvements will promote the economy and have a positive impact on the health and well-being of individuals.

Development of the Air Line Trail and a Town Park on Route 17, along with increased protection of open space in partnership with State and non-profit groups will enhance recreation opportunities, protect and preserve rural wildlife assets and safeguard our lakes, ponds, streams and Connecticut River.

This Vision Statement serves as a keystone for implementation and accomplishment of the 2016-2026 Plan of Conservation and Development. It represents the "Spirit" of Portland's citizens.

Significant contribution to the formulation of the above vision as well as particulars contained throughout the Plan of Conservation and Development are attributed to a Citizen Development Coalition currently comprised of:

- The Elmcrest Campus Advisory Committee,
- Air Line Trail Steering Committee,
- Complete Streets Group,
- Middlesex Land Trust,
- Park and Recreation Commission,
- Brownstone Quorum,
- Portland Historical Society, and
- Meshomasic Hiking Club.