

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan serves as a blueprint for the future development and growth of Cranston. It outlines the community's vision, goals, and policies that will shape the City over the next twenty years. The Plan is designed to be a living document, flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances and robust enough to provide clear guidance for decision-making.

The development of the Comprehensive Plan is an important step in preparing Cranston for the future. This preparation for the future attempts to balance the needs of the residents while recognizing and protecting the City's important resources and character.

1.2 Legal Basis for the Plan

In 1988 the State of Rhode Island enacted the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act (the Act) requiring all 39 cities and towns in the state to prepare and adopt a local Comprehensive Plan. The Act, RIGL §45-22.2, was amended in 2011 and requires that all municipally adopted comprehensive plans be brought into conformance with the updated Act by June 1, 2016. This plan was prepared in response to that mandate and supersedes all previous Comprehensive Plans for the City of Cranston.

The Act sets forth the following goals, which are intended to guide both State and municipal decision making.

1. To promote orderly growth and development that recognizes the natural characteristics of the land, its suitability for use, the availability of existing and proposed public and/or private services and facilities and is consistent with available resources and the need to protect public health, including drinking water supply, drinking water safety, and environmental quality.
2. To promote an economic climate which increases quality job opportunities and the overall economic well-being of each municipality and the state.
3. To promote the production and rehabilitation of year-round housing and to preserve government subsidized housing for persons and families of low and moderate income in a manner that: considers local, regional, and statewide needs; that achieves a balance of housing choices for all income levels and age groups, recognizes the affordability of housing choices for all income levels and age groups, recognizes the affordability of housing as the responsibility of each municipality and the state; takes into account growth management and the need to phase and pace development in areas of rapid growth; and facilitates economic growth in the state.
4. To promote the protection of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of each municipality and the state.
5. To promote the preservation of open space and recreational resources of each municipality and the state.
6. To provide for the use of performance-based standards for development and to encourage the use of innovative development regulations and techniques that promote the development of land suitable for development while protecting our natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources, and achieving a balanced pattern of land uses.
7. 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.

8. To ensure that adequate and uniform data are available to municipal and state government as the basis for comprehensive planning and land use regulation.
9. 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.
10. To encourage the involvement of all citizens in the formulations, review, and adoptions or amendment of the comprehensive plan.

The Act was designed to create a reciprocal system, where State goals and policies are reflected locally, and local plans assist in guiding State actions. All local comprehensive plans are required to be submitted to the State of Rhode Island Division of Planning for review and approval. The Division of Planning is responsible for ensuring consistency with the goals and intent of the Act and the State Guide Plan. The State Guide Plan is Rhode Island's long-range planning document, assembled as a collection of plans that have been adopted and amended over many years. This collection covers a wide range of topics and provides an important connection between local municipal comprehensive plans and the State Guide Plan documents. This cohesive comprehensive planning structure ensures:

- That local discretion of land use decision-making is maintained.
- That each municipal comprehensive plan meets delineated minimum standards.
- That local zoning provisions are consistent with the municipality's comprehensive plan.
- Provides for a mandatory review and amendment process of local comprehensive plans no less than every ten years.

The purpose of the Cranston Comprehensive Plan is to set a vision and chart the future for the community by outlining long range goals and accompanying policies and actions required to achieve them. The City of Cranston first adopted a comprehensive plan in **YEAR** and completed and update of that plan in 2012. This re-write is part of an ongoing evolution of policy setting and decision making as the City continues to grow and move forward with each passing year.

1.3 Importance of Updating the Plan

Regular updates to the Comprehensive Plan are essential to ensure that the Plan remains relevant and reflective of the community's needs and aspirations. The current update builds upon the successes and lessons learned from previous plans, incorporating new data, public input, and emerging trends. This update is particularly significant as it addresses critical issues such as climate change, housing affordability, and sustainable development, which have become increasingly important for the well-being of Cranston's residents.

1.4 Structure of the Plan

This introduction section provides an overview of the comprehensive plan landscape in Rhode Island as well as a brief description of the history of Cranston and the overarching issues facing the community. This is followed by a brief discussion of the background of the comprehensive plan in Cranston. The plan then presents the planning horizon for the next 20 years, outlining major focus areas for the City over that course of that timeframe. A demographic profile for community is presented to inform each of the 11 chapters that follow, as well as an overview of the process and the public participation approach that was implemented. The goals, policies, and actions associated with each element are presented at the front part of the document, as this provides the essential roadmap that will guide policy decisions and actions the community will engage moving forward. This section is followed by the following eleven chapters:

- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Recreation and Open Space
- Services and Facilities
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Natural Hazards and Climate Change
- Energy

Each chapter in the plan contains an overview of existing conditions and a summary of challenges and opportunities related to that chapters. The goals, policies, and actions for each chapter are not contained within the chapter but instead within the Implementation Plan at the front of the document. The placement of this Implementation Plan highlights that first and foremost, the City is focused on taking the necessary steps to move the City forward. The remainder of the plan plays an important role in supporting those efforts.

1.4.1 Existing Conditions

The foundation of the Comprehensive Plan is built on a thorough understanding of existing conditions. The current status of the City provides a snap shot in time that helps us understand what is currently working and where improvements need to be made. When we combine this information with public feedback from community engagement efforts, we are able to develop policy that will assist the City in achieving its goals for the future. For the development of existing conditions in this plan the following steps were taken:

- **Literature and Resources Review:** Analyzing current local and regional initiatives, relevant documents, and previous comprehensive plans.
- **Site Visits and GIS Analysis:** Conducting site visits and utilizing GIS technology to map current conditions and identify areas of opportunity and concern.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Engaging with City staff and key stakeholders to gather insights and validate data.
- **Demographic and Socio-economic Trends:** Documenting trends to inform actionable goals and policies, including updating existing data and assessing changes over the last decade.
- **Data Updates:** Updating data points through online research, census data, and staff interviews and inquiries.

1.4.2 Challenges and Opportunities

This section of each chapter draws on the findings of the existing conditions analysis as well as that from the public engagement feedback to identify where the City faces challenges that must be addressed and opportunities that should be capitalized on to advance the City.

The City of Cranston provides a variety of opportunities to enhance the quality of life of residents:

- **Scenic Resources:** From farmland to waterfront to urban core, the City has a diversity of scenic resources.
- **Economic Development:** The City has large areas zoned for nonresidential development, providing ample opportunity for businesses to locate.

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While Cranston boasts many strengths, it also faces several challenges that need to be addressed:

- **Affordable Housing:** Ensuring a sufficient supply of affordable housing for all income levels.
- **Economic Disparities:** Reducing economic disparities and providing opportunities for all residents.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Upgrading aging infrastructure to meet current and future needs.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Addressing environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, and natural resource preservation.
- **An Auto-Centric Transportation Network:** Though there are many sidewalks on the Eastern side of the city, most of them are either disconnected or are at various states of disrepair. For those seeking or who require the use of bicycles as either a primary or a supplementary mode of transportation, the City lacks any notable network of bicycle infrastructure. Public Transportation does service the City, but notably lacks meaningful east west connections.

1.4.3 Goals, Policies, and Actions

The goals, policies, and actions are contained within the Implementation Plan section of the plan. This is where the rubber meets the road and the City lays out the action plan to achieve its long-term goals for its future growth and development. See the Implementation Plan for a detailed description of the differences between goals, policies, and actions and how the Implementation Plan is organized.

1.5 Plan Approach

Due to changes in state enabling legislation adopted in 2023, the review, drafting, and adoption of this comprehensive plan took a unique approach. The change to enabling legislation mandated that any comprehensive plan that was older than twelve years old would not be permitted to be used to deny a land use decision. In September of 2024 the City's previous comprehensive plan, which was approved by the State in September of 2012, turned 12 years old. The City initiated work to completely update the 2012 comprehensive plan in DATE 2023. Recognizing that they would not be able to conduct the level of public engagement desired for the full update of the plan by the September 2024 deadline, they developed a two phased approach to updating the plan. This document represents Phase I of that approach.

The approach adopted by the City was to conduct a full data update of the 2012 comprehensive plan, a review and update of the goals, policies, and actions, and to conduct an appropriate amount of public engagement to achieve these efforts within the short time-frame available for Phase 1. This was done with the understanding that Phase 2 of the update would continue after Phase 1 was adopted by the City Council. Phase 2 was designed to be public engagement heavy, ensuring that the citizens of Cranston were provided ample opportunity to participate in the planning process and have their opinions on the future of the City incorporated into the plan.

This first phase of the comprehensive plan provides the City with an updated plan that represents current data and conditions, goals, policies, and actions that have been consolidated into a concise Implementation Plan, and updated challenges and opportunities that are reflective of current conditions. During Phase 2 additional public engagement activities, such as a survey and multiple public workshops,

will be conducted to further refine the goals, policies, and actions in the Implementation Plan to ensure that community input and public opinion are properly reflected.

1.6 Community Engagement

The City of Cranston recognizes that community engagement is a cornerstone of a successful planning process. Community engagement is critical to ensuring that the public supports the goals, policies, and actions of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan should reflect the needs and desires of the citizens of Cranston. Their vision for the City are meant to be reflected in the development of those action items that guide City decision making over the 20-year life of the plan. This can only occur successfully when a robust public engagement process is conducted as part of the drafting of the plan.

Various techniques were employed to ensure broad and inclusive participation in the development of the Comprehensive Plan:

- **Public Forums and Workshops:** Hosting a series of public events to gather input on the community's vision, goals, and policies. The first public forum was held in September 2023, serving as a kick-off event for the public engagement process. The results of the public engagement event are contained within Appendix A. As part of the second phase of the plan update additional public workshops will be held as the goals, policies, and actions in the plan are further refined and updated.
- **Dedicated Project Website:** The project website serves as a central hub for project information, updates, and engagement tools. The website includes a project status board, timeline graphics, interactive maps, and tools for public feedback.

1.7 Acknowledgments

The preparation of this Comprehensive Plan would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of many individuals and organizations. Special thanks go to the City Administration, City Council, Planning Commission, Planning Department, and all the residents and stakeholders who contributed their time and insights throughout the planning process. Their commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in creating a Plan that truly reflects the aspirations and values of the Cranston community.

1.8 Plan Adoption and Amendments

The Comprehensive Plan must be formally adopted by the Cranston City Council. This adoption took place on DATE after a joint public hearing of the Planning Commission and City Council. At the conclusion of that public hearing the plan was adopted by the City Council on a **X-X** vote.

The City is permitted to amend the Comprehensive Plan four times each year. Amendments to the Plan serve an important purpose, allowing the City to adapt to changing times, shifts in policy, and to be flexible in serving the needs and desires of the community. An amendment to the Plan is required to hold a public hearing by both the Planning Commission and City Council and the consistency of the amendment with the remainder of the Plan should be a consideration when adopting the amendment. The Plan should be considered a living document that is adaptable to changing circumstances.

2.0 DEMOGRAPHIC AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

The characteristics of a population affect how the community's needs are identified and defined. A critical component of drafting a comprehensive plan that will appropriately address a community's future needs, is to first define and understand the characteristics of the people that live in that community. When planning for land use, housing, economic development—and all the other topics within a comprehensive plan—a fundamental understanding of the community, and who is it made up of, is necessary. This chapter provides information on recent and historic community characteristics that inform the goals and policies contained within each of the elements of the plan.

Many of the tables contained within this chapter are intended to provide baseline data that is relevant to multiple elements of the comprehensive plan. This baseline information includes data on population and population projections, race, ethnicity, education, income, and age.

2.1 Demographic Profile

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Many of the figures contained within this chapter are intended to provide baseline data that is relevant to multiple elements of the comprehensive plan. This baseline information includes data on population and population projections, race, ethnicity, education, income, and age.

Table 3-1 below indicates that Cranston's population has grown relatively steadily since 1910 up until around 1970, where the growth rate slowed, and the population declined in 1980. The growth resumed in 1990 but at a much slower rate than previously experienced. According to QuickFacts by the U.S. Census Bureau, Cranston's estimated 2023 population is 82,635 residents¹. This represents a slight decline in population since 2020, projecting only a .4% decrease in population since 2020.

The Rhode Island Division of Planning provides population projections for each community in Rhode Island. Table 3-2 presents the population projections for 2020 through 2040 for the City of Cranston. The projections provide for a much slower growth rate than experienced during a majority of the previous century, but the actual population of the City have exceeded expected population numbers. Table 3-2 shows a projected population of 82,162 people by the year 2030 and Figure 3-1 represents that number was surpassed (at 82,934) in 2020. So while the City is exceeding population projection numbers, its growth rate is fluctuates between receding and a very moderate growth rate over the last 50 years.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/cranstoncityrhodeisland>

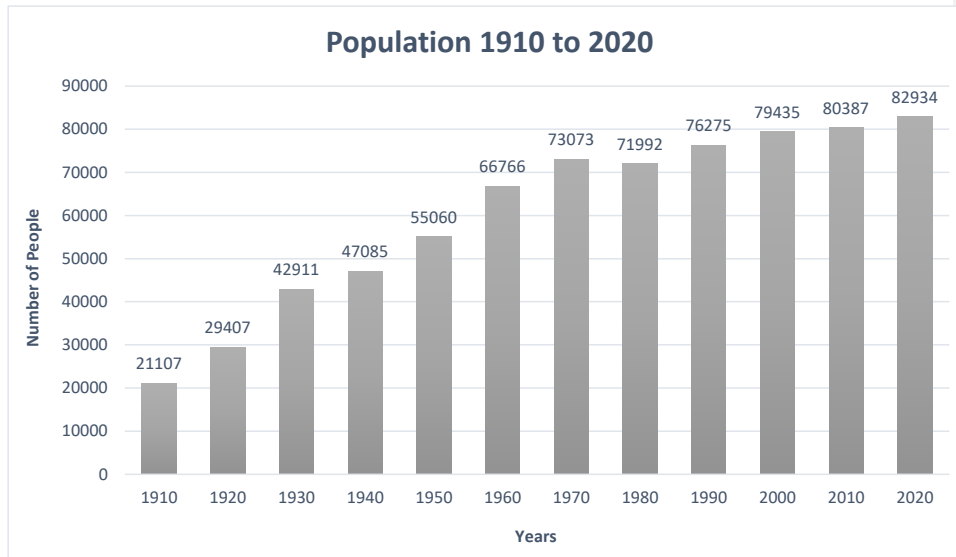


Figure 3-1: Cranston Historical Population Data
Source: <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tPublished.shtml>

Table 3-1: Population Projection, 2020-20				
20-Year Population Projections				
2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
80,304	81,382	82,162	82,486	82,271

Source: Population Projections | Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning. (2020). Ri.gov. <https://planning.ri.gov/planning-areas/data-center/ri-data-center-census-data/population-projection>

Tables 3-2 through 3-6 below provide further demographic information related to age, educational attainment, race and ethnicity, and household income.

Table 3-2: Population Age		
Age	Population	% of Population
Under 5	3888	4.7%
5 to 9 years	4197	5.1%
10 to 14 years	4646	5.6%
15 to 19 years	5186	6.3%
20 to 24 years	4971	6.0%
25 to 29 years	5517	6.7%
30 to 34 years	5848	7.1%
35 to 39 years	5794	7.0%
40 to 44 years	5123	6.2%
45 to 49 years	5096	6.1%
50 to 54 years	5685	6.9%
55 to 59 years	5897	7.1%

Table 3-2: Population Age

Age	Population	% of Population
60 to 64	5999	7.2%
65 to 69	4939	6.0%
70 to 74	3780	4.6%
75 to 79	2578	3.1%
80 to 84	1639	2.0%
85 years and over	2151	2.6%
TOTAL	82,934	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "PROFILE OF GENERAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS." Decennial Census, DEC Demographic Profile, Table DP1, 2020, [https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=demographic profile&g=160XX00US4419180](https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=demographic%20profile&g=160XX00US4419180). Accessed on June 28, 2024.

Table 3-3: Population Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Population	% of Population
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	15,067	18.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino	67,867	81.8%
TOTAL	82,934	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "PROFILE OF GENERAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS." Decennial Census, DEC Demographic Profile, Table DP1, 2020, [https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=demographic profile&g=160XX00US4419180](https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=demographic%20profile&g=160XX00US4419180). Accessed on June 28, 2024.

Table 3-4: Population Race

Race	Population	% of Population
White	56,514	68.1%
Black or African American	46,83	5.6%
American Indian & Alaskan Native	485	0.6%
Asian	5,799	7%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	45	0.1%
Other	8,282	10%
Two or More Races	7,126	8.6%
TOTAL	82,934	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "PROFILE OF GENERAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS." Decennial Census, DEC Demographic Profile, Table DP1, 2020, [https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=demographic profile&g=160XX00US4419180](https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=demographic%20profile&g=160XX00US4419180). Accessed on June 28, 2024.

Table 3-5: Population Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Educational Attainment	Educational Attainment
Less than 9th grade	3,681	6.6%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	8,194	14.7%

Table 3-5: Population Educational Attainment		
Educational Attainment	Educational Attainment	Educational Attainment
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	16,036	28.7%
Some college, no degree	9,973	17.8%
Associate degree	4,257	7.6%
Bachelor's degree	8,713	15.6%
Graduate or professional degree	5,032	9%
TOTAL	20,365	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000." Decennial Census, DEC Summary File 4 Demographic Profile, Table DP2, 2000, <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDPSF42000.DP2?q=demographic&g=160XX00US4419180>. Accessed on June 28, 2024.

Table 3-6: Household Income		
Household Income	Households	% of Occupied Households
Less than \$10,000	773	3.8%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	616	3.0%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,848	9.1%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2,323	11.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	3,436	16.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5,181	25.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3,133	15.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,055	10.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	644	3.2%
\$200,000 or more	356	1.7%
TOTAL	20,365	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000." Decennial Census, DEC Summary File 4 Demographic Profile, Table DP3, 2000, <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDPSF42000.DP3?q=demographic&g=160XX00US4419180>. Accessed on June 28, 2024.

2.2 Cranston's Development History

2.2.1 The Seventeenth Century

Most of the land that constitutes modern day Cranston was purchased by Roger Williams from the Narragansett Indians in 1638 as part of the Pawtuxet Purchase. The first settlers to the area built a gristmill on the Pawtuxet falls and laid out Arnold Road (modern day Broad Street) connecting it to the Pequot Trail leading to Connecticut. At this time the town was known as Pawtuxet and remained as such for decades until it was officially named Cranston by the General Assembly of Rhode Island in 1754.

2.2.2 The Eighteenth Century

During the 18th century, Cranston experienced gradual population growth and expansion of settlements as more colonists moved into the area. Agriculture became increasingly important, with farmers cultivating the land and establishing farms. Early industries also began to develop, likely centered around the gristmill on the Pawtuxet falls and potentially including other small-scale manufacturing or processing

operations. A significant milestone occurred in 1754 when the General Assembly of Rhode Island officially named the town Cranston, giving it a distinct identity separate from the earlier Pawtuxet settlement. This naming likely reflected the area's growing population and economic importance within the colony. Throughout this period, Cranston transitioned from a sparsely settled frontier area to a more established colonial town with a diversifying economy and expanding infrastructure.

2.2.3 *The Nineteenth Century*

Cranston experienced significant changes during the 19th century, typical of many New England towns. The City saw substantial industrialization, particularly along the Pawtuxet River, where numerous textile mills were established, including the Cranston Print Works Company founded in 1824. This industrial growth led to a marked increase in population and the expansion of residential areas. Transportation infrastructure also developed significantly, with the construction of new roads and the introduction of railways. The Providence, Hartford and Fishkill Railroad, later part of the New York and New England Railroad, began service through Cranston in 1854, further boosting economic development and population growth. By the end of the century, Cranston had transformed from a rural agricultural community to a bustling industrial town with a diverse economy and growing population.

2.2.4 *The Twentieth Century*

During the 20th century, Cranston experienced continued urbanization, and suburbanization, leading to the expansion of residential areas and the development of modern infrastructure and public services. This period saw significant improvements in transportation, utilities, and public amenities, which supported the growing population. Additionally, there was a notable shift in the economic focus from traditional industrial activities to more service-oriented sectors, reflecting broader economic trends and the city's adaptation to new economic realities. These developments collectively transformed Cranston into a more urbanized and economically diverse community, enhancing its appeal as a residential and commercial hub within the Providence metropolitan area.

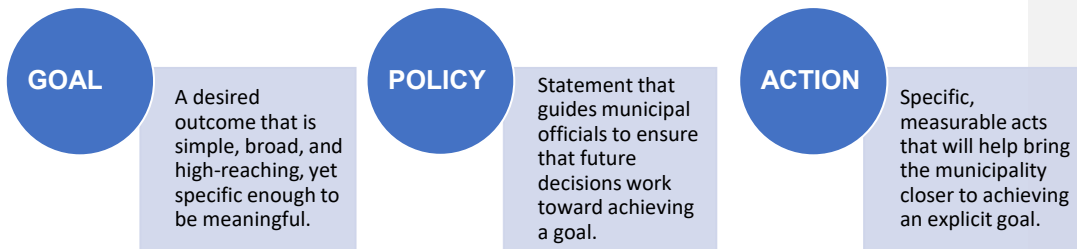
3.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1 Implementation Overview

Cranston utilized an extensive public engagement process to develop this 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Input from the general public was gathered through multiple public meetings and workshops. Using this information, goals, policies, and actions were created to address the concerns of residents. The Plan outlines goals and policies with specific actions for the City to achieve its vision of the future. The implementation matrix is where the action items of each chapter come together to form a strategy to move Cranston forward in achieving both the short- and long-term goals outlined in the previous chapters of this plan.

3.2 Implementation Matrix

These stated goals, policies, and actions provide a roadmap for the City to move the plan forward. Goals provide overarching desired outcomes, while policies guide municipal decision making and actions provide measurable acts that achieve implementation. When all three initiatives work together the City can make considerable strides towards achieving the stated goals. The matrix provided in this element has several important functions. First it states each particular element's goals and policies. This is followed by actions. For each action a timeframe and responsible parties are identified. This is done to provide guidance to those involved in implementation in what time frame the action is anticipated to take place and who will be responsible for initiating and supporting each action item. These considerations will vary based on circumstances at the time and this information is provided as a guide. The following key should be used when reviewing the matrix:



Timeframe: Factors used to determine the timeframe for specific for specific actions include priority level, cost/budget, staff time, and overall length of time for a particular action item to be initiated and completed. Timeframes are categorized as follows:

- Short-term (S): (1-3 years)
- Medium-term (M): (4-7 years)
- Long-term (L): (8-10 years)
- Ongoing (O): Continuous

In some cases, the matrix indicates the timeframe of the action item(s) as “ongoing.” This identifies action items that may span across time frames and once initiated, become a permanent fixture or service within the City, continuing beyond the long-term timeframe threshold. The implementation matrix is not intended to prioritize certain action items over others. In other words, short-term actions do not necessarily take priority over longer-term actions and vice versa.

Responsibility: The matrix also contains a “responsible party(ies)” column that lists acronyms to represent parties that will lead and support the implementation of a given action. In some cases, there may be multiple lead or support parties, which consist of government officials, agencies, organizations, and Cranston residents. Many of these action items will require an effort and an investment of time from multiple groups or organizations. These actions are subject to amendment and will need to be reviewed and possibly revised on an annual basis to account for changes in policy or circumstances within Cranston.

Those listed in bold in the matrix are the lead responsible party, with those listed beneath it identified as support parties. The lead responsible party should be those directly involved in conducting a study or implementing an action or policy. Those identified as support parties should be those that will play a role in the implementation or action, but are not leading the charge, only providing support to those that do.

3.3 Accomplishments from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan

This section outlines the action items that were identified in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan that the City has made significant progress in achieving, or has completed.

Table 11-1. Accomplishments from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan		
REF. NO (2010 Plan)	Action	Explanation Of Accomplishments
Land Use		
LU-21	Continue efforts to implement a mixed-use development at the location of the former Trolley Barn site.	The former Trolley Barn site has been redeveloped as a mixed-commercial (non-residential site). Full build out is expected in 2025.
LU-23	Apply the district to the developed area of the Pastore complex, in place of the existing Open Space (S-1) district.	The city is not pursuing a rezone of the Pastore Center complex. The S-1 Open Space zone is irrelevant for land use purposes for state property.
Housing		
HA-7	Create a Housing Task Force with special request to research, advocate, and coordinate affordable housing programs.	The City created the Cranston Housing Commission which monitors, and advocates for additional affordable housing creation within the City.
HA-11	Create a CDBG grant program to provide funding for correction of serious code violations that pose immediate health and safety concerns.	The CDBG program has been utilized to address these specific problems within the City.
HA-11	Create a CDBG grant program to provide rehabilitation loans for rental housing which is affordable to lower income families.	A CDBG program has been created to provide rehabilitation loans for rental housing units within the City.
HA-16	Develop an inventory of vacant city owned, tax title lots which would be suitable for development.	The inventory was created by the City's IT Department in 2023.
Economic Development		
ED-22	Redevelopment of neighborhood centers should continue to occur at Pawtuxet Village, Knightsville, and Rolfe Square.	The City continues to invest in new infrastructure and aesthetic improves in its established neighborhood village centers.
ED-24	Develop design guidelines for site development that address different conditions and smart growth goals and distinguishes between each type of commercial area; major commercial center, village center, highway or arterial commercial.	Design guidelines and special zones have been created for these different intensities of development throughout the City.

Table 11-1. Accomplishments from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan		
REF. NO (2010 Plan)	Action	Explanation Of Accomplishments
ED-25	Improve relations with developers, businesses, and property owners to work with regulatory staff to proactively inform and assist developers in regulatory and approval processes.	Overall city operations and interface with the development community, business community and property owners has improved to make the process more approachable and predictable.
ED-26	Continue providing hands-on assistance to growing businesses with financing, permitting, and other needs.	The Economic Development Director works directly with various small business owners to help them locate, expand, and keep their businesses within the City.
Natural Resources		
NR-1	Identify and prioritize critical habitat areas in western Cranston and locate habitats of rare and endangered species.	The State has mapped areas of critical habitat of rare and endangered species. This information is available to Planning Staff in review of all new development proposals.
NR-2	Adopt watershed management plans (Adopt watershed management plans in accordance to RIDEM standards to address potential pollution in compliance with NPDES Phase II requirements and seek non-point source pollution mitigation funds from the state to assist in preparation).	The City's DPW has adopted watershed management plans in accordance with the NPDES Phase II.
NR-10	Require all subdivisions that propose on-site wells to include an analysis of groundwater and set standards suitable to verify conformance with RIDEM's Rules and Regulations relating to Drinking Water Wells.	New wells within subdivisions are created consistent with the RIDEM regulations.
NR-15	Implement Best Management Practices (BMP's) for stormwater and erosion controls, including requirements for all new subdivision and development projects and recommendations of the Fuss & O'Neill stormwater management study.	The City's DPW has implemented BMPs for stormwater and erosion controls for all new subdivisions consistent with RIDEM NPDES and wetlands regulations.
NR-17	Ensure that municipal salt storage piles are adequately covered.	An enclosure for municipal salt storage has been created to prevent erosion and runoff.
NR-18	Establish Watershed Management Plans, where necessary in cooperation with adjacent communities.	DPW has coordinated with adjacent communities for watershed management plans.
NR-20	Create restoration plans for the banks of the Pocasset and Pawtuxet rivers where roadways and development have degraded the rivers.	Various areas of the Pocasset and Pawtuxet rivers have been restored in the last 15 years.
Historic Preservation		
HP-11	Continue to implement design review and procedural guidelines for historic district zoning in designated areas.	The City's Historic District Commission continues to review and permit various improvements in the districts. The City Council has expanded the jurisdiction of the HDC through ordinance to various historic properties
HP-12	Survey accurate locations of historic cemeteries using GPS and submit the coordinate data to the City's IT department in order to map the cemeteries on GIS maps with plat and lot	Cemeteries have been identified on the City's GIS. Further surveying is warranted.

Table 11-1. Accomplishments from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan		
REF. NO (2010 Plan)	Action	Explanation Of Accomplishments
	information.	
HP-15	Distribute information and guidance on preservation, based on the Secretary of Interiors Standards of Preservation, for public and private use.	The City's website has links to this information to aid the public.
Services and Facilities		
SF-1	Create a Pavement Maintenance Plan Program a regular series of improvements to the street system.	DPW has implemented a pavement maintenance program.
SF-2	Establish a signage program to replace signs, including a consistent design standard that defines the community and individual neighborhoods where the signs are erected.	DPW Traffic Safety Division has replaced signs as appropriate in various neighborhoods.
SF-3	Establish and maintain a Capital Sewer Fund.	DPW Sewer Division maintains a capital sewer account funded through user fees.
SF-4	Determine steps to resolve illegal connections to sewerage system.	DPW Sewer Division continually works to address illegal connections to the sewage system.
SF-5	Advance nutrient reduction for the wastewater treatment plant discharge to the Pawtuxet River: Set the goals to improve conditions and flows within the river.	DPW Sewer Division continues to address nutrient discharge at the treatment plant.
SF-9	Coordinate City Hall, High School, and School Administration building projects: Provide design and construction oversight for greater efficiency in use of existing space.	Ongoing
SF-10	Allow sewer and water tie-ins to the existing sewer and water lines in western Cranston where properties abut said lines.	This has since become a state mandate.
Open Space and Recreation		
OS-6	Acquire or improve public lands for pocket parks for all ages in Cranston's urban neighborhoods.	Itri Park in Knightsville was completed in 2023, the first new public space created in well over two decades.
OS-8	Continue to upgrade and expand recreational opportunities at existing sites to serve all segments of the population.	Ongoing. Reconstruction of the Budlong pool is intended to serve all segments of the population
OS-9	Ensure recreational facilities allow access to people of all ages and are American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.	This policy is followed by the recreation and school departments.
OS-10	Continue to improve existing access to the waterfront by inventorying all points of public ownership and access.	Ongoing
OS-11	Transfer school recreation sites to the Recreation Department jurisdiction, as appropriate.	Ongoing and case by case basis
OS-13	Include controls within the subdivision regulations to protect and enhance water resources.	New subdivisions are subject to RIDEM RIPDES regulations to protect and enhance water resources.

Table 11-1. Accomplishments from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan		
REF. NO (2010 Plan)	Action	Explanation Of Accomplishments
OS-15	Adopt and encourage use of subdivision and zoning regulations that support conservation of open space in residential developments.	Cluster subdivision design is the preferred method of development to protect open space resources in all new subdivision proposals.
OS-17	Partner with local and regional non-profits to obtain and manage open space.	Ongoing
C-5	Identify potential east-west routes for through traffic.	Limited opportunities for new east-west routes for thru-traffic
C-6	Prioritize problems at intersections and investigate improvements.	Ongoing through the DPW / Traffic Safety Division
C-7	Establish a program of intersection improvements.	Ongoing through the DPW / Traffic Safety Division
C-14	Secure and preserve railroad rights-of-way for future transportation corridors.	Accomplished – Providence & Worcester Rail line has been reestablished for industrial purposes
C-23	Require provision of landscaping to delineate parking areas and provide buffers.	This has been incorporated into the City's Development Plan Review ordinances
C-24	Review and update parking standards in Zoning Ordinances.	Parking standards have been updated and incorporated into the City's Development Plan Review ordinances
C-26	Identify roadway improvements to eliminate safety and operational problems.	Ongoing through the DPW / Traffic Safety Division
C-27	Identify improvements to roadway links to safely accommodate increased traffic volume, especially existing deficiencies on Scituate Avenue (Route 12) and links to Route 37 corridor.	Ongoing through the DPW / Traffic Safety Division
C-31	Establish a program of improvements for specific roadway segments and intersections based on identified problems.	Ongoing through the DPW / Traffic Safety Division
C-32	Investigate appropriate improvements to eliminate safety and operational problems.	Ongoing through the DPW / Traffic Safety Division

3.4 Action Plan

This section represents the City's action plan moving forward. The action items outlined in the table below represent the effort of City staff, boards and commission, and public input to determine the actionable strategies the City will undertake to achieve the goals and policies set out in this plan.

3.4.1 Chapter 4: Natural Resources

Table 4-2. Natural Resources Action Plan
Goals, Policies, & Actions
Goals
Goal NR-1: Protect and enhance Cranston's natural environment and resources.
Goal NR-2: Establish a balance between natural resource protection and growth-related needs.

Table 4-2. Natural Resources Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Goal NR-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.			
Goal NR-4: Restore Brownfield sites back to productive and safe use.			
Goal NR-5: Require improved environmental design standards in new development.			
Policies			
Policy NR-1: Seek federal and state Brownfield program assistance to promote the redevelopment of industrial and commercial areas.			
Policy NR-2: Adopt a Transfer of Development Rights Program to better manage development in western Cranston.			
Policy NR-3: Target and preserve open spaces that have value as scenic, agricultural, recreational, wetland, water, and wildlife resources.			
Policy NR-4: Preserve and protect critical fish and wildlife habitat areas and areas containing rare and endangered species.			
Policy NR-5: Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive natural resource areas, including prime farmlands, steep slopes, floodplains, watersheds, aquifers, shorelines, and coastal and inland wetlands.			
Policy NR-6: 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.			
Policy NR-7: Establish Watershed Management Plans where necessary and in cooperation with adjacent communities.			
Policy NR-8: Create restoration plans for the banks of the Pocasset and Pawtuxet Rivers where they have been degraded by roadways and development.			
Policy NR-9: Protect and enhance water quality through informed land use policies, regulatory enforcement, and proper infrastructure maintenance and improvements.			
Policy NR-10: Require construction practices that minimize runoff, soil erosion, and sedimentation.			
Policy NR-11: Direct development to areas with the appropriate soil, slope and drainage conditions.			
Policy NR-12: 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.			
Policy NR-13: Ensure that land use activities within the Scituate Reservoir watershed does not contribute to the degradation of the reservoir.			
Policy NR-14: Promote environmentally sound wastewater management systems.			
Policy NR-15: Develop programs for the reduction of nonpoint source pollution affecting Cranston's streams, rivers and ponds, including storm water runoff and septic system failures.			
Policy NR-16: Catalogue known and suspected Brownfield sites, and identify the extent of threats to public health and safety.			
Policy NR-17: 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.			
Policy NR-18: Adopt a 'green' building program for all municipal construction.			
Policy NR-19: Upgrade environmental design standards in subdivision and site plan review regulations.			
Policy NR-20: Adopt standards, such as Low Impact Development techniques, that maintain and enhance watersheds to better manage stormwater and roads in new construction.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
NR-1	Use local zoning and land use regulations to assess and mitigate development impacts on rare and endangered species.	S	Planning Department City Council Conservation Commission Planning Commission RIDEM
NR-2	Promote a 'green' building program for all new construction - a LEED-type program to analyze energy efficiency and sustainability.	M	Building and Zoning Dept. City Council DPW Planning Commission Planning Department

Table 4-2. Natural Resources Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
NR-3	Ensure that the State and Federal “brownfield” programs are identified as potential resources for redevelopment of industrial sites by continuing to work with state and federal agencies to complete the remediation activities at contaminated sites such as the former Ciba-Geigy plant.	S	Conservation Commission City Council Economic Development Dept. EPA Planning Department Planning Commission Public Works Department RIDEM
NR-5	Continue to implement the open space preservation strategy for Western Cranston by identifying high value agricultural sites and open space areas to be permanently preserved. Identify and implement strategies to protect the aforementioned property.	M	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
NR-6	Amend the cluster development regulations to reflect conservation design standards (i.e. conservation subdivisions) and use programs that facilitate the preservation of significant areas of open space and environmentally sensitive areas. Require Conservation Subdivisions as the preferred form of land development.	S	Planning Department City Council Planning Commission
NR-7	Adopt programs for improvement of the City’s lakes and ponds based on the water quality data collected since the last Comprehensive Plan. Continue to support, and where possible further develop, the volunteer pond watching program for sampling of water quality.	M	Conservation Commission Public Works Department RIDEM University of Rhode Island
NR-8	Develop management programs for specific high-priority water bodies in order to improve water quality and foster increased recreational use.	M	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department Public Works Department
NR-9	Implement the watershed protection strategies recommended in the State’s Scituate Reservoir Management Plan in order to ensure the future quality of this water supply,	M	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department Public Works Department
NR-10	Exclude the watershed area from future extension of utility services, except to service existing well contamination problems and septic system failures, after exhausting all other remedies.	M	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department Public Works Department
NR-11	Implement Best Management Practices (BMP’s) for pesticides and fertilizers by working with local farms to implement the practices and work with local businesses to manage bulk storage and movement of the materials.	M	Conservation Commission Coop. Extension Service University of Rhode Island RIDEM
NR-12	Adopt an Underground Storage tank ordinance.	M	Planning Department City Council Conservation Commission Public Works Department
NR-13	Adopt standards, such as Low Impact Development techniques, to better manage stormwater from roadways in new construction.	M	Planning Department Conservation Commission Planning Commission Public Works Department

Table 4-2. Natural Resources Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
			RIDEM
NR-14	Reduce impervious surfaces in new developments such as with porous pavements and reduced travel lane widths to reduce runoff.	M	Planning Department Conservation Commission Planning Commission Public Works Department RIDEM
NR-15	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.	M	Conservation Commission Planning Commission Planning Department RIDEM

3.4.2 Chapter 5: Housing

Table 4-3. Housing Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions	
Goals	
Goal H-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.	
Goal H-2: Permit a variety of residential development types to achieve multiple community objectives.	
Goal H-3: Achieve a balance between economic development and housing in the City.	
Goal H-4: Promote housing opportunity for a wide range of household types and income levels.	
Goal H-5: Conserve <i>permanently preserve significant open space</i> resources in new subdivisions.	
Goal H-6: Enhance public education and outreach efforts on housing affordability.	
Policies	
Policy H-1: Maintain zoning densities that reflect planned municipal service levels and natural resource constraints.	
Policy H-2: Maintain rural densities where desired regardless of availability of improvements to municipal infrastructure such as public water, sewer and roads.	
Policy H-3: Enact flexible development standards that attain desired community objectives, but also provide a wide range of building types, uses, subdivisions, and site plans.	
Policy H-4: 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.	
Policy H-5: 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.	
Policy H-6: Maintain a varied housing stock, with units of different age, size and type that are affordable to a wide range of incomes.	
Policy H-7: Promote regulations that facilitate the development of affordable housing.	
Policy H-8: Require that long-term affordability be a component of City-supported affordable housing development.	
Policy H-9: Promote the development of new housing that is affordable to average first-time buyers living in the City.	
Policy H-10: Promote the development of special housing alternatives for the elderly and handicapped.	
Policy H-11: 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.	
Policy H-12: Encourage inclusion of affordable housing in projects that meet the Smart Growth goals of this Comprehensive Plan and the State Affordable Housing goals.	
Policy H-13: Require conservation-type subdivisions on remaining undeveloped land to conserve natural resources, protect public resources, improve property values, and improve accessibility.	

Table 4-3. Housing Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy H-14: Sponsor a citywide public education program on affordability, emerging trends, and housing affordability organized by the Housing Task Force.			
Policy H-15: 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.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
H-1	Enact inclusionary zoning to increase affordable housing in most new subdivisions and development projects through incentives and bonuses.	M	City Council Planning Department Planning Commission Housing Task Force
H-2	Require a proportion of units as affordable housing (as defined by State regulations) in each new housing project over ten units in size.	M	City Council Planning Department Planning Commission Housing Task Force
H-3	Set a short-term, yearly goal of 30 new affordable housing units per year to produce 150 units during this next five-year period.	L	Housing Task Force City Council Planning Department Planning Commission
H-4	Encourage housing that is mixed into commercial projects.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
H-5	Require conservation-type subdivisions that apply to remaining undeveloped land to conserve natural resources, protect public resources, improve property values, and improve accessibility.	S	Planning Department Planning Commission Conservation Commission City Council
H-6	Enable two and three-family unit dwellings to be modified, maintained and improved within the existing neighborhoods to reduce burden of zoning and building regulations.	M	Planning Department Planning Commission Building and Zoning Dept. City Council
H-7	Revise zoning in terms of dimensions and unit types, unless site constraints or specific needs determine otherwise, to ensure zoning matches, as closely as possible, what has already been built in existing residential neighborhoods.	M	Planning Department City Council Planning Commission Housing Task Force
H-8	Create a Housing Trust Fund to generate revenue for local housing assistance program initiatives.	S	Housing Task Force City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
H-9	Ask the Housing Task Force to organize a citywide public education program on affordability.	M	Housing Task Force Community Dev. Office Mayor
H-10	Seek sponsorship for the Housing Task Force by the administration.	M	Mayor City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
H-11	Create a housing acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale program to purchase vacant and deteriorated structures, renovate them and offer them for resale to lower income families.	M	Community Dev. Dept Office Housing Inspections Housing Task Force
H-12	Enact regulations that require that all development proposals, which envision relocation of lower income families, provide housing allowances and relocation payments equal to or greater than the	M	City Council Community Dev. Office Planning Department

Table 4-3. Housing Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
	levels required by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development agency.		Planning Commission City Council
H-13	Adopt an adaptive re-use ordinance to facilitate the creation of affordable housing.	M	Community Dev. Office Housing Task Force Planning Department Planning Commission
H-14	Partner with non-profit affordable housing organizations to create affordable housing.	O	Housing Task Force City Council Community Dev. Office Planning Commission Planning Department
H-15	Use the Comprehensive Housing Assistance Strategy as an opportunity to coordinate various City housing programs by recognizing the CHAS in the Comprehensive Plan.	S	Housing Authority Housing Task Force Planning Department
H-16	Enact land use regulations, which encourage alternative group living arrangements, especially for elderly and handicapped.	S	Planning Department Planning Commission City Council Community Dev. Office Housing Task Force
H-17	Identify potential sites for redevelopment options for future residential use and mixed use.	M	Community Dev. Office Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
H-18	Identify gaps in existing public and private financing programs for housing development, purchase and rental, and develop new mechanisms where necessary.	L	Community Dev. Office City Council Economic Development Dept. Housing Task Force Planning Commission Planning Department
H-19	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.	S	Planning Department Planning Commission City Council
H-20	Use public resources to support and build new housing to meet the state affordability criteria.	L	City Council Housing Authority Planning Commission Planning Department
H-21	Set attainable, short-term goals for new affordable housing units, including an annual goal of 30 new affordable housing units to produce 150 units over the next five-years.	S	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council Housing Authority Housing Task Force
H-22	Require inclusionary housing regulations that require affordable housing for new housing projects.	S	Planning Department City Council Planning Commission

3.4.3 Chapter 6: Economic Development

Table 4-4. Economic Development Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions
Goals
Goal ED-1: Maintain and increase the quality of job opportunities – in terms of wages, skill requirements, and working conditions – available to Cranston residents.
Goal ED-2: Attract capital into the Cranston area and expand the City's economic base.
Goal ED-3: The City shall have an efficient and predictable development process throughout all departments of the City.
Policies
Policy ED-1: Maintain, enhance, and encourage diversification of the City's present manufacturing base.
Policy ED-2: Encourage tax policies that facilitate business growth.
Policy ED-3: Encourage the creation and growth of startup and early-stage business.
Policy ED-4: Provide assistance to socially and environmentally responsible enterprises, especially those that hire locally.
Policy ED-5: Provide technical, financial and regulatory assistance to job-creating enterprises to supplement and leverage resources for lenders and investors.
Policy ED-6: Encourage the location and expansion of businesses with wide regional, national or international markets.
Policy ED-7: Encourage existing businesses to develop export and/or Internet-based markets.
Policy ED-8: Maintain and enhance the growth of a diverse array of small, growth-oriented, value-adding business concerns.
Policy ED-9: Strengthen the standards for industrially zoned land to prevent the erosion of the City's supply of land suitable for these purposes.
Policy ED-10: Continue the City's active role in seeking the redevelopment of major industrial and institutional sites for economic development.
Policy ED-11: Target high-end business growth in professional, service-oriented businesses to create a market for office space.
Policy ED-12: 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.
Policy ED-13: Encourage redevelopment opportunities at locations near Garden City Center, Rolfe Square, Knightsville, and along Interstate 295.
Policy ED-14: 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.
Policy ED-15: 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.
Policy ED-16: Continue providing hands-on assistance to businesses with financing, permitting, and other needs.
Policy ED-17: Promote job training and growth in professional, service-oriented businesses.
Policy ED-18: Consider the establishment of a marketing program, associated with the local and regional chambers of commerce, with participation of city funds and staff.
Policy ED-19: Create programs to match job seekers and businesses in cooperation with educational institutions in the area: URI, RIC, Johnson & Wales and other area colleges.
Policy ED-20: Promote leisure and/or entertainment-related businesses to compliment the Park Theater redevelopment in Rolfe Square.
Policy ED-21: Preserve and increase employment opportunities for Cranston residents.
Policy ED-22: 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.
Policy ED-23: Revitalize underused areas of the City for uses that are in keeping with the needs and values of the community.

Table 4-4. Economic Development Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy ED-24: 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.			
Policy ED-25: Target development sites for Smart Growth projects			
Policy ED-26: Improve and build neighborhood commercial areas at various sites through formulating and implementing revitalization projects.			
Policy ED-27: Provide job training for new or relocated workers and match jobs and workers.			
Policy ED-28: Target sites for industrial and commercial projects.			
Policy ED-29: Encourage new retailers to utilize existing sites, including the former Trolley Barn and Route 2 Corridor, to gain entry into the market.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
ED-1	Establish a marketing program through coordination with RIEDC, local and regional chambers of commerce, municipal staff, and City funds.	M	Economic Development Dept.
ED-2	Create programs through institutions to match job seekers and businesses and seeking cooperation with educational institutions in the area; URI, RIC, CCRI, Johnson & Wales and other area colleges.	L	Economic Development Dept.
ED-3	Adopt a competitive ranking system for Revolving Loan Fund that provides other City assistance and encourage diversification in the local economy.	M	Economic Development Dept.
ED-4	Identify growth industries with national markets that complement Cranston's existing economic base	L	Economic Development Dept.
ED-5	Promote the location of specific businesses in the City through a targeted marketing effort.	L	Economic Development Dept.
ED-6	Continue funding and providing training programs for on-job readiness skills, English-language proficiency, and other programs that directly address perceived inadequacies of the available workforce in the area, primarily focusing on developing job sectors.	L	Economic Development Dept.
ED-7	Promote the development of an office/commercial incubator and provide spaces and services to startup and early-stage businesses.	L	Economic Development Dept.
ED-8	Develop a structured, publicized entrepreneurial assistance program in cooperation with other public and private entities, which provide entrepreneurs with networking opportunities and practical education in business management.	L	Economic Development Dept.
ED-9	Co-sponsor export seminars and trade missions for Cranston manufacturers and other prospective exporters by targeting sectors associated with the U.S. Department of Commerce, the State Economic Development Department, freight forwarders and customs brokers, and the City and Port of Providence.	M	Economic Development Dept. City Council City Administration City Mayor
ED-10	Identify Cranston-based manufacturers of such goods and alert them to sales opportunities.	L	Economic Development Dept.
ED-11	Maintain and regularly update a database of information on industrial space for lease, especially those suitable for start-up industries.	M	Economic Development Dept.
ED-12	Continue providing hands-on assistance to growing businesses with financing, permitting, and other needs.	S	Economic Development Dept.
ED-13	Target large-scale, smart growth redevelopment opportunities at strategic locations to accommodate mixed-use, transit-oriented development, including properties along I-95, such as the Wellington/Elmwood industrial area.	M	Economic Development Dept. Planning Department

Table 4-4. Economic Development Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
ED-14	Target medium-scale, smart growth redevelopment opportunities. Consider additional locations near: Garden City Center, Rolfe Square, Knightsville, and areas along I-95 and I-295.	M	Economic Development Dept. Planning Department
ED-15	Target high-end business growth in professional, service- oriented businesses, and the markets for office space.	M	Economic Development Dept. Planning Department
ED-16	Target leisure and/or entertainment-related businesses, particularly near the Park Theater in Rolfe Square as well as in the emerging retail destination around the Garden City Center.	M	Economic Development Dept. Planning Department
ED-17	Review sewer line extension and roadway acceptance policies that promote the type of development planned for western Cranston.	S	Planning Department Planning Commission City Council
ED-18	Target improvement of neighborhood commercial centers to service their market area and to reduce congestion for cross-town traffic.	M	Planning Department
ED-19	Develop design guidelines for public properties, including signage, street furniture, landscaping, public parking areas, bicycle ways, and sidewalks.	M	Planning Department Planning Commission
ED-20	Develop design guidelines for site development adjacent to transit.	M	Planning Department Economic Development Dept. Planning Commission
ED-21	Encourage the Town of Johnston to rezone property on the north side of Plainfield Pike for industrial uses.	S	Mayor City Council
ED-22	Keep planning officials in Town of Johnston informed of changes in zoning requirements and encourage them to adopt similar changes.	S	Planning Department Planning Commission City Council Mayor
ED-23	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.	S	City Council Mayor Planning Commission Planning Department
ED-24	Distinguish between each commercial center by developing design guidelines for public properties which include signage, furniture, landscaping, public parking areas, bicycle ways and sidewalks.	M	City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
ED-25	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.	M	City Council Planning Commission Planning Department

3.4.4 Chapter 7: Historic and Cultural Resources

Table 4-5. Historic and Cultural Resources Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions	
Goals	
Goal HCR-1: Integrate historic preservation planning concerns with other areas of municipal planning and decision-making.	
Goal HCR-2: Promote development policies which are sensitive to preservation concerns and goals.	
Goal HCR-3: Survey, inventory, and designate local historic preservation districts.	
Goal HCR-4: Expand historic preservation planning and development policies.	
Goal HCR-5: Promote education and public awareness of historic preservation opportunities.	
Policies	

Table 4-5. Historic and Cultural Resources Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy HCR-1: Develop new city ordinances and programs to preserve individual historic properties.			
Policy HCR-2: Designate the Pawtuxet Village as a Local Historic District.			
Policy HCR-3: Designate the Edgewood Historic District as a Local Historic District.			
Policy HCR-4: Designate the Norwood Avenue Historic District as a Local Historic District.			
Policy HCR-5: Designate the Fenner House as a Local Historic District.			
Policy HP-6: Designate the Sprague Mansion as a Local Historic District.			
Policy HCR-7: Explore the potential for promoting tourism geared to historic resources in the City.			
Policy HCR-8: 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.			
Policy HCR-9: Educate public officials and City residents of the importance of preserving historic building and places.			
Policy HCR-10: Distribute information and guidance on preservation for public and private use, based on the Secretary of Interiors Standards of Preservation.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
HCR-1	Nominate eligible individual properties and districts to the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register.	M	Historic Commission Planning Department
HCR-2	Continue to establish local historic overlay districts for areas and begin designation of individual structures, including making Pawtuxet Village Historic District, Edgewood/Taft Estate Historic District, Norwood Avenue Historic District, and Rolfe Street Commercial District into local historic districts.	M	Planning Department City Council Historic Commission Planning Commission
HCR-3	Continue to identify and implement appropriate economic incentive programs to encourage historic preservation and rehabilitation.	M	Historic Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
HCR-4	Continue to include archeological review of development projects according to the state database.	L	Planning Department Historic Commission Planning Commission
HCR-5	Continue to update and expand the survey of the historic properties on a citywide basis.	L	Historic Commission Planning Department
HCR-6	Continue to work with private property owners to encourage preservation of known archeological and historic sites on their land.	L	Historic Commission Planning Department City Council
HCR-7	Continue the role of the Historic Commission as the principle City agency for historic preservation.	L	City Council Historic Commission
HCR-8	Create a task force to look at the options and demands of tourism focused on the historic resources of the City.	M	Economic Development Dept. Historic Commission Planning Department
HCR-9	Establish study committee(s) for identified threatened historic properties to include representation from district and property when possible.	M	City Council Historic Commission Planning Department
HCR-10	Enact a demolition ordinance imposing a waiting period before demolition of historic buildings in order to provide an opportunity to consider alternatives to demolition.	M	Planning Department City Council Historic Commission Planning Commission
HCR-11	The Historic Commission should target specific areas such as Pawtuxet Village to educate the neighborhood about the benefits of a Local Historic District designation.	S	Historic Commission Planning Department
HCR-12	Assist residents and city administration to understand and	M	Historic Commission

Table 4-5. Historic and Cultural Resources Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
	appreciate the importance of preserving historic buildings and places.		Planning Department
HCR-13	Protect and preserve properties of historic and architectural significance, as well as known and suspected archeological sites, cemeteries, engineering structures and city-owned properties.	S	Historic Commission Planning Commission Planning Department
HCR-14	Provide additional, formal mechanisms for the Historic District Commission to review and comment on development projects and work with property owners.	S	Planning Department Historic Commission Planning Commission City Council

3.4.5 Chapter 8: Services and Facilities

Table 4-6. Services and Facilities Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions	
Goals	
Goal SF-1: Upgrade the treatment capacity and technology of the existing Wastewater Treatment system to improve water quality in the Pawtuxet River.	
Goal SF-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.	
Goal SF-3: Ensure an adequate supply of clean drinking water for all residents of the City.	
Goal SF-4: Preserve a high-quality educational system, with adequate facilities to meet future needs.	
Goal SF-5: Continue to provide quality safety services (police, fire, rescue, emergency response).	
Goal SF-6: Continue to provide quality services and programs to meet the needs of Cranston's elderly population.	
Goal SF-7: Maintain the existing high standards of public library facilities and services.	
Goal SF-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.	
Goal SF-9: Ensure environmentally appropriate and cost effective solid waste management solutions.	
Goal SF-10: Redefine water and sewer service policies in Western Cranston to allow expansion and connections where commercial development is desired, but otherwise maintain restrictions against development that would impact valuable natural resources.	
Goal SF-11: As a part of ongoing capital programs formulate and implement various improvement programs throughout the City.	
Goal SF-12: Address administrative and management issues related to the process of making physical improvements.	
Goal SF-13: Examine issues requiring further studies and provide allowance for required actions.	
Policies	
Policy SF-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.	
Policy SF-2: Ensure that sewer pumping stations (capacity and operation) are sufficient for their service areas and meet contemporary environmental standards.	
Policy SF-3: 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.	
Policy SF-4: 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.	
Policy SF-5: Promote land development practices which will protect the Scituate Reservoir from degradation.	
Policy SF-6: Promote efficient use of the services and facilities provided by the City's public school system.	
Policy SF-7: 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.	

Table 4-6, Services and Facilities Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy SF-8: Maintain adequate service standards for police officers in order to maintain service ratios in proportion to population growth.			
Policy SF-9: Implement changes to the Fire Department as changes in fire facilities occur.			
Policy SF-10: Ensure the primary colors shall not suffer decreased budgetary allocations, ever.			
Policy SF-11: 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.			
Policy SF-12: Maintain existing high standards of library capital facilities and holdings, in relation to changes in population.			
Policy SF-13: Provide new and expanded branch library facilities as needed to serve the needs to Cranston.			
Policy SF-14: Identify priority areas for program expansion and implement special services for teenagers and the homebound, and improve Internet access.			
Policy SF-15: 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.			
Policy SF-16: Provide regular training programs to maintain City staff proficiency.			
Policy SF-17: Work with neighboring municipalities and the State of Rhode Island to pursue alternative approaches to solid waste management.			
Policy SF-18: Bolster recycling efforts to reduce total solid waste disposal costs.			
Policy SF-19: Use sewer and water line connections in western Cranston to promote open space and agricultural preservation.			
Policy SF-20: Determine appropriate locations and types of commercial development that could be supported with sewer service.			
Policy SF-21: 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. If funding and fiscal policy constraints are lessened in the future, then it is recommended that these policies be revisited.			
Policy SF-22: Evaluate the need for a new municipal fire station in the southwestern part of the City.			
Policy SF-23: Create a Pavement Maintenance Plan that programs a regular series of improvements to the street system.			
Policy SF-24: Adopt energy conservation standards as a long-term means of lowering energy costs for the City.			
Policy SF-25: Continue the municipal signage program to replace signs, under consistent design standards.			
Policy SF-26: Adopt water conservation measures for residential and industrial users to discourage waste and encourage efficient use of the Scituate Reservoir water supply.			
Policy SF-27: 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.			
Policy SF-28: Determine steps to resolve illegal connections to sewerage system.			
Policy SF-29: Develop criteria for priority ranking of capital facilities as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program.			
Policy SF-30: Expand after school recreation programs.			
Policy SF-31: Assess the need for improvements in buildings on an as-needed basis and identify sites for new public amenities.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
SF-1	Adopt energy conservation standards for City facilities by establishing a long-term program to reduce energy costs for the City.	S	Public Works Department Building Maintenance City Council
SF-2	Continue to evaluate the need for a new municipal fire station in the southwestern part of the City in accordance with the growth of Western Cranston.	S	Fire Department Planning Department City Council
SF-3	Develop criteria for priority ranking of capital facilities as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program.	L	Planning Department City Council Planning Commission Public Works Department
SF-4	Establish and maintain a Facilities Maintenance Fund with funds, specifically for roadway pavement repairs and upgrades, sidewalks,	S	City Council Planning Department

Table 4-6, Services and Facilities Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
	street trees, signs, snow plowing, and energy efficiency in public buildings.		Public Works Department
SF-5	Continue to identify existing facilities to be used for records storage and, if no such space is available, construct additional vault space to meet records storage requirements.	M	City Clerk Public Works Department
SF-6	Continue to seek consolidation of municipal offices and services in the vicinity of City Hall and provide room for future expansion.	M	Mayor City Council
SF-7	Establish a program to reevaluate the fiscal impact fees on a regular basis.	S	Building Inspector City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
SF-8	Adopt water conservation measures for residential and industrial users to discourage waste and encourage efficient use of the Scituate Reservoir water supply.	L	City Council Conservation Commission Planning Commission Planning Department
SF-9	Work with the Providence Water Supply Board and the Kent County Water Authority to promote water conservation and to take appropriate actions during periods of drought.	L	Conservation Commission Planning Department Public Works Department
SF-10	Achieve, through the recycling program, a 50 percent reduction in volume of the disposable solid waste stream to reduce the overall cost of solid waste disposal.	L	Public Works Department
SF-11	Continue municipal curbside collection of residential solid waste and require commercial and industrial solid waste to be handled privately.	L	Public Works Department City Council
SF-12	Continue to enforce no bin no pickup policy.	L	Public Works Department City Council
SF-13	Review the sewer line extension and roadway acceptance policies to ensure that they promote the type of development planned for western Cranston.	M	Planning Department Planning Commission Public Works Department

3.4.6 Chapter 9: Energy

Table 4-7. Energy Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions	
Goals	
Goal E-1: Transition to Clean and Renewable Energy	
Goal E-2: Enhance Energy Efficiency and Sustainability	
Goal E-3: Foster Energy Resilience and Innovation	
Goal E-4: Ensure Equitable Energy Access and Affordability	
Goal E-5: Promote Energy-Conscious Urban Planning and Development	
Policies	
Policy E-1: Establish a Renewable Energy Target for municipal operations and community-wide energy use	
Policy E-2: Develop and implement a comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for municipal buildings and facilities	
Policy E-3: Create incentives for residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrades	
Policy E-4: Implement Green Building Standards for new construction and major renovations	
Policy E-5: Develop an Energy Storage Incentive Program to support grid resilience	

Table 4-7. Energy Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy E-6: Promote Sustainable Transportation through electric vehicle infrastructure and alternative transportation modes			
Policy E-7: Develop a Microgrid Strategy to enhance energy resilience in critical areas			
Policy E-8: Establish a Clean Energy Innovation Hub to foster local clean energy businesses and jobs			
Policy E-9: Implement a Community Solar Program to increase access to renewable energy			
Policy E-10: Create an Energy Assistance Program for low-income residents			
Policy E-11: Integrate energy considerations into land use planning and zoning regulations			
Policy E-12: Develop energy-efficient street lighting programs			
Policy E-13: Promote energy education and awareness programs in schools and community centers			
Policy E-14: Establish partnerships with local utilities for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs			
Policy E-15: Develop a climate action plan that addresses energy use and greenhouse gas emissions			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
E-1	Set a specific percentage of renewable energy in the city's energy mix by a target year (e.g., 50% by 2030, 100% by 2050)	S	City Council Planning Department Sustainability Office
E-2	Develop a roadmap for achieving the renewable energy target, including milestones and progress tracking	M	Planning Department Sustainability Office Energy Task Force
E-3	Collaborate with utility companies to increase renewable energy procurement	O	Mayor's Office Sustainability Office Utility Companies
E-4	Adopt stricter energy efficiency standards for new construction and major renovations	M	City Council Building Department Planning Department
E-5	Offer incentives for energy-efficient retrofits in existing buildings	S	Community Dev. Office Building Department Finance Department
E-6	Implement a building energy benchmarking and disclosure program	M	Building Department Sustainability Office Planning Department
E-7	Offer tax incentives or rebates for residential and commercial energy storage installations	S	City Council Finance Department Sustainability Office
E-8	Partner with utility companies to develop grid-scale storage projects	M	Mayor's Office Utility Companies Planning Department
E-9	Integrate storage requirements into renewable energy projects	L	Planning Department Building Department Sustainability Office
E-10	Install public EV charging stations throughout the city	M	Public Works Department Planning Department Sustainability Office
E-11	Offer incentives for residential and commercial EV charger installations	S	Community Dev. Office Finance Department Sustainability Office
E-12	Transition municipal fleet vehicles to electric or hybrid models	L	Public Works Department Finance Department Mayor's Office

Table 4-7. Energy Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
E-13	Identify critical facilities for potential microgrid implementation	S	Emergency Management Planning Department Sustainability Office
E-14	Conduct feasibility studies for community microgrids	M	Planning Department Sustainability Office Energy Task Force
E-15	Collaborate with utility companies to integrate microgrids into the broader grid system	L	Mayor's Office Utility Companies Planning Department
E-16	Partner with local universities and businesses to create a clean energy incubator	M	Economic Dev. Office Planning Department Local Universities
E-17	Develop workforce training programs for renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs	M	Economic Dev. Office Community Dev. Office Local Colleges
E-18	Offer grants or tax incentives for clean energy startups	S	Economic Dev. Office Finance Department City Council
E-19	Develop community solar projects accessible to low-income residents	M	Community Dev. Office Planning Department Sustainability Office
E-20	Create an energy assistance program for vulnerable populations	S	Community Dev. Office Social Services Dept. Sustainability Office
E-21	Ensure equitable distribution of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs	O	Community Dev. Office Sustainability Office Planning Department

3.4.7 Chapter 10: Open Space and Recreation

Table 4-8. Open Space and Recreation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions	
Goals	
Goal OS-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.	
Goal OS-2: Improve existing facilities and expand active recreation facilities to serve current and projected needs.	
Goal OS-3: Undertake administrative and management actions that support recreation and open space programs through partnerships.	
Goal OS-4: Maintain the quality of the City's open space and recreation areas while minimizing the tax burden for the costs of maintenance.	
Goal OS-5: Examine issues requiring further studies and provide allowance for the required actions.	
Policies	
Policy OS-1: Acquire lands along the rivers to ensure access to and protection of these natural resources.	
Policy OS-2: Develop programs that will enhance the Farm Loop and promote it on a regional basis.	
Policy OS-3: Designate new and expand protection of scenic roads in western Cranston.	
Policy OS-4: Continue to upgrade and expand recreational opportunities at existing sites to serve all segments of the population.	
Policy OS-5: Improve existing public access to the ponds, lakefronts, riverfronts and Narragansett Bay.	

Table 4-8. Open Space and Recreation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy OS-6: Ensure that recreational facilities allow access to people of all ages and are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.			
Policy OS-7: Acquire or improve public lands for pocket parks with recreational facilities for all ages, in Cranston's urban neighborhoods.			
Policy OS-8: Preserve, through purchase or other means, major open space areas which are subject to development pressures and which serve important environmental functions.			
Policy OS-9: 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.			
Policy OS-10: 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.			
Policy OS-11: 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.			
Policy OS-12: Expand recreation programs and facilities to address unmet or growing needs, including facilities for walking and bicycling.			
Policy OS-13: Adopt a River Corridor Overlay District that creates linear buffers and public access points along the major rivers.			
Policy OS-14: Promote appropriate conservation, stewardship and recreation facilities at State- owned properties at Meshanticut Lake and Curran State Park.			
Policy OS-15: Continue to partner with local and regional non-profits for obtaining and managing open space.			
Policy OS-16: Adopt and encourage use of zoning regulations that support conservation of open space in residential development.			
Policy OS-17: Consider imposing fees for the use of certain facilities. Such fees could be in the form of use costs or concession licensing.			
Policy OS-18: Investigate improving water quality in and access to Cranston ponds to increase recreational and natural resource value.			
Policy OS-19: Examine the potential of tourism to support local open space and recreational facilities and programs, similar to the 'Farm Loop.'			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
OS-1	Continue to acquire key potential open space parcels. Potential parcels are identified in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Acquisition should be reserved for important parcels that cannot be protected by other means, including land along inland and coastal water bodies and waterways to ensure access to and protection of these natural resources, land which has scenic beauty or vistas, land within the Scituate Reservoir watershed, land which is important from a historical or cultural standpoint, land which create or expands connection for open space corridors, land for City parks and recreation, and land which is environmentally sensitive (i.e. wetlands).	S	City Council Conservation Commission Pawtuxet River Authority Planning Commission Planning Department Recreation Department West Bay Land Trust
OS-2	Develop programs to enhance the Historic Scenic Farm Loop, and promote it on a regional basis.	L	Conservation Commission Planning Department Recreation Department West Bay Land Trust
OS-3	Identify other scenic routes that are similar to the HSFR.	L	Conservation Commission Planning Department
OS-4	Improve existing public access to the waterfront.	M	Pawtuxet River Authority Planning Department Recreation Department
OS-5	Expand greenways and watercourses that link with other recreational	M	Pawtuxet River Authority

Table 4-8. Open Space and Recreation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
	resources.		Planning Department Recreation Department
OS-6	Employ a variety of tools to preserve environmentally sensitive land and open space as well as improve public recreation tools, including fee simple acquisition, conservation easements, purchase of development rights, tax incentive programs, and land donations.	L	City Council Conservation Commission Planning Commission Planning Department Recreation Department
OS-7	Continue to improve existing access to the waterfront by improving access to riverfronts and to Narragansett Bay.	S	City Council Conservation Commission Planning Commission Planning Department Recreation Department
OS-8	Continue to promote acquisition and management of open space through partnerships with local and regional non- profit agencies such as the West Bay Land Trust.	M	City Council Conservation Commission Land Trusts Planning Commission Planning Department
OS-9	Protecting and improving the urbanized river corridors.	M	City Council Conservation Commission Planning Commission Planning Department Recreation Department
OS-10	Continue to invest in the Cranston Bicycle Network to expand and improve its functionality and quality and consider establishing an East/West Bike Path utilizing the Providence Water Supply Board's aquifer right-of-way.	S	City Council Conservation Commission Planning Commission Planning Department Recreation Department RIDOT Providence Water Supply Board
OS-11	After School Recreation Programs: Coordinate actions between the YMCA, Recreation Department, and School Department to provide expanded after school programs to meet growing needs.	S	School Department PTO Recreation Department YMCA
OS-12	Designate and protect scenic roads by establishing standards for their protection.	L	Planning Commission Conservation Commission Planning Department West Bay Land Trust
OS-13	Provide adequate funding for maintenance and improvements of City recreation facilities and sites to explore user fees and other revenue generating measures and encourage the common user groups to participate in the field maintenance.	L	City Council Recreation Department
OS-14	Continue to seek State improvements at State-owned recreation facilities and sites.	L	Planning Department Recreation Department RIDEM City Council
OS-15	Investigate improving access to and water quality in Cranston ponds to increase recreational and natural resource value.	L	Conservation Commission Planning Department Recreation Department RIDEM

Table 4-8. Open Space and Recreation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
OS-16	Reestablish Community Garden Programs in both eastern and western Cranston where appropriate.	L	Conservation Commission Planning Department RIDEM

3.4.8 Chapter 11: Transportation

Table 4-9. Transportation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions	
Goals	
Goal TC-1: Improve and maintain an efficient flow of traffic, particularly in commercial centers and along major arterials.	
Goal TC-2: Correct existing deficiencies in order to improve safety and reduce congestion throughout the City.	
Goal TC-3: Provide sufficient off-street parking to serve the needs of businesses and residents.	
Goal TC-4: Improve traffic flow along major roadways.	
Goal TC-5: Continue traffic calming on residential streets to increase safety.	
Goal TC-6: Address traffic congestion on the east-west arterials through improving traffic operations.	
Goal TC-7: Plan for and enhance alternative transportation modes.	
Goal TC-8: Examine the roadway network for western Cranston and propose specific actions for improving its functional efficiency.	
Goal TC-9: Further develop bike paths to create a cross-city bicycle corridor.	
Goal TC-10: Promote alternative modes of transportation to connect various parts of the community together.	
Policies	
Policy TC-1: Maintain the functional integrity of existing and planned roadways through appropriate land use and design standards.	
Policy TC-2: Require interconnection of residential neighborhoods, in order to disperse traffic and provide alternate emergency access routes.	
Policy TC-3: Provide adequate capacity on street networks in western Cranston to serve existing and projected development.	
Policy TC-4: 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.	
Policy TC-5: 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.	
Policy TC-6: Address inadequacy and overspill of parking and increase the number of off-street parking spaces along commercial streets, such as Park Avenue.	
Policy TC-7: Encourage off-street parking at existing developments.	
Policy TC-8: Encourage shared parking where appropriate.	
Policy TC-9: Require the provision of landscaping to delineate parking areas and provide buffers.	
Policy TC-10: Restrict on-street parking where feasible to facilitate turning movements and traffic flow.	
Policy TC-11: Reduce and consolidate the number of curb cuts.	
Policy TC-12: Restrict access to new development from major arterials.	
Policy TC-13: Regulate curb cuts through design standards.	
Policy TC-14: Provide left-turn lanes, where feasible, on arterial roadways where curb cuts to new development are unavoidable.	
Policy TC-15: Encourage collector driveways to limit the number of access points.	
Policy TC-16: Reduce speeding and cut-through traffic and accidents.	
Policy TC-17: Prioritize locations with accident problems and continue the program of remedial measures.	
Policy TC-18: Give priority to pedestrian safety improvements at key locations.	
Policy TC-19: Conduct analysis of local street sign controls in conjunction with east/west access studies.	

Table 4-9. Transportation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy TC-20: Consider peak period restrictions on particular short-cut routes.			
Policy TC-21: Investigate proposals to improve safety and the flow of traffic on arterials.			
Policy TC-22: Reduce or eliminate on-street parking on arterial roadways where appropriate to improve roadway capacity.			
Policy TC-23: Enforce on-street parking restrictions.			
Policy TC-24: Provide left turn lanes to reduce conflicts at intersections.			
Policy TC-25: Identify and designate east-west routes for through traffic.			
Policy TC-26: Prioritize problems at intersections and investigate improvements.			
Policy TC-27: Continue the program for intersection improvements.			
Policy TC-28: Pursue options for a commuter rail or light rail station and supporting Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in the Elmwood/Wellington Avenues area.			
Policy TC-29: Promote and support fixed-route bus services.			
Policy TC-30: Make information on public transportation widely available.			
Policy TC-31: Secure and preserve railroad rights-of-way for future transportation corridors.			
Policy TC-32: Incorporate bicycle access in planning major developments.			
Policy TC-33: Support and enhance public transportation and paratransit services.			
Policy TC-34: Investigate appropriate improvements to eliminate problems of safety and operations.			
Policy TC-35: Investigate improvements to roadway segments to support projected development.			
Policy TC-36: Undertake detailed study and program of improvements for Pippin Orchard Road / Hope Road / Phenix Avenue / Wilbur Avenue / Natick Avenue corridor.			
Policy TC-37: Plan access to new development to limit access points to collector and arterial roadways. Restrict local streets connections to collector roads where possible.			
Policy TC-38: Establish a program of improvements to specific roadway segments and intersections based on identified problems.			
Policy TC-38: Pursue 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.			
Policy TC-39: Pursue opportunities to develop additional and connected bicycle paths among private properties with connections to public rights-of-way should be investigated.			
Policy TC-40: Create greenway, bicycle, and pedestrian links that make connections between the City's historic sites, public buildings, open space, and natural resources.			
Policy TC-41: Continue to invest in the City's Bicycle Network to expand and improve its functionality and quality.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
TC-1	Investigate proposals to improve safety and the flow of traffic on arterials.	M	Public Works Department
TC-2	Reduce or eliminate on-street parking on arterial roadways to improve roadway capacity.	M	Public Works Department
TC-3	Enforce on-street parking restrictions.	S	Police Department
TC-4	Provide left turn lanes to reduce conflicts at intersections.	L	Public Works Department
TC-5	Identify high accident locations and establish program of remedial measures.	S	Police Department Public Works Department
TC-6	Give priority to pedestrian safety improvements at key locations.	M	Planning Department Public Works Department
TC-7	Promote and support fixed-route bus services.	S	Planning Department RIPTA
TC-8	Make information on public transportation widely available.	S	Planning Department RIPTA

Table 4-9. Transportation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
TC-9	Incorporate bicycle access in major developments.	S	Planning Commission Planning Department
TC-10	Restrict access to new development from major arterials.	S	Planning Department
TC-11	Regulate curb cuts through design standards.	M	Planning Department Planning Commission Public Works Department
TC-12	Provide left-turn lanes on arterial roadways where curb cuts to new development are unavoidable.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department
TC-13	Encourage collector driveways to limit the number of access points.	M	Planning Department Planning Commission Public Works Department
TC-14	Require compliance with parking standards in Zoning Ordinance and discourage on-street parking ensuring that developments provide an appropriate amount of parking.	S	Planning Department Police Department
TC-15	Undertake detailed study and program of improvements for the Pippin Orchard Road/ Hope Road / Phenix Avenue / Wilbur Avenue / Natick Avenue corridor.	M	City Council Planning Commission Planning Department Public Works Department RIDOT
TC-16	Encourage roadway links between the Hill Side Farm Neighborhood and Pippin Orchard Road.	L	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council Public Works Department
TC-17	Limit access points to collector and arterial roadways in new developments. Restrict local streets connections to collector roads where possible.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department Public Works Department
TC-18	Divide study into segments to reflect the differing traffic situations and adjacent land uses such as: Wellington Avenue to Pontiac Avenue (including Rolfe Square); Pontiac Ave. to Reservoir Avenue (including City Hall and East High School); Reservoir Ave. to Gansett Ave.; Gansett Ave. to Cranston Street; and Phenix Ave. to Atwood Ave. Some of these segments may be combined.	S	City Council Planning Commission Planning Department Public Works Department RIDOT
TC-19	Identify locations for off street parking or shared parking arrangements between cooperating and abutting businesses that have off street parking.	S	Planning Department
TC-20	Identify street beautification improvements such as sign design controls, street trees and other landscaping, public art, new sidewalks, trash receptacles, lighting and benches.	S	Planning Department Public Works Department
TC-21	Create special Park Avenue Study Advisory Committee representing merchants, City Hall, Cranston High School East and other major affected parties to advise on recommendations and monitor implementation.	S	Planning Department City Council
TC-22	Investigate a commuter rail station and support of a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in the Elmwood/Wellington Avenues area.	L	City Council Amtrak Planning Department RIDOT
TC-23	Adopt regulations that require inclusion of links that connect private developments with public ways.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council

Table 4-9. Transportation Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
TC-24	Consider 'adopt-a-park' programs that advertise private resources.	M	Recreation Department City Council Planning Commission Planning Department

3.4.9 Chapter 12: Natural Hazards and Climate Change

Table 4-10. Natural Hazards and Climate Change Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Goals			
Goal NH-1: Strengthen the City's ability to respond to climate change impacts by continually upgrading infrastructure systems, increasing public education, taking preventative actions, and ensuring disaster response plans are in place.			
Goal NH-2: Ensure that vulnerable populations are prioritized for climate resilience strategies, including the elderly, disabled, populations with English as a second language, and low-income communities.			
Goal NH-3: Make Cranston increasingly resilient to the natural hazards with the highest risks and levels of concern: storms, hurricanes, flooding, high winds, and extreme heat.			
Policies			
Policy NH-1: Continue to follow the mitigation actions of the 2022 Cranston Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, which highlight infrastructural, administrative, and public outreach opportunities. The HMP Update's mitigation actions are integrated into the Comprehensive Plan Update's actions.			
Policy NH-2: Increase public education and preparedness around disaster response for different natural hazards.			
Policy NH-3: Improve the capacity of current locations that can serve as resilience hubs or emergency shelters during natural hazard events.			
Policy NH-4: Participate in the Community Rating System (CRS).			
Policy NH-5: Involve more interdepartmental collaboration to share expertise and efficiently distribute responsibilities.			
Policy NH-6: Fortify existing regulations in zoning and construction with the aim of protecting people, buildings, and infrastructure.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
NH-1	Make necessary infrastructure upgrades to municipal facilities, including buildings and structures such as bridges and dams, to ensure they withstand extreme weather events.	M	Public Works Department
NH-2	Renew regulations for new development such as flood hazard overlay districts and building codes to ensure they are up to date with latest best practices.	M	Planning Department Planning Commission
NH-3	Investigate capacity of the drainage system via hydraulic mapping and make repairs or expand as needed.	M	Public Works Department
NH-4	Develop a storm debris management plan, including public education around catch basin maintenance and stormwater management retrofit opportunities.	S	Public Works Department Planning Department
NH-5	Analyze the state of parks and open space to determine if land can be used for wetlands restoration or as green infrastructure through stormwater retention.	M	Planning Department
NH-6	Continue the conversion of land between I-295 and Warren Ave. to wetlands and floodplains.	S	Public Works Department
NH-7	Update the Emergency Operations Plan periodically and check that partnering municipal and aid organizations are aware of their responsibilities.	M	Cranston Emergency Management Official

Table 4-10. Natural Hazards and Climate Change Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
NH-8	Conduct flood hazard districts training for municipal officials.	S	Cranston Emergency Management Official
NH-9	Conduct small business hazard mitigation training and establish a small business disaster outreach program.	S	Cranston Emergency Management Official Planning Department Economic Development Department
NH-10	Continue involvement in FEMA flood buyouts for flood-vulnerable residents along the Meshanticut Brook, Pocasset, and Pawtuxet Rivers.	M	Planning Department
NH-11	Continue the City's partnership with the Cranston Emergency Management Official and American Red Cross to develop public education resources around disaster response.	L	Planning Department Cranston Emergency Management Official
NH-12	Rebuild pump stations at risk of flooding and elevate their pump station generators.	M	Sewer Enterprise Department
NH-13	Conduct a progress update on the City's partnership with National Grid to trim tree limbs near overhead powerlines.	S	Tree Warden
NH-14	Develop and implement an Urban Tree Management Plan.	M	Tree Warden Planning Department
NH-15	Elevate the utilities system of Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet recreation facility to prevent further flooding.	M	Engineering Department
NH-16	Investigate the status of urban heat islands and impervious surfaces in Cranston, especially those that overlap with heat-vulnerable, lower income communities, and make a plan to mitigate extreme heat with buildout of the urban tree canopy and installations of white roof on municipal and interested private properties.	S	Planning Department

3.4.10 Chapter 13: Land Use

Table 4-11. Land Use Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions	
Goals	
Goal LU-1: Preserve the rural quality and critical resources of Western Cranston through appropriate land use controls.	
Goal LU-2: Promote mixed use (commercial, industrial, and residential) development that will focus on a few key redevelopment sites, improve the quality of new development, and incorporate 'smart growth' principles.	
-3: Locate new commercial development in western Cranston in highly accessible, strategic locations.	
Goal LU-4: Ensure that redevelopment of major sites for economic development incorporates the protection of environment and neighborhood character.	
-5: Ensure that the zoning map is consistent with the future land use map.	
-6: Protect and stabilize existing residential neighborhoods.	
-7: Enhance services and facilities in western Cranston that support future growth.	
-8: Preserve scenic landscapes and view sheds.	
Policies	
Policy LU-1: Promote residential land use patterns that concentrate and compact development and maintain significant percentage of open space.	

Table 4-11. Land Use Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
Policy LU-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.			
Policy LU-3: Preserve existing farmland and recreational open space areas through land use regulation and taxation policies.			
Policy LU-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.			
Policy LU-5: Improve architectural and site design standards to increase the quality of new development.			
Policy LU-6: Apply Smart Growth principles to include standards for density, mixed use, accessibility and quality of design.			
Policy LU-7: Implement policies that protect residential neighborhoods from commercial encroachment through regulation, appropriate buffers, development design standards, traffic planning, and site plan review.			
Policy LU-8: Maintain a current inventory of existing industrial facilities that could accommodate expansion and redevelopment.			
Policy LU-9: Identify barriers to economic growth and the public actions necessary to preserve the existing industrial base.			
Policy LU-10: 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.			
Policy LU-11: 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.			
Policy LU-12: Other than the specified rezoning activities identified for City action in the Land Use Element, rezoning of private property shall be the sole responsibility of the private property owners to achieve consistency with the Future Land Use Map.			
Policy LU-13: Protect and stabilize existing residential neighborhoods by increasing open space, improving roadway conditions, and making the zoning conform to existing uses.			
Policy LU-14: Continue to give attention to neighborhood revitalization through code enforcement and financing mechanisms, particularly in areas of aging housing stock and low median incomes.			
Policy LU-15: Create greenway, bicycle, and pedestrian links that make connections between the City's historic sites, public buildings, open space, and natural resources.			
Policy LU-16: Establish a scenic preservation program to preserve scenic landscapes and view sheds.			
Policy LU-17: Identify roads for adoption as scenic roads.			
Policy LU-18: Ensure that sufficient land is properly zoned and provided with adequate infrastructure to provide for the City's future industrial development needs.			
Policy LU-19: Preserve the existing density of established neighborhoods while ensuring compliance with state laws.			
REF. NO	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)
LU-1	Revise existing cluster (Residential Planned District) regulations to require the use of conservation development.	M	Planning Department City Council DPW Planning Commission
LU-2	Mandate that new residential development in western Cranston conforms to conservation subdivision standards.	M	Planning Department City Council DPW Planning Commission
LU-3	Use conservation development in concert with conservation easements and tax assessments tools to preserve valuable natural and historic resources.	M	City Council DPW Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-4	Within the application of the development regulations and standards, encourage landscape diversity that creates an identity and sense of place.	M	City Council DPW Planning Commission Planning Department

Table 4-11. Land Use Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
LU-5	Continue to amend subdivision regulations to promote land development patterns that minimize site disturbance, minimize visual impacts, and retain rural features and community character.	O	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-6	Consider Low Impact Development standards to reduce the impacts of land development and stormwater runoff.	O	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-7	Continue to identify areas that have special natural resources for protection through conservation design subdivisions, in order to ensure the preservation of major contiguous parcels and corridors.	O	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-8	Secure authorization to allow public access on trails in private, dedicated open space.	O	City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-9	Consider conservation restriction or less-than-fee acquisition programs to limit the ultimate development potential of valuable parcels, in return for reductions in tax liabilities.	O	City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-10	Establish a heritage preservation program to preserve scenic landscapes and view sheds.	L	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council Conservation Commission
LU-11	Make the Historic Farm Loop a special focus of the heritage program.	O	Conservation Commission Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-12	Implement a Scenic Road Overlay Zone to protect scenic aspects of the Historic Farm Loop.	L	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-13	Implement an Agricultural Preservation Program.	L	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department West Bay Land Trust
LU-14	Identify specific parcels for preservation and work with the land owners to explore purchase of fee simple or development rights, and state tax programs to accomplish the preservation.	L	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department West Bay Land Trust
LU-15	Support local farm products and alternative farm products to help ensure the continued viability of farming.	L	Conservation Commission City Council Planning Commission Planning Department West Bay Land Trust
LU-16	Site a new public facilities and services center to support residents and businesses in the western portion of the City.	L	City Council Planning Department Public Works Department
LU-17	Continue to improve site design standards to increase the quality of new development and use new 'smart growth' zoning techniques to assist these approaches.	M	Planning Department City Council Planning Commission

Table 4-11. Land Use Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
LU-18	Adopt architectural design standards to increase the aesthetic quality of new commercial development or redevelopment.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-19	Enhance streetscape design guidelines to apply to public construction projects and private construction projects that include public rights of way improvements.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-20	Update development impact fees to ensure that new development contributes adequately and proportionately to the costs of improvements required by such development	M	Building and Zoning Dept. City Council Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-21	Identify and prioritize commercial corridor segments for study, in order to provide guidance for appropriate regulatory changes and City economic development efforts such as marketing and financing programs. Identify specific development objectives, preferred commercial uses, circulation and safety improvements, and potential linkages among parcels.	L	Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-22	Revise zoning districts along Plainfield Pike to eliminate incompatible land uses and consolidate the industrial zoning of the area.	L	Planning Commission City Council Planning Department
LU-23	Include sustainability in drafting new regulations and review of new development projects.	L	Planning Commission Planning Department Economic Development Dept.
LU-24	Investigate the feasibility of a mixed-use development plan for TOD development on industrial land between Elmwood and Wellington Avenue as suggested by conceptual illustration.	L	Planning Commission City Council Economic Development Dept. Planning Department
LU-25	Amend Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance to eliminate inconsistencies between the Future Land Use Map and zoning.	N/A	Planning Department Planning Commission City Council
LU-26	Adopt smart growth policies after a series of public meetings geared to determine the appropriate standards for the City.	M	City Council Planning Department Planning Commission
LU-27	Reduce minimum lot size required for open space zoning so that smaller parcels can be protected.	L	Planning Department Planning Commission City Council
LU-28	Protect and stabilize existing residential neighborhoods by improving roadway conditions.	L	City Council DPW Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-29	Protect and stabilize existing residential neighborhoods by making zoning conform to existing uses.	L	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-30	Improve connections between the extensive supply of historic, open space, and natural resources.	L	City Council Mayor Planning Commission Planning Department RIDOT

Table 4-11. Land Use Action Plan

Goals, Policies, & Actions			
LU-31	Extend bicycle facilities to Western Cranston.	L	City Council Mayor Planning Commission Planning Department RIDOT
LU-32	Adopt streetscape design guidelines to apply to all construction projects.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department
LU-33	Amend commercial zoning along major arterial corridors to discourage “strip” development and to prevent adverse impacts on adjacent uses.	S	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-34	Strengthen protection of open space corridors along major water bodies and wetlands by zoning them for Open Space.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-35	Review existing development in flood zones to determine proper mitigation of flood impacts.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department City Council
LU-36	Adopt a ‘farm-based retail’ overlay district.	M	Planning Commission Planning Department Local Farms City Council