

Town of Orange Plan of Conservation and Development



Public Workshop #2
April 2, 2025



BFJ Planning

INTRODUCTIONS



Planning & Zoning Commission/Town Staff

Oscar Parente, Esq., Chair

Judy Smith, Vice Chair

Kevin Cornell, Esq.

Thomas Torrenti, P.E.

Paul Kaplan, Esq.

Jack Demirjian, Zoning Administrator & Enforcement Officer

BFJ Planning

Consultant Team

Frank Fish, FAICP, Principal-in-Charge

Suzanne Goldberg, Project Manager

Michelle Gilman, AICP, Planner

Mark Freker, Transportation & Mobility

Thomas Madden, AICP, Economics Advisor

AGENDA

- 1 Presentation on Draft POCD Recommendations
- 2 Quick Break/Move to Tables
- 3 Breakout Table Discussions
- 4 Report Back

WHAT IS A PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT?



An expression of the community's shared vision of the future.

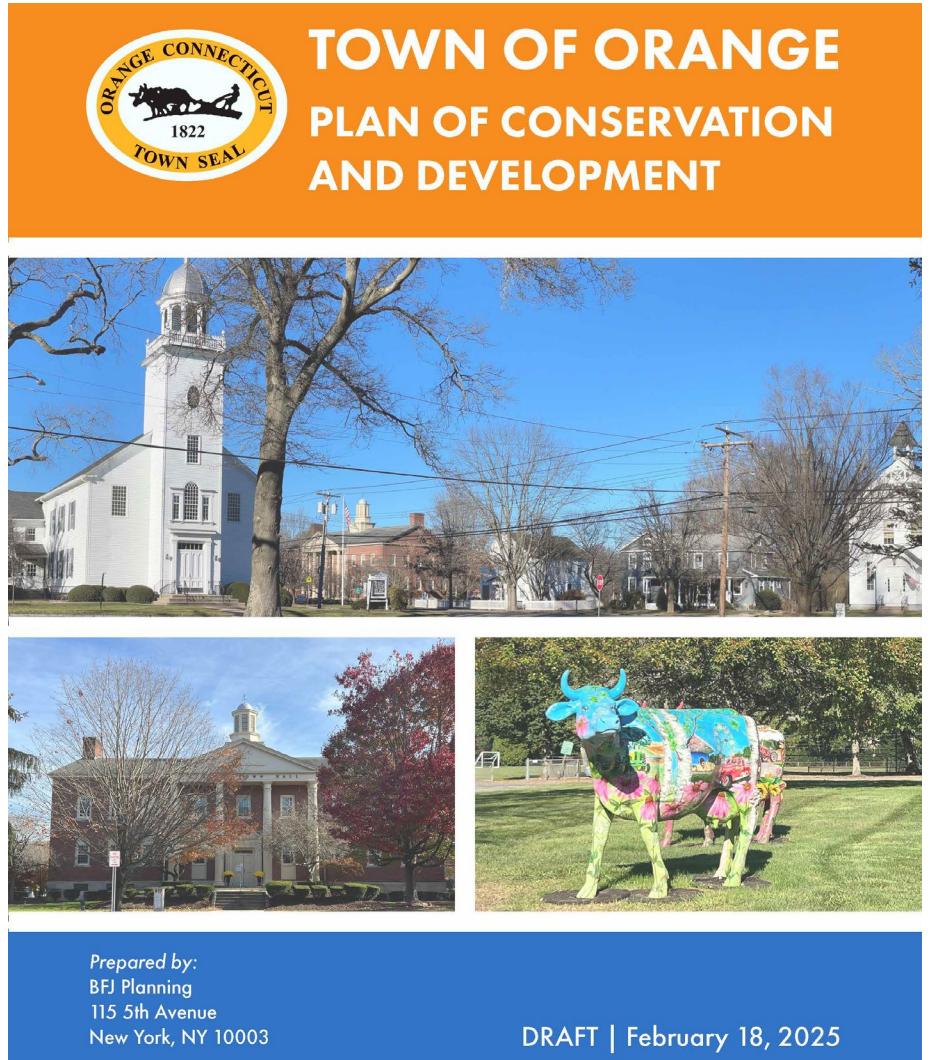


A Town-wide framework for plans, initiatives, and investments. It lays the groundwork for decisions on the zoning code, capital budget, and general policy.



A “to-do list” for the Town to track implementation of short, medium, and long-term goals.

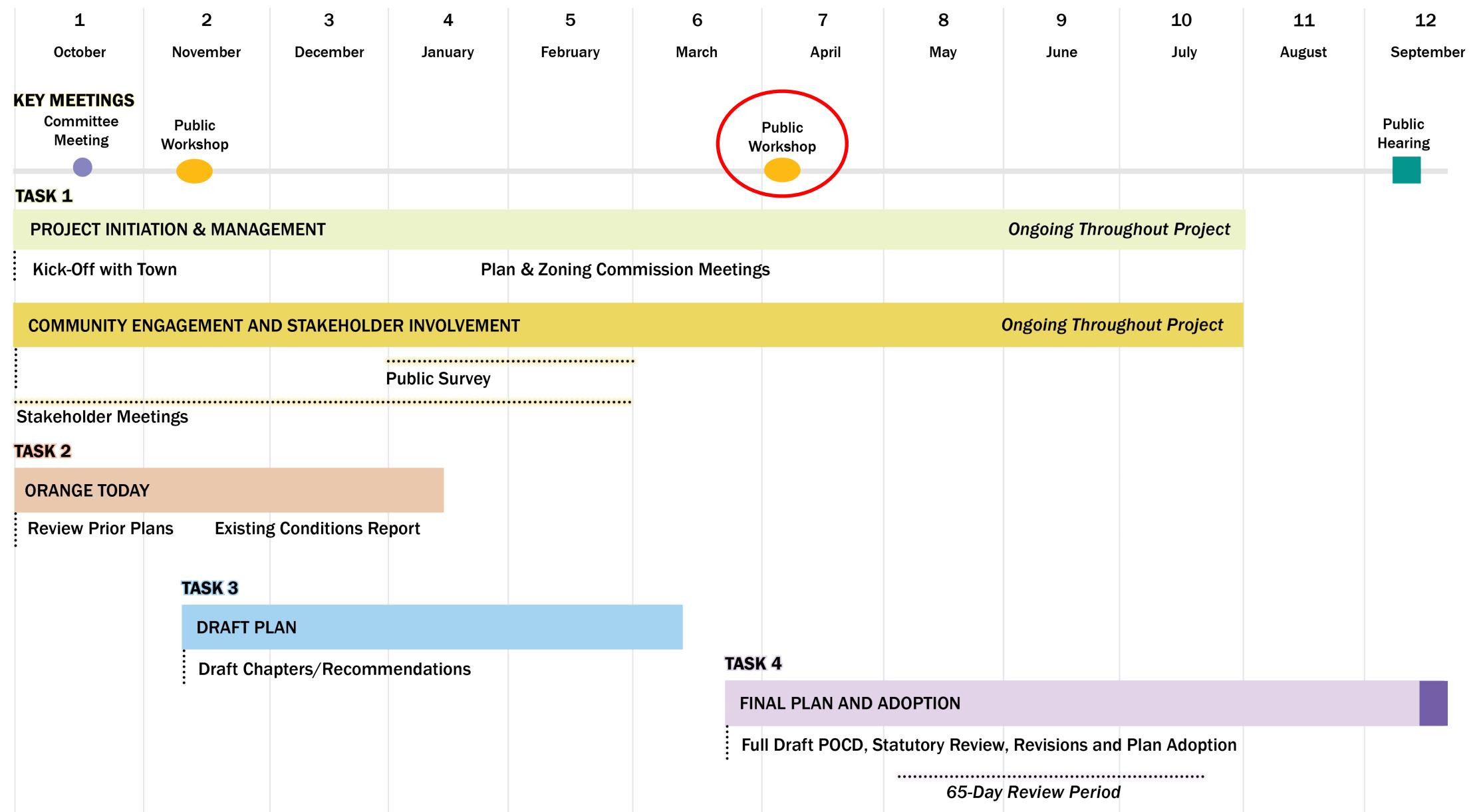
WHAT IS A PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT?



The image shows the cover page of the "TOWN OF ORANGE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT". At the top left is the town's seal, which features a circular design with a plow, a sheaf of wheat, and a star, surrounded by the text "ORANGE CONNECTICUT 1822 TOWN SEAL". The title "TOWN OF ORANGE" is in large, bold, white capital letters, and "PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the title is a photograph of a white church with a steeple and a white building with a red roof. At the bottom left, there is a photograph of a red brick town hall building with a white entrance. To the right of the town hall is a photograph of a colorful, painted cow statue standing in a grassy field. At the very bottom left, the text "Prepared by: BFI Planning 115 5th Avenue New York, NY 10003" is written in white, and at the bottom center, the text "DRAFT | February 18, 2025" is also in white.

- State law requires municipalities to update POCDs at least every 10 years.
- POCDs are not laws; they make recommendations on the Town's future. Zoning must be consistent with the POCD.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: POCD TIMELINE



POCD PLAN CHAPTERS

1 Introduction, Vision, and Goals

2 Demographics

3 Housing and Neighborhoods

4 Land Use and Zoning

5 Economic Development

6 Transportation and Mobility

7 Open Space, Historic, and Community Facilities

8 Infrastructure

9 Future Land Use Plan and Implementation

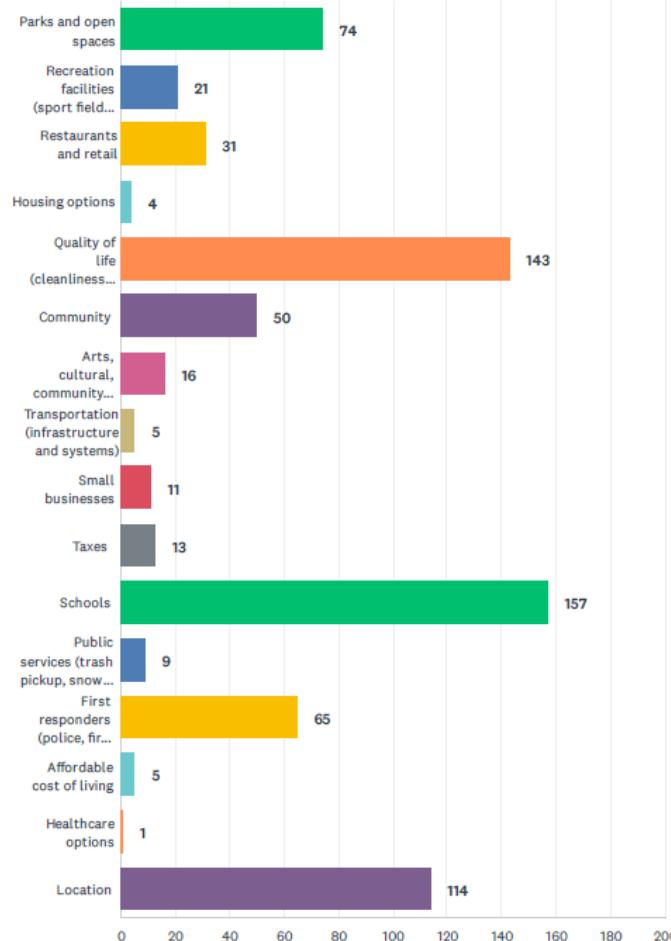
Available on the website
for public review
bit.ly/orange2025pocd

Next Draft Chapter

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

What are the Town's greatest strengths? Please select your top three (3) choices.

Answered: 227 Skipped: 1

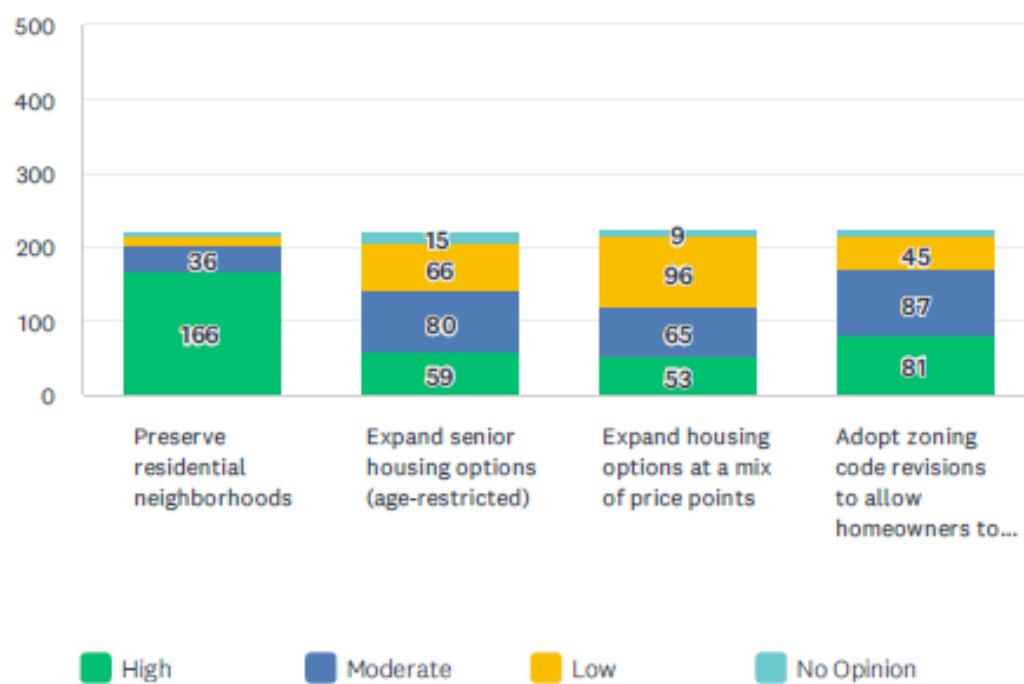


- **Top strengths:** schools, quality of life (cleanliness, safety, access to nature, sense of community, etc.), location, and parks and open space.
- **Biggest concerns:** affordable cost of living, taxes, and public services (trash pickup, snow plowing, etc.).

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

During the next 5 years, what priority should the Town give to the following areas? [Rate: High, Moderate, Low, No Opinion]

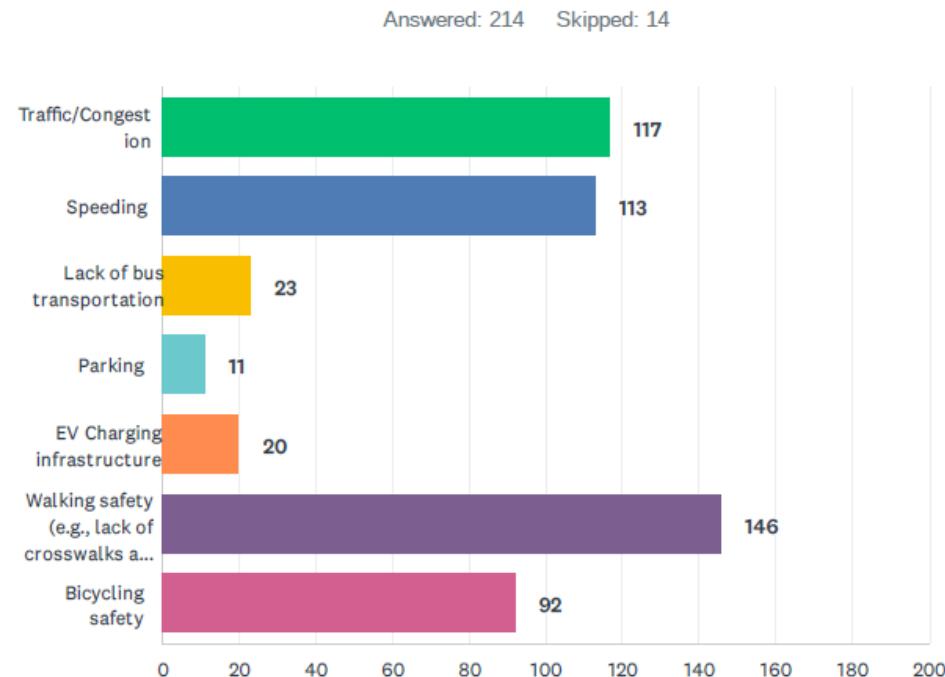
Answered: 226 Skipped: 2



- **High priority: preserving residential neighborhoods.**
- **Most respondents believe that Orange has the right amount and mix of housing types.**

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

What, if any, are the transportation problems you regularly encounter in Orange? Please select up to three (3) choices.



- Around 55% of respondents stated they experience **traffic/congestion regularly**, 53% encounter **speeding**, and 43% reported issues of **bicycling safety**.
- Around 68% of respondents feel uncomfortable walking and think that **sidewalks are inadequate**.

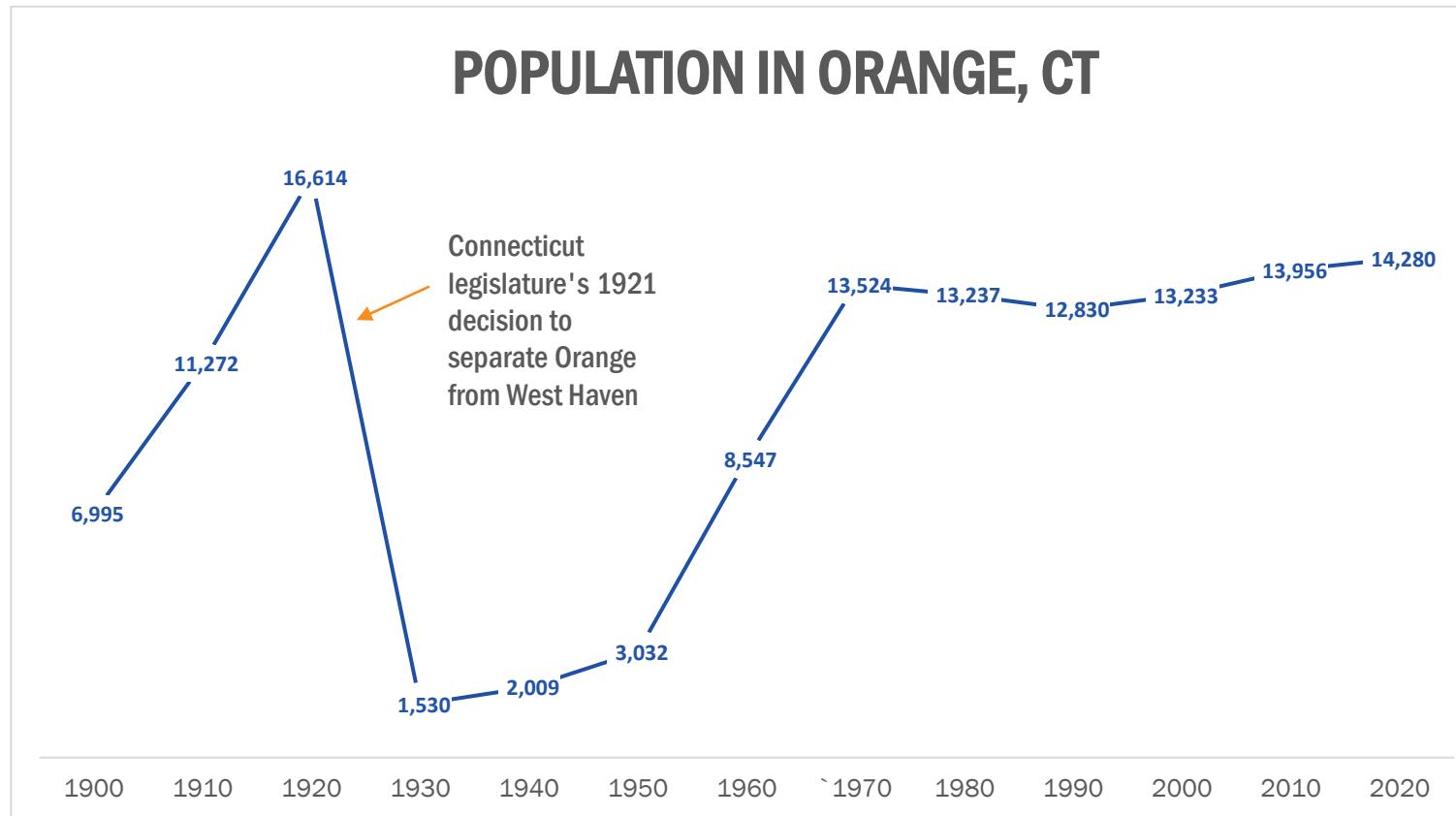


PRELIMINARY PLAN VISION & RECOMMENDATIONS

PRELIMINARY VISION STATEMENT

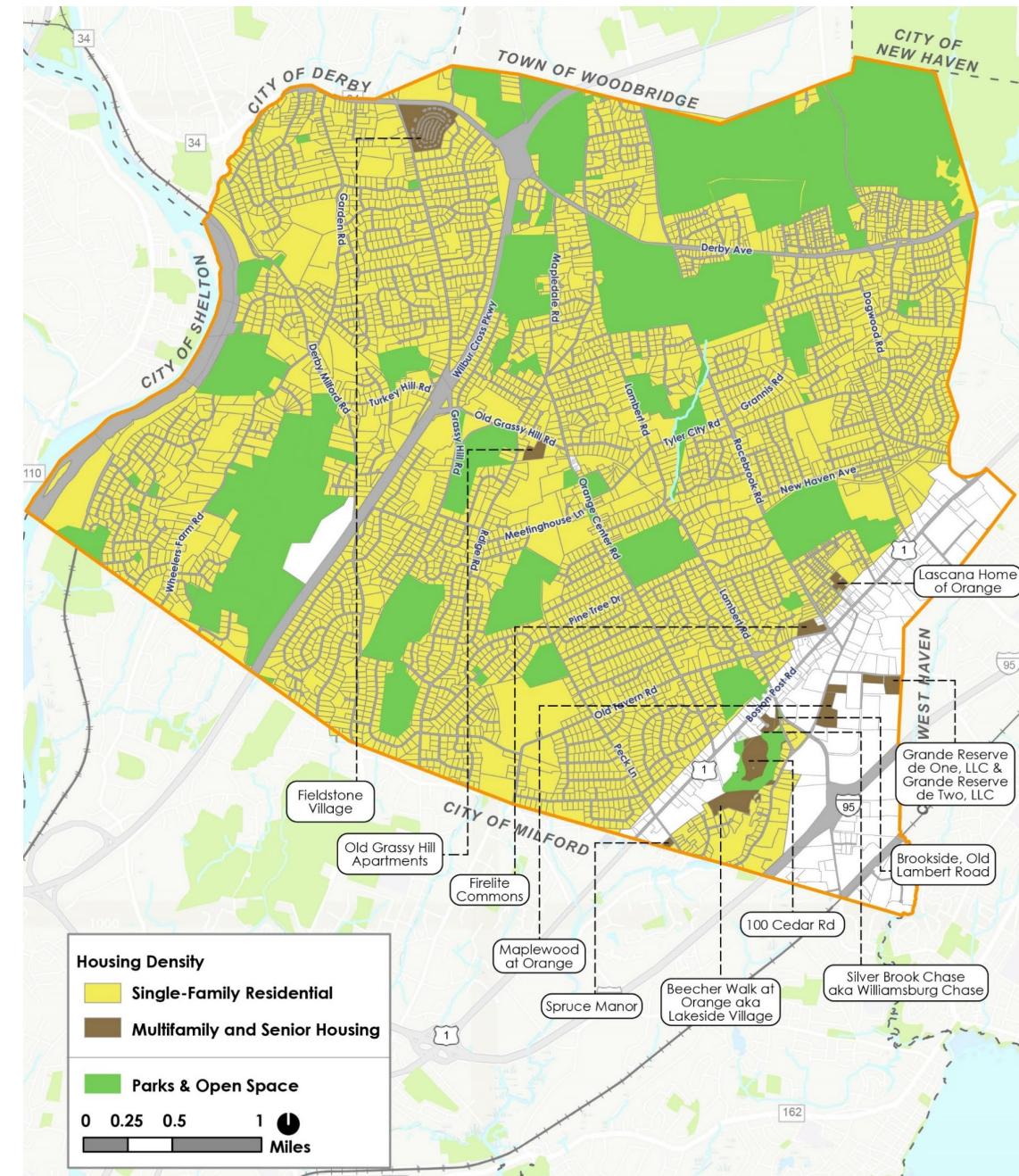
The Town of Orange strives to:

- Preserve existing neighborhoods.
- Enhance environmental and open space preservation.
- Support local businesses and commercial areas.
- Maintain and improve community infrastructure—including facilities, utilities, and roads.



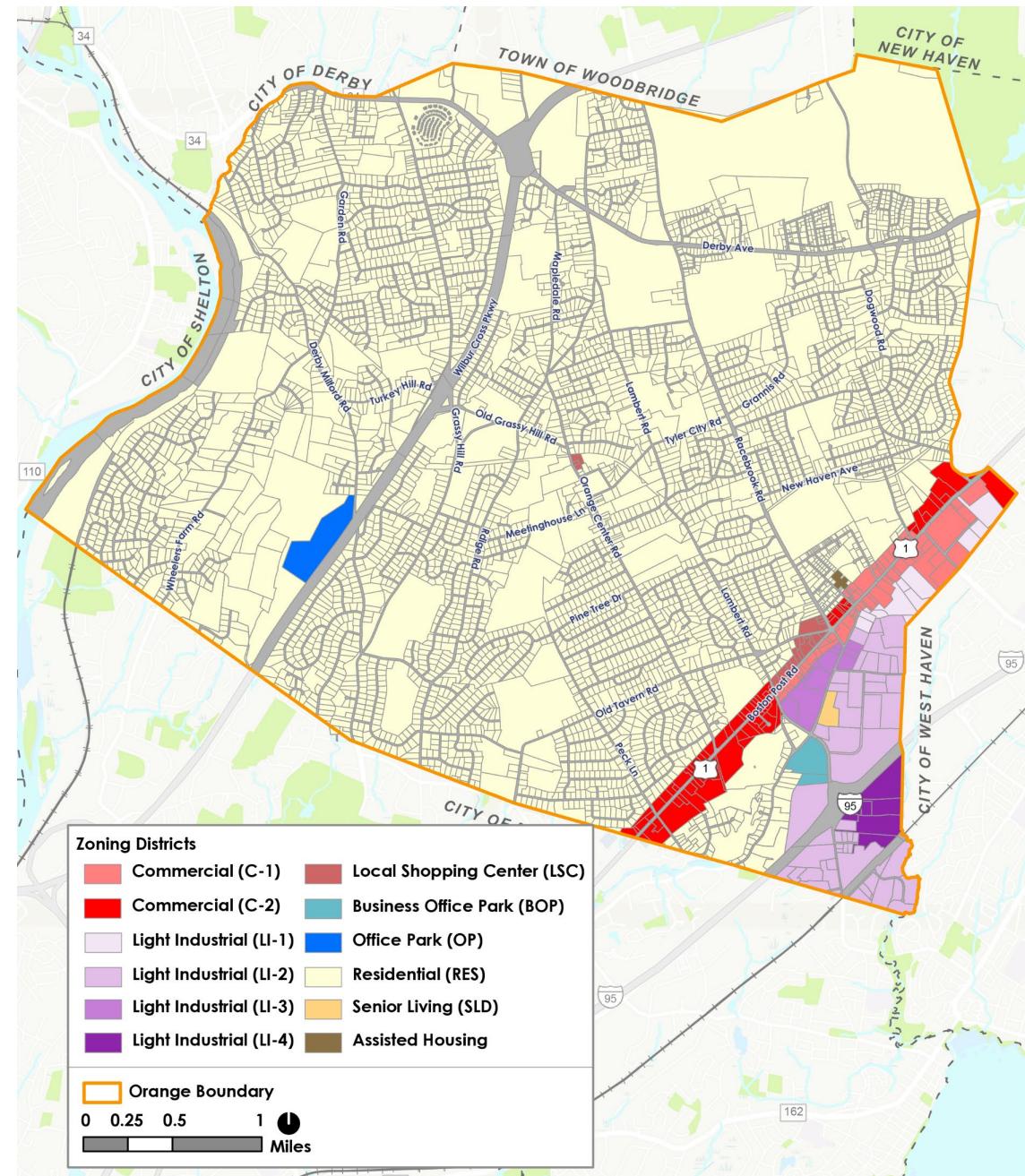
- From 1990 to 2000, the population increased by approx. 3.1%.
- From 2000 to 2010, the population increased by approx. 5.5%.
- From 2010 to 2020, the population increased by approx. 2.3%

- **Preserve existing residential neighborhoods.**
- **Continue to support a diverse housing stock to accommodate its population's evolving housing needs.**
- **Continue to promote opportunities for affordable housing.**



LAND USE & ZONING

- Maintain existing community character.
- Continue to preserve and expand open space.
- Agricultural uses are important to Orange's identity and economy and should continue to be supported.
- Route 1 is an important commercial corridor.
- Land use regulations need regular review and updates to ensure consistency.



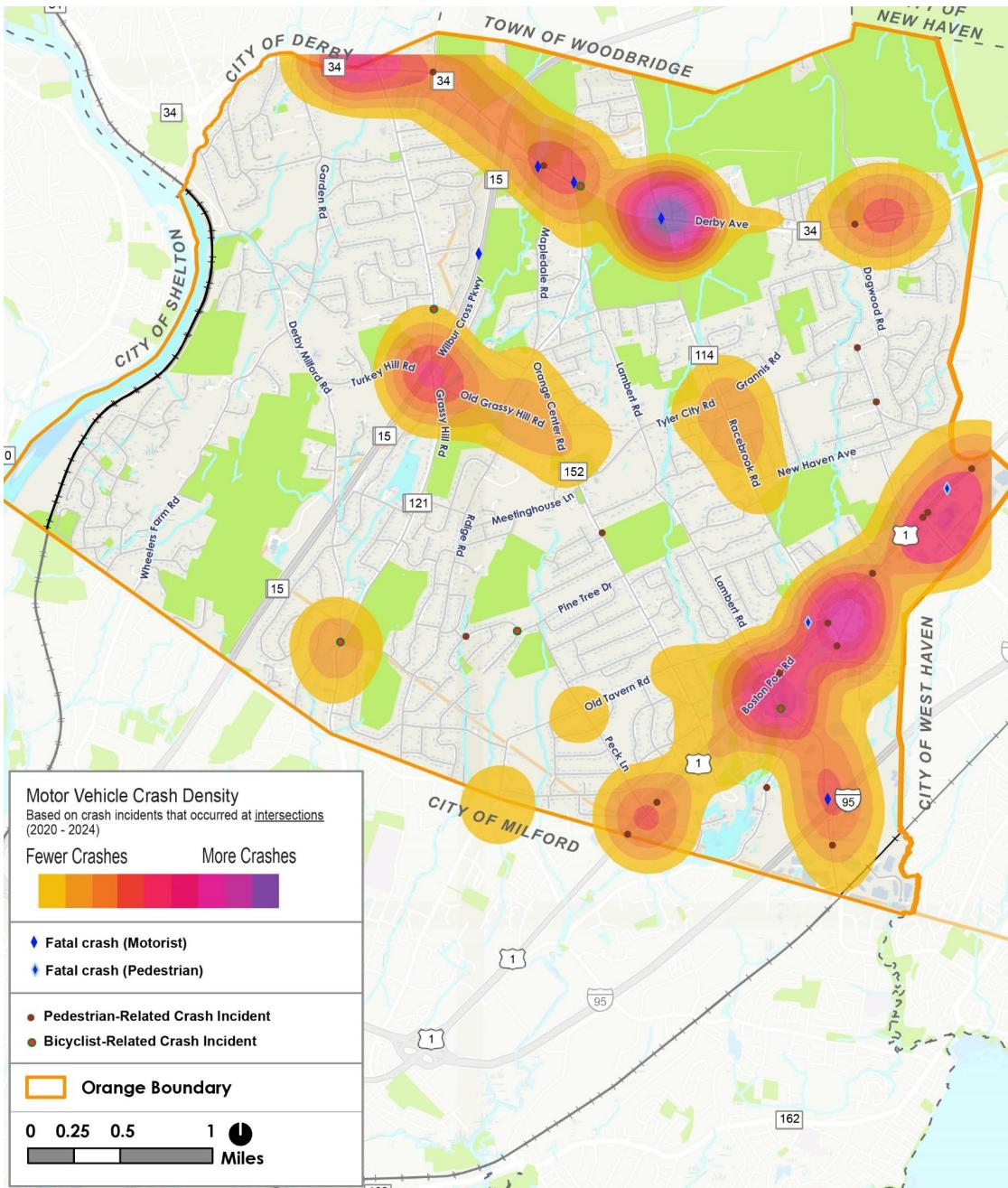
5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Strengthen and diversify the business base.**
- **Enhance industrial sector opportunities and small business growth.**
- **Promote adaptive reuse and redevelopment.**
- **Support workforce development.**
- **Promote tourism and community events.**
- **Maintain a competitive business climate and retain key employers.**



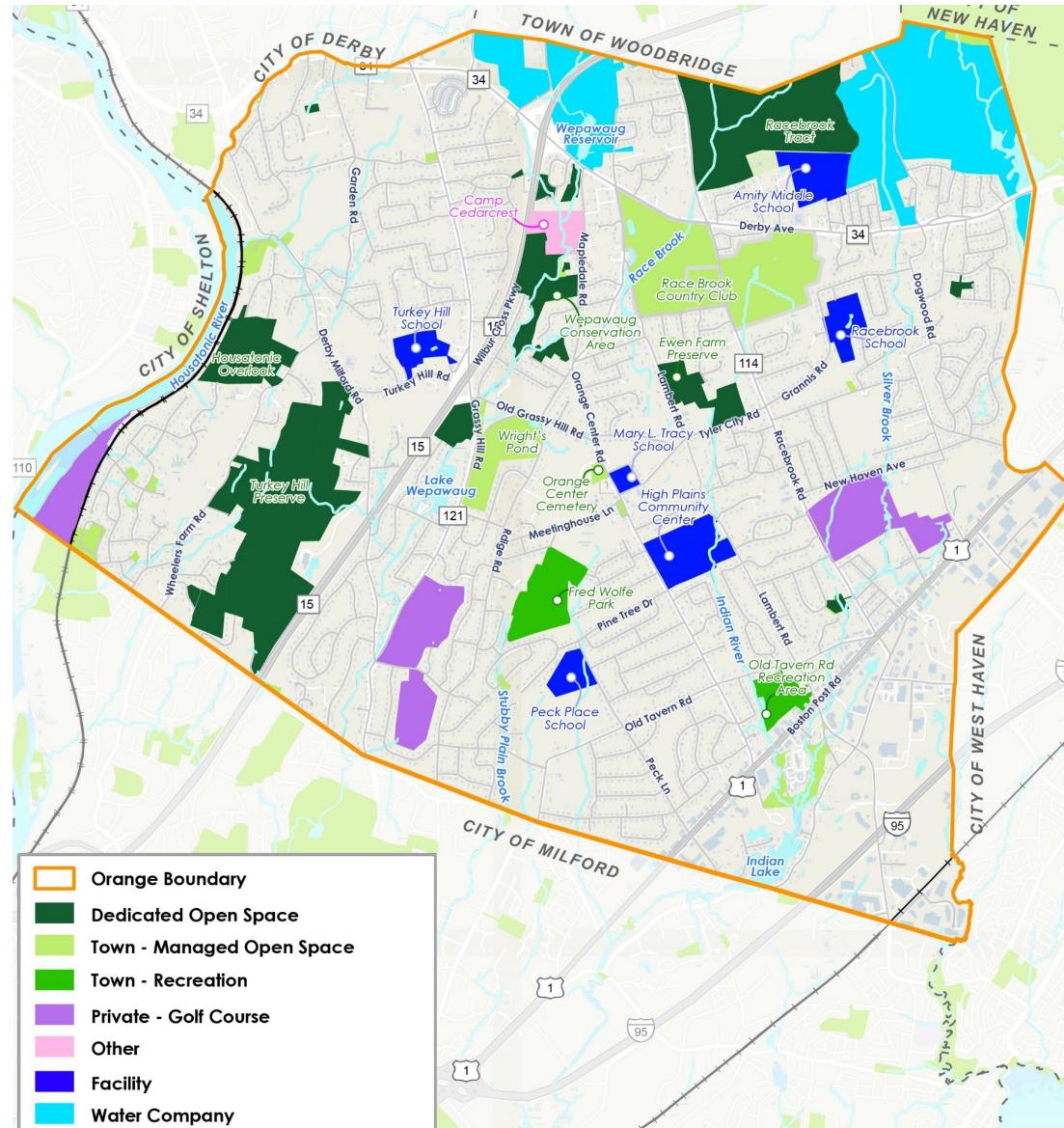
6 TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

- Continue to coordinate with CTDOT on ongoing and potential future roadway improvement studies and projects.
- Address overall roadway efficiency and safety issues.
- Address speeding and traffic calming in residential areas.
- Ensure the vitality and traffic efficiency of Route 1 and adjacent uses.
- Continue to improve pedestrian facilities.
- Undertake a Town-wide bicycle study to assess current conditions and to identify opportunities for potential infrastructure improvements.
- Continue to partner with CTtransit to ensure evolving demographic changes in Orange are met with adequate service.

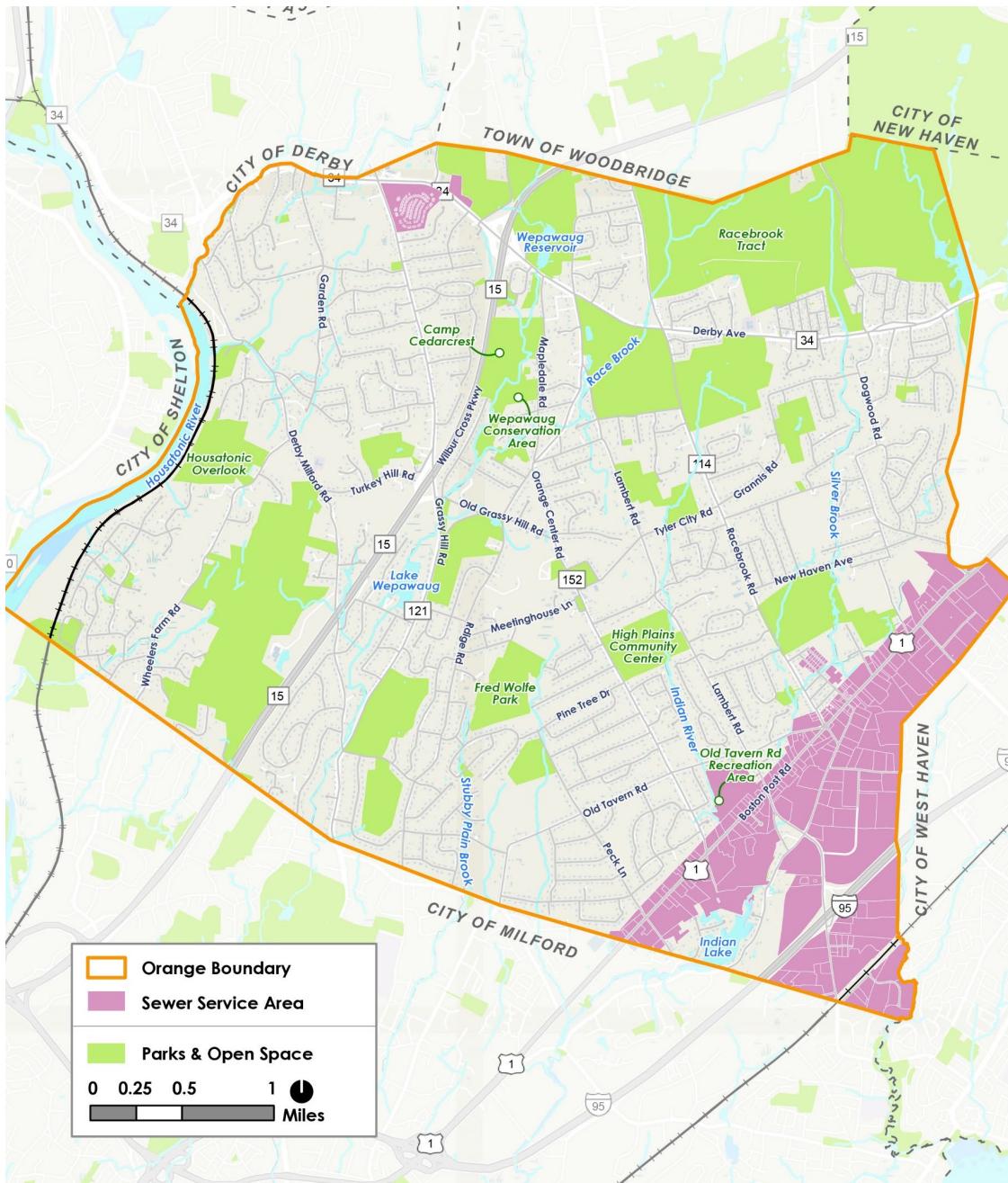


OPEN SPACE, HISTORIC, & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Continue open space preservation efforts.
- Document and promote recreational spaces.
- Maintain investment in recreational facilities.
- Continue agricultural/farmland preservation efforts.
- Protect historic resources.
- Maintain and improve community facilities and services.



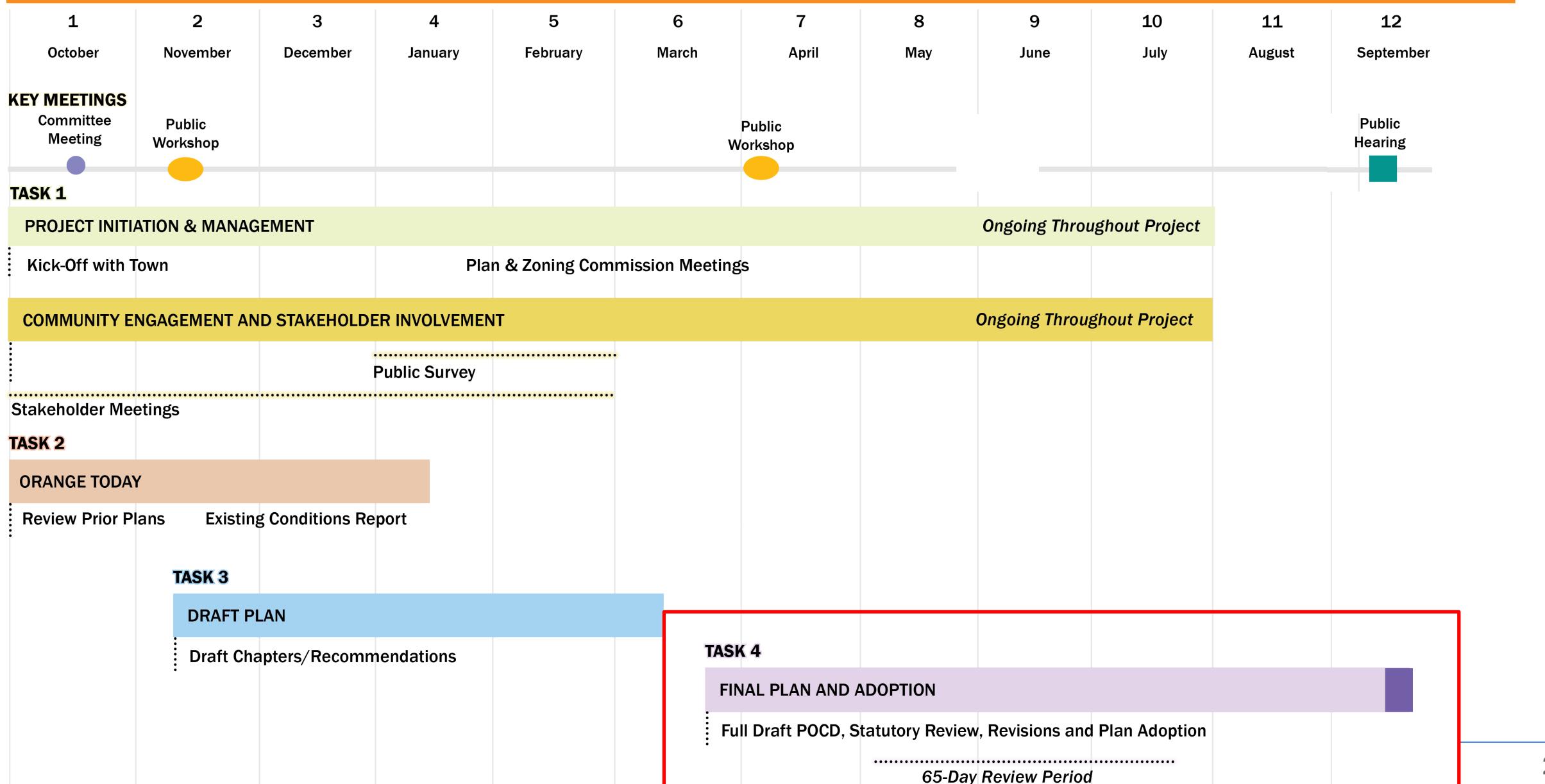
- Manage water quality and stormwater.
- Promote sustainable building practices.
- Encourage energy-saving practices.
- Manage sewage treatment and public water supply.





WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

REMAINING TIMELINE

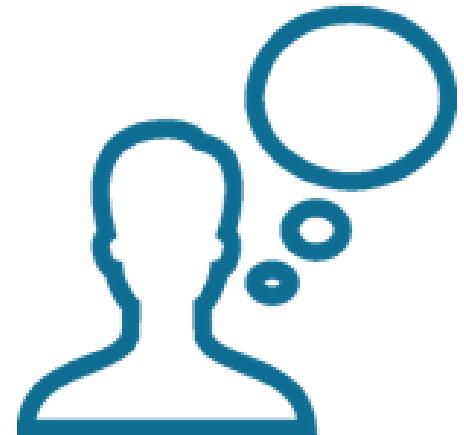
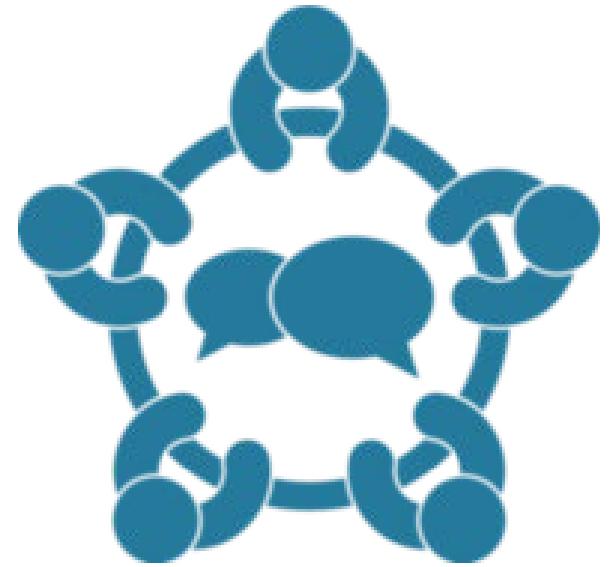


BREAKOUT TABLE DISCUSSION

- Choose a table. Remain there for the full discussion.
- All plan-related topics can be discussed at any tables. Some tables will offer a focus on a particular chapter.
- A representative from the Consultant Team or the Plan & Zoning Commission will facilitate the discussion and take notes.

REPORT BACK

- A spokesperson will report back on your table's discussion to the wider group.



A photograph of two large, colorful cow statues standing in a grassy field. The cow on the left is white with pink legs and a pattern of yellow sunflowers and green vines on its body. The cow on the right is primarily blue with a pink head and features a vibrant pattern of pink flowers, green leaves, and yellow sunflowers. They are positioned in front of a line of trees and a fence in a sunny, outdoor setting.

COFFEE BREAK