



ELEMENT 1: Goals and Policies Statement

Organization of the Goals and Policies Statement

The Goals and Policies Statement incorporates the elements of the Comprehensive Plan:

- Element 2: Land Use Plan
- Element 3: Housing
- Element 4: Economic Development
- Element 5: Natural Resources
- Element 5A: Historic Preservation
- Element 6: Services and Facilities
- Element 7: Open Space and Recreation
- Element 8: Circulation

For each element, goals address issues that were identified either in the inventory and analysis phase of the planning process, or through the public participation process. These goals are broad statements framed to indicate a desired future condition or action by the City of Cranston. Each goal is followed by one or more related policies and objectives, which are intended to help achieve the goal.

Consistency with State Planning Goals

The Rhode Island Comprehensive and Land Use Regulation Act specifies that the Goals and Policies Statement “shall enumerate how the Plan is consistent with the overall goals of the Act, the State Guide Plan, and related elements.” Accordingly, the goals for each element of the Comprehensive Plan are introduced with a relevant statement of goals from the State Planning Act.

In addition to the goals that are listed under each of the other elements, four state goals with more general applicability to the Comprehensive

Plan and planning process are also important. These goals relate to the need for consistency between state and local planning and for public involvement in the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan Update. These goals are:

- To promote consistency of state actions and programs with municipal comprehensive plans and provide for review procedures to ensure that state goals and policies are reflected in municipal comprehensive plans and state guide plans.
- To ensure that adequate and uniform data are available to municipal and state government as the basis for comprehensive planning and land use regulation.
- To ensure that municipal land use regulations and decisions are consistent with the comprehensive plan of the municipality and to ensure state land use regulations and decisions are consistent with state guide plans.
- To encourage the involvement of all citizens in the formulation, review and adoption of the comprehensive plan.

ELEMENT 2: LAND USE PLAN

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goals:

To promote orderly growth and development that recognizes the natural characteristics of the land, its suitability for use, and the availability of existing and proposed public and/ or private services and facilities.

To encourage the use of innovative development regulations and techniques that promote the development of land suitable for development while protecting our natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources and achieving a balanced pattern of land uses.

LAND USE GOALS (LUG) AND POLICIES (LUP)

LUG-1 Preserve the rural quality and critical resources of Western Cranston through appropriate land use controls.

- LUP-1.1 Promote residential land use patterns that concentrate and compact development and maintain significant percentage of open space.
- LUP-1.2 Preserve, in significant tracts, 20 per cent of the remaining open space in western Cranston, or 500 acres (exclusive of wetlands), through restrictions associated with clustering of future development or through purchase.
- LUP-1.3 Preserve existing farmland and recreational open space areas through land use regulation and taxation policies.
- LUP-1.4 *Preserve and enhance the quality of existing valuable resources including wetlands, surface water, ground water, wildlife habitats and migration corridors, historic sites, scenic views and unique cultural resources.*

LUG-2 Promote mixed use (commercial, industrial, and residential) development that will:

- **Focus on a few key redevelopment sites;**
- **Improve the quality of new development;**
- **Incorporate ‘smart growth’ principles.**

- LUP-2.1 Adopt a mixed-use development plan that connects to mass transit for industrial land between Elmwood and Wellington Avenue.
- LUP-2.2 Adopt mixed-use development zoning for proposed village centers.
- LUP-2.3 Improve architectural and site design standards to increase the quality of new development.
- LUP-2.4 Adopt streetscape design guidelines to apply to all construction projects.

LUP-2.5 Apply Smart Growth principles to include standards for density, mixed use, accessibility and quality of design.

LUP-2.6 Implement policies that protect residential neighborhoods from commercial encroachment through regulation, appropriate buffers, development design standards, traffic planning, and site plan review.

LUG-3 Locate new commercial development in western Cranston in highly accessible, strategic locations.

LUP-3.1 Propose a village center plan for Pippin Orchard Road/Scituate Avenue, or Route 37/Phenix Avenue using smart growth principles.

LUG-4 Ensure that sufficient land is properly zoned and provided with adequate infrastructure to provide for the City’s future industrial development needs.

LUP-4.1 Maintain a current inventory of existing industrial facilities that could accommodate expansion and redevelopment; identify barriers to economic growth and the public actions necessary to preserve the existing industrial base.

LUP-4.2 Protect the capacity and integrity of roads, sewers and water systems serving the Howard and Western Cranston Industrial Parks, in order to preserve these areas as resources for long-term industrial development.

LUP-4.3 Prevent the intrusion of commercial land retail activities into industrial zones, particularly those that might lead to strip commercial development. However, mixed-use commercial office and industrial parks and auxiliary commercial activities that serve the needs of an industrial park should not be discouraged.

LUG-5 Ensure that redevelopment of major sites for economic development incorporates the protection of environment and neighborhood character.

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LUP-5.1 Promote reuse of the Pastore Center to enhance the surrounding area (i.e. Chapel View, Garden City) as a commercial and civic center.

LUG-6 Ensure that reuse, reorganization and/or disposition of State facilities at the Pastore Center is consistent with Cranston's community development needs and objectives.

LUP-6.1 Preserve remaining open space at the Pastore Center, and promote adaptive reuse of existing structures where possible as an alternative to new construction.

LUP-6.2 Prevent, to the extent practical, land use and land value impacts from the correctional facilities on the surrounding neighborhoods.

LUP-6.3 Encourage the use of perimeter buildings for administrative and similar low-impact uses, in order to buffer adjacent neighborhoods and business areas from adverse impacts.

LUG-7 Improve the edges of the Pastore Center.

LUP-7.1 Where properties at the Pastore Center are found in excess of State needs, promote private investment on the edges of the Pastore Center to buffer the site and improve economic development opportunities in the City, as has been accomplished at the Chapel View and Golfing Partners developments.

LUP-7.2 In the remaining areas, create a Governmental / Institutional zoning district (GI) to be applied to the developed area of the Pastore Center, in place of the existing Open Space (S-1) district.

LUG-8 Ensure that the zoning map is consistent with the future land use map.

LUP-8.1 Amend commercial zoning along major arterial corridors to discourage "strip" development and to prevent adverse impacts on adjacent uses.

LUP-8.2 Strengthen protection of open space corridors along major water bodies and wetlands by zoning them for Open Space.

LUP-8.3 Within 18 months of the Plan's approval by the Rhode Island Department of Administration, bring the Zoning Ordinance into conformity with the Comprehensive Plan by rezoning lands to make the zoning map consistent with the Future Land Use Map.

LUG-9 Protect and stabilize existing residential neighborhoods .

LUP-9.1 Protect and stabilize existing residential neighborhoods by increasing open space, improving roadway conditions, and making the zoning conform to existing uses.

LUP-9.2 Continue to give attention to neighborhood revitalization through code enforcement and financing mechanisms, particularly in areas of aging housing stock and low median incomes.

LUP-9.3 Preserve the existing density of established neighborhoods.

LUP-9.4 Review existing development in flood zones to determine proper mitigation of flood impacts.

LUG-10 Ensure future residential growth in western Cranston conforms to conservation subdivision design.

LUP-10.1 Adopt a utilities services plan that supports smart growth and conservation subdivision design standards.

LUG-11 Enhance services and facilities in western Cranston that support future growth.

LUP-11.1 Site a new public facilities and services center to support residents and businesses in the western portion of the City.

LUG-12 Create additional bicycle and pedestrian links throughout the City.

LUP-12.1 Create greenway, bicycle, and pedestrian links that make connections between the City's historic sites, public buildings, open space, and natural resources.

LUP-12.2 Adopt regulations that require inclusion of links that connect private developments with public ways.

LUG-13 Preserve scenic landscapes and view sheds.

LU-13.1 Establish a scenic preservation program to preserve scenic landscapes and view sheds.

LU-13.2 Identify roads for adoption as scenic roads.

ELEMENT 3: HOUSING GOALS (HG) AND POLICIES (HP)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goal:

To promote a balance of housing choices, for all income levels and age groups, which recognizes the affordability of housing as the responsibility of each municipality and the state.

HG-1 Ensure that future residential development in western Cranston is consistent with the capacity of the area's natural resources and infrastructure, and preserves community character.

HP-1.1 Maintain zoning densities that reflect planned municipal service levels and natural resource constraints.

HP1.2 Maintain rural densities where desired regardless of availability of improvements to municipal infrastructure such as public water, sewer and roads.

HG-2 Permit a variety of residential development types to achieve multiple community objectives.

HP-2.1 Develop a system of density bonuses for the clustering of new residential development in order to conserve open space, preserve natural systems and wildlife habitat, minimize municipal service costs, and maintain the sense of rural character.

HP-2.2 Enact flexible development standards that attain desired community objectives, but also provide a wide range of building types, uses, subdivisions, and site plans.

HG-3 Achieve a balance between economic development and housing in the City.

HP3.1 Provide housing resources to support the range of jobs that reflects the City's economic base, and encourage the development of housing at levels that are consistent with household purchasing power.

HP-3.2 Maintain the stability of established neighborhoods in connection with continued economic development and revitalization: in particular, protect neighborhoods abutting the City's major commercial corridors from adverse impacts arising from incompatible uses.

HG-4 Promote housing opportunity for a wide range of household types and income levels.

HP-4.1 Maintain a varied housing stock, with units of different age, size and type that are affordable to a wide range of incomes.

HP-4.2 Identify potential sites for redevelopment options for future residential use, and mixed use.

HP-4.3 Promote regulations that facilitate the development of affordable housing.

HP-4.4 Identify gaps in existing public and private financing programs for housing development, purchase and rental, and develop new mechanisms where necessary.

HP-4.5 Require that long-term affordability be a component of City-supported affordable housing development.

HP-4.6 Promote the development of new housing that is affordable to average first-time buyers living in the City.

HP-4.7 Promote the development of special housing alternatives for the elderly and handicapped.

HG-5 Conserve housing resources, especially affordable housing units, to preserve the base housing stock, as the costs of locating and constructing new housing units are significant.

HP-5.1 Reduce the burden of zoning and building regulations, to enable two- and three-family unit dwellings to be easily modified, maintained and improved within the existing neighborhoods.

HP-5.2 Review zoning for existing residential neighborhoods to ensure the zoning matches, as closely as possible, the dimensions and unit types of what has already been built.

HG-6 Use public resources to support and build new housing to meet the state affordability criteria.

HP-6.1 Encourage inclusion of affordable housing in projects that meet the Smart Growth goals of this Comprehensive Plan and the State Affordable Housing goals.

HG-7 Establish a local Housing Task Force that will maintain the database on local affordable housing units and determine the programs to produce more of these units where they support local needs.

HP-7.1 Create a Housing Task Force to research, advocate, and coordinate affordable housing programs.

HP-7.2 Create a Housing Trust Fund to generate revenue for local housing assistance program initiatives.

HG-8 Set attainable, short-term goals for new affordable housing units.

HP-8.1 Set a yearly goal of 30 new affordable housing units to produce 150 units during the next five-year period.

HG-9 Adopt inclusionary housing regulations that require affordable housing for new housing projects.

HP-9.1 Enact inclusionary housing regulations that require a proportion of affordable housing.

HG-10 Conserve resources in new subdivisions.

HP-10.1 Require conservation-type subdivisions on remaining undeveloped land to conserve natural resources, protect public resources, improve property values, and improve accessibility.

HG-11 Initiate public education and outreach on housing affordability.

HP-11.1 Sponsor a citywide public education program on affordability, organized by the Housing Task Force.

ELEMENT 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS (EDG) AND POLICIES (EDP)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goal:

To promote an economic climate which increases quality job opportunities and overall economic well-being of each municipality and the state.

EDG-1A Preserve and increase employment opportunities for Cranston residents.

EDG-1B Maintain and increase the quality of job opportunities – in terms of wages, skill requirements, and working conditions – available to Cranston residents.

EDP-1.1 Maintain, enhance, and encourage diversification of the City's present manufacturing base.

EDP-1.2 Encourage tax policies that facilitate business growth.

EDP-1.3 Encourage the creation and growth of startup and early-stage business.

EDP-1.4 Provide assistance to socially and environmentally responsible enterprises, especially those that hire locally.

EDP-1.5 Provide technical, financial and regulatory assistance to job-creating enterprises to supplement and leverage resources for lenders and investors.

EDG-2 Attract capital into the Cranston area and expand the City's economic base.

EDP-2.1 Encourage the location and expansion of businesses with wide regional, national or international markets.

EDP-2.2 Encourage existing businesses to develop export and/or Internet-based markets.

EDP-2.3 Maintain and enhance the growth of a diverse array of small, growth-oriented, value-adding business concerns.

EDG-3 Add to the City's taxable property base by constructing industrial and commercial structures which are properly designed and sited in keeping with environmental, planning and design considerations.

EDP-3.1 Strengthen the standards for industrially zoned land to prevent the erosion of the City's supply of land suitable for these purposes.

EDG-4 Revitalize underused areas of the City for uses that are in keeping with the needs and values of the community.

EDP-4.1 Continue the City's active role in seeking the redevelopment of major industrial and institutional sites for economic development.

EDP-5 Ensure that new and expanded commercial development along major arterials exhibits a high standard of design quality and is compatible with existing roadway functions and adjacent residential neighborhoods.

EDP-5.1 Adjust zoning map boundaries of commercial districts along major arterials, and refine use regulations applicable to such districts, to provide for adequate commercial services while minimizing impacts on adjoining residential neighborhoods.

EDG-6 Target development sites for Smart Growth projects.

EDP-6.1 Target high-end business growth in professional, service-oriented businesses to create a market for office space.

EDP-6.2 Encourage an appropriately-scaled neighborhood or village commercial center to serve the growing markets in western Cranston.

EDP-6.3 Promote large-scale, smart growth redevelopment opportunities at strategic locations to accommodate mixed-use, transit-oriented development. Properties along I-95 in the Wellington/Elmwood industrial area offer the best opportunities.EDP-6.4 Encourage redevelopment opportunities at locations near Garden City Center, Rolfe Square, Knightsville, and along Interstate 295.

EDG-7 Improve/build neighborhood commercial areas at various sites through formulating and implementing revitalization projects.

EDP-7.1 Promote the development or redevelopment of neighborhood commercial centers to service local market areas to reduce cross-town traffic. New neighborhood village center developments should be focused at Phenix Avenue and Natick Avenue, and Scituate Avenue and Pippin Orchard Road. Redevelopment of neighborhood centers should continue to occur at Pawtuxet Village, Knightsville, and Rolfe Square.

EDP-7.2. Distinguish between each commercial center by developing design guidelines for public properties which include signage, furniture, landscaping, public parking areas, bicycle ways and sidewalks.

EDP-7.3 Develop design guidelines for site development which address different neighborhood conditions and smart growth goals. Distinguish between each type of commercial area: major commercial center, village center, highway or arterial commercial, and development adjacent to transit.

EDG-8 Complement the State's Urban Ventures program with a business incubator or small business assistance program.

EDP-8.1 Continue the support of the Urban Ventures program to encourage new small businesses.

EDG-9 Have a clear and concise and efficient development process throughout all departments of the City.

EDP-9.1 Work with regulatory staff to proactively inform and assist developers in regulatory and approval processes and otherwise improve relations with developers, businesses, and property owners.

EDP-9.2 Continue providing hands-on assistance to businesses with financing, permitting, and other needs.

EDG-10 Provide job training for new or relocated workers and match jobs and workers.

EDP-10.1 Promote job training and growth in professional, service-oriented businesses.

EDP-10.2 Consider the establishment of a marketing program, associated with the local and regional chambers of commerce, with participation of city funds and staff.

EDP-10.3 Create programs to match job seekers and businesses in cooperation with educational institutions in the area: URI, RIC, Johnson & Wales and other area colleges.

EDG-11 Target sites for industrial and commercial projects.

EDP-11.1 A number of sites (i.e. former Trolley Barn site, Route 2 corridor), may support additional retailers seeking entry to the market.

EDP-11.2 Encourage hotel and lodging accommodations in locations where there is easy access to the T.F. Green airport.

EDP-11.3 Promote leisure and/or entertainment-related businesses to compliment the Park Theater redevelopment in Rolfe Square.

EDP-11.4 Collaborate with the State in redeveloping the Pastore Center to ensure there is a private commercial component.

ELEMENT 5: NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS (NRG) AND POLICIES (NRP)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goal:

To promote the protection of the natural, historic and cultural resources of each municipality and the state.

NRG-1 Protect and enhance Cranston's natural environment and resources. Establish a balance between natural resource protection and growth-related needs.

NRP-1.1 Establish watershed management plans in accordance with RIDEM standards to address potential pollution and to comply with NPDES Phase II requirements. Seek non-point source mitigation funds from the state to assist.

NRP-1.2 Seek federal and state Brownfield program assistance to promote the redevelopment of industrial and commercial areas.

NRP-1.3 Adopt a Transfer of Development Rights program to better manage development in western Cranston.

NRP-1.4 Adopt a 'farm-based retail' overlay district.

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NRP-1.5 Target and preserve open spaces that have value as scenic, agricultural, recreational, wetland, water, and wildlife resources.

NRP-1.6 Preserve and protect critical fish and wildlife habitat areas and areas containing rare and endangered species.

NRP-1.7 Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive natural resource areas, including prime farmlands, steep slopes, floodplains, watersheds, aquifers, shorelines, and coastal and inland wetlands.

NRP-1.8 Direct new growth away from environmentally-sensitive areas such as wetlands, steep slopes, and soils that have severe limitations for on-site waste water disposal.

NRG-2 Create watershed management plans.

NRP-2.1 Establish Watershed Management Plans where necessary and in cooperation with adjacent communities.

NRP-2.2 Create restoration plans for the banks of the Pocasset and Pawtuxet Rivers where they have been degraded by roadways and development.

NRG-3 Protect and enhance the quality of Cranston's ground and surface water resources and supplies in order to meet, or where appropriate exceed, state and federal water quality standards.

NRP-3.1 Protect and enhance water quality through informed land use policies, regulatory enforcement, and proper infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

NRP-3.2 Require construction practices that minimize runoff, soil erosion, and sedimentation.

NRP-3.3 Direct development to areas with the appropriate soil, slope and drainage conditions.

NRP-3.4 In areas where no municipal sewer or water services are available, ensure that development is located on land that is capable of supporting on-site water and septic disposal systems.

NRP-3.5 Ensure that land use activities within the Scituate Reservoir watershed does not contribute to the degradation of the reservoir.

NRP-3.6 Promote environmentally sound wastewater management systems.

NRP-3.7 Develop programs for the reduction of nonpoint source pollution affecting Cranston's streams, rivers and ponds, including storm water runoff and septic system failures.

NRG-4 Restore Brownfield sites back to productive and safe use.

NRP-4.1 Catalogue known and suspected Brownfield sites, and identify the extent of threats to public health and safety.

NRP-4.2 Work with federal and state agencies and private interests to achieve remediation and economically viable reuse of such sites that will support the costs of clean-up.

NRG-5 Require improved environmental design standards in new development.

NRP-5.1 Adopt a 'green' building program for all municipal construction.

NRP-5.2 Upgrade environmental design standards in subdivision and site plan review regulations.

NRP-5.3 Adopt standards, such as Low Impact Development techniques, that maintain and enhance watersheds to better manage stormwater and roads in new construction.

ELEMENT 5A : HISTORIC PRESERVATION GOALS (HPG) AND POLICIES (HPP)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goal:

To promote the protection of the natural, historic and cultural resources of each municipality and the state.

HPG-1 Protect and preserve properties of historic and architectural significance, as well as known and suspected archeological sites, cemeteries, engineering structures and city-owned properties.

HPP-1.1 Continue to expand, maintain, and regularly update the comprehensive inventory of historic and archeological resources.

HPP-1.2 Continue to work with private property owners to encourage preservation of known archaeological and historic sites on their land.

HPG-2 Integrate historic preservation planning concerns with other areas of municipal planning and decision-making. Promote development policies which are sensitive to preservation concerns and goals.

HPP-2.1 Provide additional, formal mechanisms for the Historic District Commission to review and comment on development projects and work with property owners.

HPP-2.2 Develop new city ordinances and programs to preserve individual historic properties.

HPG-3 Survey, inventory, and designate local historic preservation districts.

HPP-3.1 Designate the Pawtuxet Village as a Local Historic District.

HPP-3.2 Designate the Edgewood Historic District as a Local Historic District.

HPP-3.3 Designate the Norwood Avenue Historic District as a Local Historic District.

HPP-3.4 Designate the Fenner House as a Local Historic District.

HPP-3.5 Designate the Sprague Mansion as a Local Historic District.

HPG-4 Expand historic preservation planning and development policies.

HPP-4.1 Explore the potential for promoting tourism geared to historic resources in the City.

HPG-5 Promote education and public awareness of historic preservation opportunities.

HPP-5.1 The Cranston Historic District Commission should target specific areas such as Pawtuxet Village to educate the neighborhood about the benefits of a local historic district designation.

HPP-5.2 Educate public officials and City residents of the importance of preserving historic building and places.

HPP-5.3 Distribute information and guidance on preservation for public and private use, based on the Secretary of Interiors Standards of Preservation.

ELEMENT 6: SERVICES AND FACILITIES (SFG) AND POLICES (SFP)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goal:

To promote orderly growth and development that recognizes the natural characteristics of the land, its suitability for use and the availability of existing and proposed public and/ or private services and facilities.

SFG-1 Upgrade the treatment capacity and technology of the existing Wastewater Treatment system to improve water quality in the Pawtuxet River.

SFP1.1 Continue to monitor plans for expansion of the Scituate Reservoir service area, to ensure that discharges from the Reservoir to the Pawtuxet River are maintained at the levels needed.

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SFP1.2 Ensure that sewer pumping stations (capacity and operation) are sufficient for their service areas and meet contemporary environmental standards.

SFG-2 Expand municipal sewerage to areas where service is essential for existing and planned development, while at the same time protecting the system from excessive demands.

SFP-2.1 Explore options for sewer service in areas of existing septic system failure and areas where such extension would promote environmentally sensitive land development practices.

SFP-2.2 Enact regulations to prevent secondary growth impacts from sewer trunk line extensions and to support land use policies of conservation development and open space preservation.

SFP-2.3 Discourage sewer extensions to areas where development can be adequately served by on-site wastewater treatment, in order to avoid undesirable secondary land-use impacts.

SFG-3 Ensure an adequate supply of clean drinking water for all residents of the City.

SFP-3.1 Promote land development practices which will protect the Scituate Reservoir from degradation.

SFP-3.2 Allow for expansion of municipal water services in western Cranston where appropriate. Provision of water services to new areas should be seen as a means to promote conservation development and to preserve open space, but not as a rationale for increased overall density.

SFP-3.3 Adopt water conservation measures for residential and industrial users to discourage waste and encourage efficient use of the Scituate Reservoir water supply.

SFG-4 Preserve a high quality educational system, with adequate facilities to meet future needs.

SFP-4.1 Promote efficient use of the services and facilities provided by the City's public school system.

SFP-4.2 Where feasible and appropriate, design new or rehabilitated school facilities to incorporate multiple community uses, such as public recreational facilities, branch libraries, and other municipal services and facilities.

SFG-5 Continue to provide quality safety services (police, fire, rescue, emergency response).

SFP-5.1 Maintain adequate service standards for police officers in order to maintain service ratios in proportion to population growth.

SFP-5.2 Implement changes to the Fire Department as changes in fire facilities occur.

SFG-6 Continue to provide quality services and programs to meet the needs of Cranston's elderly population.

SFP-6.1 Continually monitor elderly service needs reflecting changes in elderly demographics, particularly in the oldest age categories; and provide programs and services to meet those needs.

SFG-7 Maintain the existing high standards of public library facilities and services.

SFP-7.1 Maintain existing high standards of library capital facilities and holdings, in relation to changes in population.

SFP-7.2 Provide new and expanded branch library facilities as needed to serve the needs to Cranston.

SFP-7.3 Identify priority areas for program expansion and implement special services for teenagers and the homebound, and improve Internet access.

SFG-8 Provide sufficient facilities to meet the needs of the City's staff to continue to offer quality municipal services to the residents of Cranston.

SFP-8.1 Undertake an overall evaluation of the City's needs for space, in view of new state/federal records

management and retention responsibilities and in response to service needs.

SFP-8.2 Provide regular training programs to maintain City staff proficiency.

SFG-9 Ensure environmentally appropriate and cost effective solid waste management solutions.

SFP-9.2 Bolster recycling efforts to reduce total solid waste disposal costs.

SFG-10 Water and sewer service policies in Western Cranston. Should support conservation in addition to promoting human health and safety. Maintain restrictions against development that would impact valuable natural resources.

SFP-10.1 Use sewer and water line connections in western Cranston to promote open space and agricultural preservation by limiting said connections only for the creation of conservation subdivision development when it is determined that on-site wells and wastewater disposal systems would not be feasible.

- Use connections to water and sewer lines to reduce lot sizes within conservation subdivisions.

SFP-10.3 Continue to use septic and well systems and low-density zoning to protect surface and ground waters, and public health in western Cranston where utilities do not exist.

SFG-11 Assess the need for improvements in buildings on an as-needed basis and identify sites for new public amenities.

SFP-11.1 Evaluate the need for a new municipal fire station in the southwestern part of the City.

SFP-11.2 Identify an alternative site for a new, western Cranston branch library in conjunction with the proposal for a village community center.

SFG-12 As a part of ongoing capital programs formulate and implement various improvement programs throughout the City.

SFP-12.1 Create a Pavement Maintenance Plan that programs a regular series of improvements to the street system.

SFP-12.2 Adopt energy conservation standards as a long-term means of lowering energy costs for the City.

SFP-12.3 Continue the municipal signage program to replace signs, under consistent design standards.

SFG-13 Address administrative and management issues related to the process of making physical improvements.

SFP-13.1 Adopt water conservation measures for residential and industrial users to discourage waste and encourage efficient use of the Scituate Reservoir water supply.

SFP-13.2 Establish and maintain a Facilities Maintenance Fund for roadway pavement repairs and upgrades, sidewalks, street trees, signs, snow plowing and energy efficiency in public buildings.

SFG-14 Examine issues requiring further studies and provide allowance for required actions.

SFP-14.1 Determine steps to resolve illegal connections to sewerage system.

SFP-14.2 Develop criteria for priority ranking of capital facilities as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program.

ELEMENT 7: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS (OSG) AND POLICES (OSP)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goal:

To promote the preservation of the open spaces and recreational resources of each municipality and the state.

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OSG-1 Target specific properties for capital improvements, especially properties to acquire, or otherwise control, along the Historic Scenic Farm Loop and the rivers to create continuous greenways and waterways.

- OSP-1.1 Acquire lands along the rivers to ensure access to and protection of these natural resources.
- OSP-1.2 Develop programs that will enhance the Farm Loop and promote it on a regional basis.
- OSP-1.3 Designate new and expand protection of scenic roads in western Cranston.
- OSP-1.4 Continue to invest in the City's Bicycle Network to expand and improve its functionality and quality.

OSG-2 Improve existing facilities and expand active recreation facilities to serve current and projected needs .

- OSP-2.1 Continue to upgrade and expand recreational opportunities at existing sites to serve all segments of the population.
- OSP-2.2 Improve existing public access to the ponds, lakefronts, riverfronts and Narragansett Bay.
- OSP-2.3 Ensure that recreational facilities allow access to people of all ages and are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.
- OSP-2.4 Acquire or improve public lands for pocket parks with recreational facilities for all ages, in Cranston's urban neighborhoods.
- OSP-2.5 Preserve, through purchase or other means, major open space areas which are subject to development pressures and which serve important environmental functions.
- OSP-2.6 Ensure that parcels dedicated to the City or offered in lieu of impact fees for recreation use, in conjunction with subdivision activity, are linked to maximize their utility.
- OSP-2.7 Develop standards which can be employed to evaluate the adequacy of recreational facilities and

open space areas that are available and whether such facilities and areas meet the range of needs of Cranston's different population groups.

- OSP-2.8 Expand the availability of passive recreation at various sites throughout the City. Effort should be made to create passive recreation programs which are coordinated with the Department of Senior Services and specifically designed for Cranston's growing elderly population.
- OSP-2.9 Expand recreation programs and facilities to address unmet or growing needs, including facilities for walking and bicycling.
- OSP-2.10 Adopt a River Corridor Overlay District that creates linear buffers and public access points along the major rivers.

OSG-3 Undertake administrative and management actions that support recreation and open space programs through partnerships.

- OSP-3.1 Promote appropriate conservation, stewardship and recreation facilities at State-owned properties at Meshanticut Lake and Curran State Park.
- OSP-3.2 Continue to partner with local and regional non-profits for obtaining and managing open space.
- OSP-3.3 Adopt and encourage use of zoning regulations that support conservation of open space in residential development.
- OSP-3.4 Expand after school recreation programs.

OSG-4 Maintain the quality of the City's open space and recreation areas while minimizing the tax burden for the costs of maintenance.

- OSP-4.1 Consider imposing fees for the use of certain facilities. Such fees could be in the form of use costs or concession licensing.
- OSP-4.2 Consider 'adopt-a-park' programs that advertise private resources.

OSG-5 Examine issues requiring further studies and provide allowance for the required actions.

- OSP-5.1 Investigate improving water quality in and access to Cranston ponds to increase recreational and natural resource value.
- OSP-5.2 Examine the potential of tourism to support local open space and recreational facilities and programs, similar to the 'Farm Loop.'

ELEMENT 8: CIRCULATION GOALS (CG) AND POLICIES (CP)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act Goal:

To promote a balanced and integrated multi-modal transportation system that provides efficient and economical movement and offers maximum mobility to all.

CG-1A Improve and maintain and efficient flow of traffic, particularly in commercial centers and along major arterials.

CG-1B Correct existing deficiencies in order to improve safety and reduce congestion throughout the City.

- CP-1.1 Maintain the functional integrity of existing and planned roadways through appropriate land use and design standards.
- CP-1.2 Require interconnection of residential neighborhoods, in order to disperse traffic and provide alternate emergency access routes.
- CP-1.3 Provide adequate capacity on street networks in western Cranston to serve existing and projected development.

CG-2 Provide sufficient off-street parking to serve the needs of businesses and residents.

- CP-2.1 Review, and, where necessary, update off-street parking standards in the Zoning Ordinance to

ensure that adequate parking facilities are provided for employees, customers, clients and residents.

- CP-2.2 Consider adopting landscaping standards to protect adjacent residential neighborhoods from adverse impacts from commercial parking areas, and to provide adequate differentiation between parking areas and roadways.
- CP-2.3 Address inadequacy and overspill of parking and increase the number of off-street parking spaces along commercial streets, such as Park Avenue.
- CP-2.4 Require compliance with parking standards in the Zoning Ordinance and discourage on-street parking where appropriate.
- CP-2.5 Encourage off-street parking at existing developments.
- CP-2.6 Encourage shared parking where appropriate.
- CP-2.7 Require the provision of landscaping to delineate parking areas and provide buffers.
- CP-2.8 Restrict on-street parking where feasible to facilitate turning movements and traffic flow.

CG-3 Improve traffic flow along major roadways by reducing and consolidating the number of curb cuts.

- CP-3.1 Restrict access to new development from major arterials.
- CP-3.2 Regulate curb cuts through design standards.
- CP-3.3 Provide left-turn lanes, where feasible, on arterial roadways where curb cuts to new development are unavoidable.
- CP-3.4 Encourage collector driveways to limit the number of access points.

CG-4 Continue traffic calming on residential streets to increase safety by reducing speeding and cut-through traffic and accidents.

- CP-4.1 Prioritize locations with accident problems and continue the program of remedial measures.

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- CP-4.2 Give priority to pedestrian safety improvements at key locations.
- CP-4.3 Conduct analysis of local street sign controls in conjunction with east/west access studies.
- CP-4.4 Consider peak period restrictions on particular short-cut routes.

CG-5 Address traffic congestion on the east-west arterials through improving traffic operations.

- CP-5.1 Investigate proposals to improve safety and the flow of traffic on arterials.
- CP-5.2 Reduce or eliminate on-street parking on arterial roadways where appropriate to improve roadway capacity.
- CP-5.3 Enforce on-street parking restrictions.
- CP-5.4 Provide left turn lanes to reduce conflicts at intersections.
- CP-5.5 Identify and designate east-west routes for through traffic.
- CP-5.6 Prioritize problems at intersections and investigate improvements.
- CP-5.7 Continue the program for intersection improvements.

CG-6 Plan for and enhance alternative transportation modes.

- CP-6.1 Pursue options for a commuter rail or light rail station and supporting Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in the Elmwood/Wellington Avenues area.
- CP-6.2 Promote and support fixed-route bus services.
- CP-6.3 Make information on public transportation widely available.
- CP-6.4 Secure and preserve railroad rights-of-way for future transportation corridors.
- CP-6.5 Incorporate bicycle access in planning major developments.

- CP-6.6 Support and enhance public transportation and paratransit services.
- CP-6.7 Consider interconnecting rights-of-way between subdivisions for greenways, bikeways, and walking paths.

CG-7 Examine the roadway network for western Cranston and propose specific actions for improving its functional efficiency.

- CP-7.1 Investigate appropriate improvements to eliminate problems of safety and operations.
- CP-7.2 Investigate improvements to roadway segments to support projected development.
- CP-7.3 Undertake detailed study and program of improvements for Pippin Orchard Road/ Hope Road / Phenix Avenue / Wilbur Avenue / Natick Avenue corridor.
- CP-7.4 Plan access to new development to limit access points to collector and arterial roadways. Restrict local streets connections to collector roads where possible.
- CP-7.5 Establish a program of improvements to specific roadway segments and intersections based on identified problems.

CG-8 Further develop bike paths to create a cross-city bicycle corridor.

- CP-8.1 Opportunities to develop additional and connected bicycle paths along public rights-of-way should be investigated, particularly the Pontiac Secondary, the Elmwood Spur and the Providence Water Supply Board viaduct.
- CP-8.2 Opportunities to develop additional and connected bicycle paths among private properties with connections to public rights-of-way should be investigated.