

PLANNING PRIMER FOR WILLINGTON

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Overview

This booklet has been prepared for Willington residents and other persons interested in the formulation of the 2018 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for Willington, Connecticut. The following pages are intended to provide general background information and an overview of:

- planning and the planning process, and
- Plans of Conservation and Development.

Introduction To Planning

At its most basic level, planning is a process for making informed decisions about the future. Every so often, it makes sense for a community to evaluate the conditions and trends affecting the community and make informed decisions about how it should approach the future in order to:

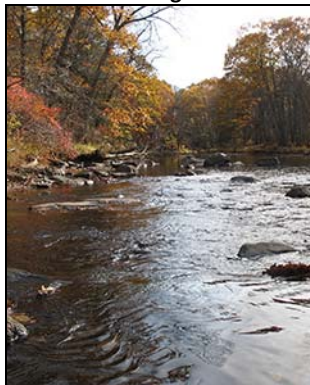
- protect things which are important to the community, and
- attain the things which will enhance the overall health and well-being of the community and the quality of life of its residents.

Since Willington's current POCD was adopted, much has changed. Therefore, it is appropriate that Willington review the policies in the current POCD to ensure those policies are appropriate for the future.

*"If you don't
know where
you're going,
you'll wind up
somewhere
else."*

Yogi Berra,
Baseball Legend
Renowned Punster

Conservation
Strategies



Development
Strategies



Infrastructure
Strategies



Why Plan?

Willington is affected by events and trends in the region, the nation, and the world. Changes outside of our control in population, housing, the economy, transportation, utility, business and regulatory changes affect us.

In fact, we cannot stop change from happening.

In an increasingly hectic world, planning provides the opportunity to:

- * focus on the 'bigger picture' and identify significant goals,
- * promote overall values and achieve important purposes,
- * coordinate efforts and produce consistent results, and
- * achieve efficiency and economy in implementation.

About Plans Of Conservation & Development

A Plan of Conservation and Development is a document whose purpose is to establish a common vision for the future of a community and then determine policies that will help attain that vision. While its key purpose and function is to address the physical development of a community, it will often address issues related to the economic development and social development.

The goals and recommendations of the Plan are intended to reflect an overall consensus of what is considered desirable for Willington and its residents in the future.

During the process of preparing and updating the Willington POCD, it is anticipated there will be a discussion of:

- things to protect or preserve (conservation strategies),
- how to guide growth or change (development strategies), and
- services or facilities to support the vision for the future (infrastructure strategies).

A Plan of Conservation and Development becomes an official document after a public hearing and adoption by the Willington Planning and Zoning Commission. Once adopted, the Plan is used to:

- coordinate conservation activities,
- guide land use decisions and regulations,
- program public projects, and
- meet identified public needs.

However, it is important to note that the Plan of Conservation and Development is primarily an advisory document. It is intended to guide local boards and commissions and to provide a framework for consistent decision-making with regard to conservation and development activities in Willington over the next decade or so.

While the statutory responsibility to adopt the Plan rests with the Planning and Zoning Commission, implementation will only occur with the diligent efforts of the residents and officials of the Town of Willington. The Plan will only be effective if it is understood and supported by the people of Willington, and implemented by local boards and commissions.

EXCERPTS FROM CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 8-23 – PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Commission shall:

- prepare, adopt and amend a plan of conservation and development ...
- review the plan of conservation and development at least once every ten years ...
- adopt such amendments to the plan or parts of the plan ... as the commission deems necessary to update the plan.

The Plan shall:

- be a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality, ...
- show the commission's recommendation for the most desirable use of land within the municipality for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial and other purposes and for the most desirable density of population in the ... parts of the municipality.
- be designed to promote with the greatest efficiency and economy the coordinated development of the municipality and the general welfare and prosperity of its people.
- be made with reasonable consideration for restoration and protection of the ecosystem and habitat of Long Island Sound ...
- make provision for the development of housing opportunities, including opportunities for multifamily dwellings consistent with soil types, terrain and infrastructure capacity, for all residents of the municipality and the planning region ...
- promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing, including housing for both low and moderate income households, and encourage the development of housing which will meet the housing needs ...
- take into account the state plan of conservation and development ... and note any inconsistencies it may have with said state plan.
- consider the use of cluster development to the extent consistent with soil types, terrain, and infrastructure capacity.

The Plan may:

- show the commission's recommendation for a system of principal thoroughfares, parkways, bridges, streets and other public ways; for airports, parks, playgrounds and other public grounds; for general location, relocation and improvement of public buildings; for the general location and extent of public utilities and terminals, whether publicly or privately owned for water, sewerage, light, power, transit and other purposes; and for the extent and location of public housing projects.
- include recommended programs for the implementation of the plan ...
- (include) such other recommendations ... in the plan as will ... be beneficial to the municipality.

On Plans & Planning

"We must disabuse the public mind of the idea that a . . . plan means a fixed record upon paper of a desire by some group of individuals prescribing, out of their wisdom and authority, where and how the more important changes and improvements in the physical layout of the (community) are to be made - a plan to be completed and put on file and followed more or less faithfully and mechanically, much as a contractor follows the architect's drawing for a house.

We must cultivate in our own minds and in the mind of the people the conception of the . . . plan as a device or piece of administrative machinery for preparing, and keeping constantly up to date, a unified forecast and definition of important changes, additions, and extensions of the physical equipment and arrangement of the (community) which a sound judgment holds likely to become desirable and practicable in the course of time, so as to avoid so far as possible both ignorantly wasteful action and ignorantly wasteful inaction in the control of the (community's) physical growth.

It is a means by which those who become at any time responsible for decisions affecting the (community's) plan may be prevented from acting in ignorance of what their predecessors and their colleagues in other departments of (community) life have believed to be the reasonable contingencies."

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
Distinguished City Planner (1911)

Community Involvement

“Land use is perhaps the most complex and pervasive environmental issue of all. Pollution levels, agricultural productivity, housing patterns, and recreation are a few of the manifestations of how we use our land. But unlike many of the other environmental issues, there is no common scale upon which to measure progress towards good land use.

Planners can suggest some better ways to design and locate development; economists can tell us which patterns are most efficient from the point of view of land consumption, energy use, industrial location, etc.; and lawyers can advise on what is legal and constitutional in the way of land use regulations.

Yet it is really the community itself - whether locality, region, or state - which must try to pull all these considerations together into coherent land use planning and regulatory policies in order to preserve those things that the community values and to foster the growth and change that the community wants.”

Russell W. Peterson
Former Executive Director
Environmental Protection
Agency

Planning Process For Willington

The process of preparing the Plan of Conservation and Development for Willington will be overseen and coordinated by the Planning and Zoning Commission with input from local boards and agencies and from Willington residents. Due to statutory provisions, it is anticipated that the updated POCD will be adopted in September 2017.

Overall though, the planning process has been designed to place emphasis on local input and involvement. Efforts will be made to encourage and consider input from Willington residents:

- * Interviews will be held with different town agencies, department heads, and individuals, and
- * Public meetings will be held to solicit input, generate discussion, and present recommendations.

Willington residents can participate in the planning process through providing input at public meetings. There is no better way to influence the Plan than to submit good insight and strategic recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission as the Plan is being prepared. Comments received during this process will be reviewed and included in the Plan of Conservation and Development, when appropriate.

Persons interested in participating in the process of assembling the Plan of Conservation & Development can review the booklets on different topics that will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. These booklets will be available through the Town’s website.

The intended result is that the Plan will represent a consensus by Willington residents about the future of their community. Final adoption of the Plan is the responsibility of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Following adoption of the Plan, attention will turn to implementation. While preparing a Plan of Conservation & Development may take one to two years, implementation may last for ten to twenty years. Implementation is the whole reason that we plan.

The steps anticipated as part of updating the Willington POCD are presented on the following pages.

Anticipated Work Program

A Issues Scoping

1. Preparation / Material Review

- 1.1. Obtain relevant information from Town Staff
- 1.2. Review plans / studies / documents provide by the Town

2. Project Meeting With the Planning and Zoning Commission (1 meeting)

- 2.1. Meet with PZC to discuss / refine work program and identify topics / issues the PZC Commissioners feel should be a priority for the Plan

3. Survey Of Local Officials

- 3.1. Distribute a questionnaire to members of local boards and commission
- 3.2. Distribute a questionnaire to Town department heads
- 3.3. Receive and consider responses (specific responses are confidential)

4. Community Workshop (1 meeting)

- 4.1. Generate public awareness for community workshop meeting
- 4.2. Facilitate one (1) workshop to identify / discuss current and future issues

5. Conditions and Trends Review

- 5.1. Collect and evaluate information about Willington, including demographics, housing, economic, fiscal data, etc.

6. Project Meeting With the Planning and Zoning Commission (1 meeting)

- 6.1. Meet with PZC to review the findings and discuss topic areas / issues to be addressed

B Review Existing POCD / Refine Strategies

1. Review / Reorganize Existing POCD

Plan Theme	Description	Possible Topics
Conservation	How to protect and preserve the things important to Willington residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural resources• Open space• Community character• Sustainability / resiliency
Development	How to guide / manage growth and change in Willington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community structure• Business development• Residential development
Infrastructure	How to provide facilities and services to support the type of community Willington wants to be	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipal facilities• Vehicular transportation• Pedestrian / bicycle / transit• Utilities

2. **Project Meeting(s) With the Planning and Zoning Commission (4 meetings)**
 - 2.1. Prepare materials for PZC in advance of meetings to guide discussion
 - 2.2. Review the background data and the goals, policies and recommendations in the current Plan with the Planning and Zoning Commission,
 - 2.3. Assist the Planning and Zoning Commission with refining and updating strategies to reflect anticipated needs over the next 10 to 20 years
 - 2.4. Prepare maps to illustrate planning strategies

C Prepare / Refine / Adopt New POCD

1. **Prepare Draft Plan**
 - 1.1. Prepare a first draft of the Plan (including maps)
2. **Project Meeting(s) With the PZC to Review / Refine Draft Plan (2 meetings)**
3. **Revise Draft Plan**
 - 3.1. Based on Commission discussion, prepare an updated POCD (including updated maps)
4. **Community Workshop (1 meeting)**
 - 4.1. Organize and facilitate one (1) public meeting on the draft Plan
 - 4.2. Present the draft Plan for community feedback
5. **Project Meeting With the Planning and Zoning Commission (1 meeting)**
 - 5.1. Meet with the PZC to review input and determine additional edits to the recommended Plan and maps
6. **Finalize Proposed Plan**
 - 6.1. Prepare the proposed Plan (including maps)
7. **Public Hearing On Adoption (1 meeting)**
 - 7.1. Present the proposed Plan at the public hearing on adoption (1 meeting)
8. **Project Meeting With the Planning and Zoning Commission (1 meeting)**
 - 8.1. Review public comments with the PZC and determine final edits to the proposed Plan and maps
 - 8.2. Assist the Planning and Zoning Commission with Plan adoption
9. **Plan Completion**
 - 9.1. Prepare the adopted Plan and maps for final printing
 - 9.2. Deliver all materials to the Town upon project completion:

Anticipated Schedule

Due to the requirements of CGS 8-23, it is the intention for the POCD to be adopted prior to February 5, 2018.

	2016			2017												2018		
	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
ISSUES SCOPING																		
Preparation / Material Review																		
PZC Project Meeting (1)																		
Survey Local Officials																		
Community Workshop Meeting (1)																		
Conditions / Trends Review																		
PZC Project Meeting (1)																		
REVIEW / REFINE STRATEGIES																		
POCD Strategy Meetings (4)																		
Conservation Topics																		
Development Topics																		
Infrastructure Topics																		
PREPARE / ADOPT NEW POCD																		
Prepare Draft Plan																		
POCD Review Meetings (2)																		
Revise Draft Plan																		
Community Workshop Meeting (1)																		
POCD Review Meeting (1)																		
Finalize Proposed Plan																		
Statutory Notice Period																		
Public Hearing On Adoption																		
POCD Adoption (1)																		
Plan Printing																		

Anticipated POCD Adoption = January 2018

This schedule is predicated on one meeting per month (or more) with the Planning and Zoning Commission dedicated to the POCD update.

Kick-Off Meeting Discussion

Thoughts On Current POCD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of the current POCD? 2. How do you feel about the layout and organization of the current POCD? 3. Is there anything you feel would make the current POCD more user-friendly? 												
Issues / Topics For POCD Update	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What issues / topics do you feel are important to address / consider as part of the POCD update? <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Plan Theme</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Possible Topics</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Conservation</td> <td>How to protect and pre-serve the things important to Willington residents</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources • Open space • Community character • Sustainability / resiliency </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development</td> <td>How to guide / manage growth and change in Willington</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community structure • Business development • Residential development </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infrastructure</td> <td>How to provide facilities and services to support the type of community Willington wants to be</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal facilities • Vehicular transportation • Pedestrians / bicycles / transit • Utilities </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Plan Theme	Description	Possible Topics	Conservation	How to protect and pre-serve the things important to Willington residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources • Open space • Community character • Sustainability / resiliency 	Development	How to guide / manage growth and change in Willington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community structure • Business development • Residential development 	Infrastructure	How to provide facilities and services to support the type of community Willington wants to be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal facilities • Vehicular transportation • Pedestrians / bicycles / transit • Utilities
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Next Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. As we prepare and reformat the POCD, what things do you feel we should keep in mind? 6. Anything else? 												



Planimetrics

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