



## OUR VISION FOR NORWALK

In 2038, the City of Norwalk is...  
**diverse and welcoming, prosperous, and beautiful. We combine the character of a historic New England community on the coast with a thriving city in the country's largest metropolitan area. Our diversity is inclusive and multifaceted, represented by our people, our economy, our neighborhoods, our open spaces and coastal areas, our transportation choices, and our vibrant cultural life.**

- **We are proud of our racial and ethnic diversity** and continue to welcome people from around the world.
- **Our prosperity is rooted in retaining the foundation of our diversified economy**, including health care and Fortune 500 companies, while attracting businesses in emerging fields. These businesses allow many Norwalk residents to work where they live, provide living-wage jobs for all skill levels, and create a strong non-residential tax base.
- **We are a center of culture and entertainment**, attracting local and regional visitors to our urban districts of SoNo and Wall Street/West Ave, to our museums, aquarium and historic sites, and to our parks and natural open spaces.
- **Norwalk's excellent quality of life offers a choice of housing options** with neighborhoods ranging from lively urban centers and suburban-style areas to quiet, tree-filled enclaves and coastal villages.
- **We are a city of transportation choice:** a connected, walking and biking city, well-served by public transportation, safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle routes to city destinations, well-maintained and well-functioning local streets, and efficient regional transportation links.
- **Norwalk's parks, natural open spaces, and waterfront attractions function as a green and blue network** linked by trails and other routes, and offering recreational and nature experiences to all.
- **Norwalk embraces lifelong learning** through public-private partnerships. Our schools and Norwalk Community College promote educational achievement to create a highly-qualified workforce for 21st century jobs.
- **We are committed to energy- and resource-efficiency**, as well as to pursuing solutions and adaptations to the expected impacts of climate change and sea level rise –coastal and inland flooding, extreme storms, extreme temperatures, and drought.
- **The City's infrastructure, public facilities, and public services** are resource-efficient, well-maintained, cost-effective, sustainable and resilient.

## PRINCIPLES FOR THE CITYWIDE PLAN



**Act transparently.** Promote inclusive civic engagement and keep everyone informed about community conditions, options, and opportunities to participate in decision making.



**Be cost-effective.** Establish cost-effective best practices and systems to support city services, infrastructure, and capital investments.



**Connect people and places.** Provide safe and efficient transportation choices, including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit opportunities, along with well-maintained streets, to connect people to each other, to city destinations and the region.



**Be business-friendly.** Support business growth and entrepreneurship, attracting businesses and jobs in existing and emerging economic sectors, while protecting quality of life and environmental resources.



**Make healthy lifestyles easy and fun.** Create the conditions for healthy lifestyles through easy access to physical activity, healthy food, and medical care.



**Pursue high-quality development.** Make public investments a model of excellent design and maintain high-quality design standards for new development.



**Practice sustainability and resilience.** Make Norwalk a model green and clean community through energy-and resource-efficiency, preservation of open space and habitat networks, and adapting to climate change.



**Pursue goals through partnerships.** Connect city government with local businesses and institutions, as well as neighboring towns and regional and metropolitan agencies to achieve the city's vision and goals.

**DRAFT**  
JANUARY 2018



For more information, visit [www.tomorrow.norwalkct.org](http://www.tomorrow.norwalkct.org) or contact the City's Planning Director, Steve Kleppin, (203) 854-7956, [skleppin@norwalkct.org](mailto:skleppin@norwalkct.org)





# OUR CITY OUR PLAN

In 2017 the City of Norwalk began updating its citywide plan, also known as the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This vision represents the community’s hopes and aspirations for the next twenty years. The POCD is a ten-year plan designed to help the City move toward achieving this community vision.



# SOURCES OF THE VISION: THE VISIONING FORUM

On Saturday, November 18, 2017, more than 185 Norwalk residents from a broad range of backgrounds and neighborhoods came together at the Center for Global Studies at Brien McMahon High School. They came to share their hopes and aspirations for the future of Norwalk as part of the Norwalk Tomorrow planning process. Through discussions in small groups, participants identified the city’s best aspects, its challenges, and priorities for the future.

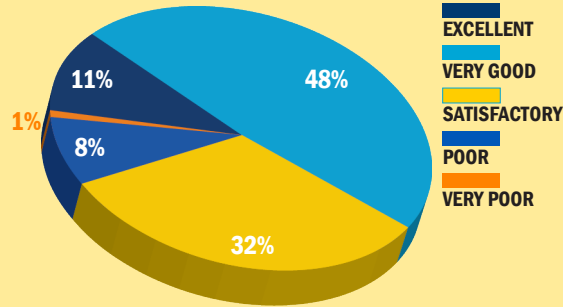
**The Best:** Norwalk’s parks, coastline, and beaches, the South Norwalk area, historical elements, arts and cultural opportunities, schools, and the library were strongly valued by participants.

**The Challenges:** Providing bike lanes, traffic and road improvements, parking, zoning and development enhancements, park maintenance, development in SoNo, and sprawl.

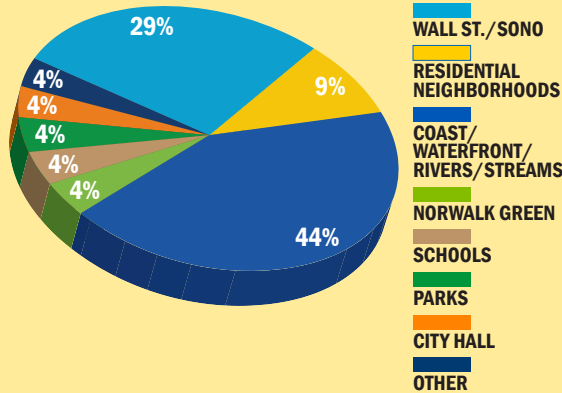
# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

At the Visioning Forum, participants took part in a real-time smartphone survey (people who preferred to fill out a survey by hand received hard copies). Participants represented many different age groups, and although the majority of attendees had lived in Norwalk for more than 20 years, there were also some newer residents. Residents attended from many different areas of the city.

Q: How would you rate overall quality of life in Norwalk?



Q: What places do you most associate with Norwalk’s identity?



# PERSONAL VISIONS

Participants also wrote a **personal vision** for the future. Selections from those visions:

*A welcoming diverse community for all people regardless of income... More affordable housing for residents and higher paying jobs... Vibrant harbor - water-dependent use, boating, and more public access for all... More teen activities and their involvement in our city... Flood and storm protection... Improved school system to get kids ready to succeed in life... Necesitamos mas trabajos, lugares donde podemos caminar/We need more jobs, places where we can walk... Resident quality of life is valued... Vibrant tourism that takes advantage of our waterfront, museums, and parks... Create a more cohesive visual look to Norwalk... Bicycle friendly and connected... Resilient to climate and economic change... Excellent city services with parks, beaches, library, museum, transportation supported by affordable taxes... A place where it’s easy to get around without a car... Help keep the unique neighborhood feel... More whimsical public art... Transparent decision making... Mas actividades que incluya las comunidades Latinos/More activities that include the Latino community... Protective of historic and natural resources... A family-friendly place to raise your children... Outcome-based planning and budgeting... Wall Street will be a thriving area with shops, art galleries... Smart development that grows a healthy and sustainable grand list... Zoning enforcement that is fair, balanced.*

ALL PERSONAL VISIONS CAN BE FOUND ON THE NORWALK TOMORROW WEBSITE.

# TOP PRIORITIES

**Top Priorities** identified in the small groups included:

- Open space and historical elements
- Community
- Schools
- Connections and mobility
- Affordable housing
- Jobs and training
- Bike/walking friendly
- Zoning and development
- Diversity of populations and businesses
- Sustainability
- Arts and culture
- Other priorities:
  - > Strategic plan and input
  - > Transparency/communication in City Hall/government
  - > Continue Mayor’s emergency contact
  - > Economic strength—taxes, common sense

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