

# 6. Natural, Historical & Cultural Resources

Bristol's natural resources include water, soils, vegetation and wildlife. Water resources including freshwater bodies, coastal waters and wetlands are important for the community. Wetlands provide a value to prevent flooding, purify the groundwater, and as a wildlife habitat. Coastal waters are also important as residents enjoy swimming, boating, and fishing in the coastal waters of Bristol.

Scenic resources in the Town include significant historic architecture, mature street trees, scenic roads and scenic vistas. Bristol is renowned for the historic downtown waterfront district which is enjoyed by residents and visitor alike. In 2005, Bristol renovated the Historic Burnside Building on Hope Street into a visitor's center complete with internet access for visitor's to access web sites of local restaurants and places of interest. Recent surveys of Bristol businesses indicated that tourism is very important to their success. These further point to the importance of the community's strong need and desire to preserve and protect its natural and cultural resources.

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The entire length of Route 114 from Warren to the Mount Hope Bridge (known as Hope Street and Ferry Road) and High Street has been designated as a State Scenic Roadway. This designation will help to protect the scenic resources of the roadway by requiring a review from the State's Scenic Roadways Board for projects that trigger a State permit. In June of 2005, a Stewardship Plan was prepared for the Scenic RI Roadways Board.

Residents of Bristol have shown their support for protecting the Town's natural and cultural resources by supporting bonds to acquire open space and protect historic properties, the most recent bond referendum, approved in 2006, and included \$3

million dollars for open space preservation. The Town's Open Space Plan includes a system for ranking and prioritizing open space purchases.

The Town is currently working in the 5-year permit period to implement the approved federal and state mandated Phase 2 Stormwater Management Program Plan. This plan includes a public education and outreach component to educate residents on the connection between storm water runoff and pollution to the Bay. The Town has undertaken a storm drainage stenciling program with the 5th and 6th graders and the Mosaico CDC. This program is part of the ongoing community outreach which raises awareness to storm water management issues.

Bristol is home to a number of significant cultural institutions that are important to the identity of the Town as a historical and cultural destination for visitors as well as to residents of the Town. Among these are its numerous churches, ethnic and social clubs, the historic State House, Blithewold, Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, Coggeshall Farm, Herreshoff Marine Museum, Linden Place Museum, Mount Hope Farm and The Audubon Society Environmental Education Center. These institutions are important to both the cultural and economic aspects of Bristol, and policies that support the success and growth of these institutions should be encouraged.

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The find by archaeologists at the Waypoysset Preserve in the Narrows, Mt. Hope (encampment site for Wampanoag Sachem Metacom or King Philip) and the finds by archaeologists of evidence of a rum distillery at the Belvedere and Thames Street redevelopment projects on Thames Street downtown provide evidence to the significant archaeological resources in Bristol. This Waypoysset Preserve property, considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, includes artifacts from prehistoric man (7,000 B.C.). The Belvedere property, which was also considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, includes the remains of a rum distillery from the early 19th century. This archaeological find was significant since this is thought to be one of the top three rum distillery operations that have been found in the northeast.

In May 2013, the Town was entered into the Community Rating System Program of FEMA. This program provides a discount to all property owners who maintain flood insurance as required by FEMA. The discount is based on a scoring for eligible activities to educate residents and mitigate damage from flooding including brochures, posting information on the Town's web site, and preservation of open space that is in the floodplain. The Town's discount is currently 10%. Although the discount could be higher, the Town is capped at 10% due to the State Building Code

requirements and allowances for construction in the high wind zone. The Building Official and the Director of the Department of Community Development became Certified Floodplain Managers in 2013. A Certified Floodplain Manager is trained on the requirements for construction in the flood plain which is important in the review of permits for construction in the flood zone. FEMA has also developed new floodplain mapping for the Town which will be finalized in July 2014. Along with this new flood plain mapping, the Town of Bristol is in the process of adopting a companion Flood Zone Ordinance Update. The adoption of the Flood Zone Mapping and Ordinance allows the Town to continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program which means that all property owners in the Town continue to be eligible to purchase flood insurance for their property.

## Accomplishments

The Town is fortunate to have many volunteer organizations that work on continuous improvement including the Bristol Blooms organization which plants and maintains the hanging flower baskets along Hope Street and Explore Bristol which works on a broad marketing campaign for the Town to increase tourism. Explore Bristol's efforts are funded in part with a portion of the Town's meal and hotel tax revenue from the State. Bristol has also partnered with the City of Newport Visitors and Convention Bureau to expand the economic growth through visitors. The Newport Bureau helps with staffing and training of the Bristol's Visitors Center.

In 2010, the Town expanded the Bristol Local Historic District north to Poppasquash Road. This was one of the first implemented actions as a result of the 2009 Comprehensive Plan Update to protect the northern gateway to the Town's historic downtown.

# Statement of Goals and Policies

**Protect Bristol’s natural landscape and resources for present and future generations by enabling local residents to take responsibility for the stewardship of their own natural resources.**

**Protecting historical and cultural resources that link Bristol’s past with its future.**

**Protect and foster the cultural diversity and “small town” atmosphere that distinguishes Bristol.**

Based on the critical issues described in the Introduction and the overarching goal stated above, this section presents the goals and policies developed by the Town of Bristol to guide its natural, historical and cultural resources. These goals encompass goals expressed in the other elements of this plan.

**Goal 1. Protect Bristol’s natural landscape and resources for present and future generations.**

*Policies to achieve Goal 1:*

- A.** Protect Bristol's water, air, soil, plant, and wildlife resources, especially all resources that are identified as being threatened or endangered. Protect and encourage biological diversity. Conserve and manage natural resources in a manner that consistent with the contemporary vision of the town.
- B.** Use and update the Bristol Open Space Plan. Create a list of open space resources and access points.
- C.** Work to conserve and protect fields and farmlands in Bristol through acquiring development rights, acquisition, easements, or conservation restrictions by the Town or the Bristol Land Trust. The Fales and Pagano farms are now protected.
- D.** Protect Bristol’s groundwater supplies and attempt to include the Bristol County Water Authority within the oversight of the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) or other similar state organization such as the RI Water Resources Board.
- E.** Ensure that future generations have well marked, maintained and enforced public access points to the bays and to fresh water resources.
- F.** Increase and maintain the forest cover by 25% by the year 2020.

**Goal 2. Continue to protect the historic and cultural resources that link Bristol’s PAST with the vision for Bristol’s FUTURE.**

*Policies to achieve Goal 2:*

- A.** Define, promote and protect elements of each part of Bristol’s cultural

heritage including its cultural and historic institutions.

- B.** Continue to update and expand the local and National Register Districts.
- C.** Incorporate historic resource protection and planning within the overall community planning and development review process. Identify and protect historic, cultural and natural landscapes, plantings and features within Bristol.
- D.** Coordinate the historic preservation and planning policies of the various branches of local and state government.

**Goal 3. Protect and foster cultural diversity and reinforce the character defining events, activities, and features within the town. Utilize open space for cultural activities.**

*Policies to achieve Goal 3:*

- A.** Identify and reinforce the cultural aspects that make Bristol a special place to live.
- B.** Limit the adverse impact of proposed development upon the cultural resources of the Town.
- C.** Support and promote development that protects and enhances the cultural resources of the town, including its cultural institutions.
- D.** Tell the Bristol story through installation of interpretative signs throughout town and work on the development of a Bristol Historical or Heritage Trail both on land and on the water. Some signage is in place at the East Bay Bike Path.
- E.** Continue to work with Newport Chamber of Commerce and Explore Bristol to publicize and promote tourism in Bristol through, for example, efforts such as the Bristol - Newport Heritage Trail and similar initiatives.

**Goal 4. Educate and motivate the public to encourage involvement and increased awareness of every person's responsibility to preserve and protect the natural, historical and cultural character of the town.**

*Policies to achieve Goal 4:*

- A.** Regulate growth and development so as to protect natural, historical, and cultural resources for future generations.
- B.** Educate the public to the long term value of the natural, cultural, historical resources and their relation to the quality of life.
- C.** Commit long term financial resources of the Town to protecting open and natural land for public purposes while ensuring that the long-term costs of maintenance and liability are considered when deciding on public acquisition of lands or land rights.
- D.** Monitor the state and federal government's role in resource protection and insist on improvements where they are needed.

- E. To encourage creative deliberation among interested public and private parties focused on utilizing our natural, historical and cultural resources as engines for economic development.

**Goal 5. Promote environmental education and conservation for children and adults.**

*Policies to achieve Goal 5:*

- F. Conduct environmental education classes that coincide with existing recreational programs and partnerships with local organizations such as Save Bristol Harbor, Bristol Land Trust, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and Bristol Recycles.
- G. Install environmental and conservation related signage and kiosks where appropriate to educate the public to ongoing environmentally beneficial projects.
- H. Promote education relating to water quality and protection of water resources recognizing that Bristol is a peninsula that is surrounded by and dependent upon water.
- I. Promote environmental stewardship of land and water resources in school and recreational programs geared towards children.
- J. Promote efforts to increase recycling and educate residents on the importance of recycling and proper recycling methods.

**Goal 6. Promote water quality improvements to bay and other waterways in Bristol**

*Policies to achieve Goal 6:*

- K. Incorporate water quality benefits in all developments and reconstruction projects undertaken by the Town.
- L. Study and consider adoption of stormwater utility district to fund water quality improvement projects.

## Implementation Actions

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NHCR-1	Review and update the Bristol Harbor Management plan and ordinance annually.				√	Harbor Commission, Harbor Master, Community Development Department, Bristol Town Council
NHCR-2	Create a standing committee of appropriate technical and professional experience to compile and maintain a hazard mitigation list as described in Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations Into Hazard Mitigation Planning: State and Local Mitigation Planning How-to Guide FEMA 386-6 May 2005. Work in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Officer.	√	√			Town Council, Town Administrator, Historic District Commission
NHCR-3	<p>The Historic District Commission’s principal emphasis is to promote, assist, and facilitate the preservation of Bristol’s historic and cultural assets. To preserve and promote continued restoration of the historic architecture of Bristol, members of the Historic District Commission should be required to participate in at least one local, regional, state or national course, symposium or meeting regarding historic preservation, per year to maintain their warrants. The recommendations of the Bristol Historic District Advisory Committee have be incorporated into the rules of the Historic District Commission and the rules of the Historic District Commission should be reviewed and amended as needed</p> <p>In recognition of the need to create incentives to owners of property under the protection of the Historic District ordinances, the Town Council shall pursue efforts to establish a \$500.00 tax rebate to</p>	√			√	Town Council, Bristol Historic District Commission

<sup>1</sup> S: short-term; M: medium-term; L: long-term; O: ongoing

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	said property owners as incentive to protect these treasures.					
NHCR-4	The Historic District Commission should investigate and recommend renewable energy solutions for properties under their protection; to promote sustainability of these significant structures.	√				Historic District Commission, Town Council,
NHCR-5	Minimize the amount of new impervious paving and encourage the use of pervious surfaces, where and when feasible and wherever environmentally sound to reduce the rate and volume of stormwater runoff.	√			√	Planning Board, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department.
NHCR-6	In new developments require the use of native plantings, rain gardens (bio-swales), and drought tolerant plantings that don't require heavy watering or fertilizing and discourage the use of invasive species. Identify appropriate tree, shrub and plant species to recommend to developers and develop and provide list of undesirable/non-native/invasive species that will be discouraged from use. Ref: RI Natural History Survey and RI Wild Plant – Plant Inventories)	√				Planning Board, Conservation Commission (Community Development Department.
NHCR-7	Use federal, state and local programs to purchase properties that are subject to frequent flood or storm damage.				√	Town Administrator, Community Development Department, Town Council
NHCR-8	Continue the work of the Tree Commission and implementation of the “Bristol Tree Management Plan for 2001-2006.” The goals of this Plan include working toward meeting the state’s goal for Bristol to increase and maintain the forest cover by 25% by the year 2020.				√	Town Council, Community Development Department and Bristol Conservation Commission
NHCR-9	Continue the work to inventory the public street trees in Bristol and map the data using GIS.		√			Tree Commission and

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						Community Development Department.
NHCR-10	<p>Pursue the following policy for the future of the Mt. Hope Planning Area and its coastline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In tandem with the above efforts, follow a policy that will encourage maximum open space protection, maximum cultural resource protection, adequate buffers with surrounding residential and estate uses, protection of the wetlands and the bay. Recognize and work with the variety of different stakeholders within the Mt. Hope Planning Area. Their needs and interests may differ significantly from one another.</li> <li>b) Provide a two hundred (200) foot buffer easement along the shoreline for public access including lateral access to the shore.</li> <li>c) Maintain shoreline access within the Roger Williams University campus.</li> <li>d) Nominate the Mt. Hope Planning area as a National Register Historic Site.</li> <li>e) Nominate the Waypoysset Preserve property as a National Register Historic Site.</li> </ul>					Town Council, Planning Board, Town Administrator, Community Development Department, Bristol Historic District Commission
NHCR-11	<p>Pursue the following policies for the future of the area at and near the mouth of Silver Creek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Restore the unobstructed flow of water from Silver Creek into Bristol harbor, which is very important for the proper flushing of the creek.</li> <li>b) Preserve Silver Creek, which flows into the northern portion of Bristol harbor, along with abutting areas as a “welcome” to the downtown and maintain excellent views of the harbor.</li> <li>c) The existing commercial structures immediately north of Silver Creek and between Hope Street and the scenic harbor partially obstruct the views of the harbor and</li> </ul>					Town Council, Planning Board, Town Administrator, Community Development Department

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	<p>diminish the sense of welcome as one approaches the downtown from the north. Although current zoning allows for expansion of these structures, consider amendments that would discourage expansion of heights and build-out to the lot lines consider outright purchase, acquiring development rights, view shed easements from private property owners in order to preserve existing views. Consider establishing some form of “transfer of development rights” (TDR) legislation in the Zoning Ordinance to address this issue. Concurrently, the area from Independence Park north to the northeast portion of the harbor should be zoned uniformly as open space. The commercial properties could continue to exist, but as non-conforming uses, which would prevent further expansion. <b>Comp. Plan Map has this area as Open Space.</b></p> <p>d) Continue planning for the expansion of the park along the mouth of Silver Creek, including the area from Independence Park on the south to the open sites north of Silver Creek which serves as the southern terminus of the bike path.</p> <p>e) Consider acquisition of land immediately north of Silver Creek and west of Hope Street and incorporate the property into the park area in order to protect it from possible use and visual degradation and to enhance views and the sense of arrival at the historic downtown of Bristol. Restore the natural salt marshes near the mouth of Silver Creek, where the flow of water between Silver Creek and the harbor should be improved and become essentially unobstructed.</p> <p>f) Remove siltation south of Chestnut Street, as part of a wetlands restoration along Silver Creek. To mitigate adverse impacts to Silver Creek and to Bristol Harbor, Low Impact</p>					

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	Development (LID) techniques should continue to be required throughout the Silver Creek watershed area.					
NHCR-12	<p>Pursue the following policies for the future of the area at and near the mouth of Tanyard Brook. Correct periodic flooding in the area near the mouth of Tanyard Brook which may cause property damage and contributes to pollution in Bristol's coastal waters. Correct siltation and maintenance problems in the reservoir on State Street.</p> <p>a) Expand the capacity of the State Street Reservoir, in order to mitigate downstream flooding, and the facility should regularly be used as part of a storm water runoff detention system.</p> <p>b) Continue to require mandatory Low Impact Development (LID) techniques throughout the Tanyard Brook watershed area, to mitigate adverse impacts to Tanyard Brook and to Walker's Cove.</p>	√	√		√	Town Council, Planning Board, Town Administrator, Community Development Department, Department of Public Works
NHCR-13	<p>Pursue the following policies to protect existing wetlands and to alleviate flooding in watershed areas.</p> <p>a) Urge RI state agencies to provide consistent protection of wetland areas in Bristol. Map all significant wetlands that should be protected from new or additional development, regardless of zone or ownership concerns.</p> <p>b) Protect mapped wetland areas through zoning and other local regulatory means so that new or expanded construction in such areas is not permitted.</p>		√			Town Council, Planning Board, Town Administrator, Community Development Department.
NHCR-14	, Complete the large scale plant materials inventory along the Hope Street Corridor/Route 114/Scenic Highway.		√			Tree Commission, Community Development Department.

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NHCR-15	Conduct a feasibility study to consider Minturn Farm for sustainable energy initiatives. Consider zoning amendments to encourage solar farm.					Planning Board, Community Development Department, Town Council
NHCR-16	Explore measures to protect stone walls that help to define the Town's character.					Community Development Department, Planning Board, , Town Council, Historic District Commission
NHCR-17	Future land acquisition for open space and recreation should be done in accordance with the Open Space Plan, June 2008 as amended.				v	Town Administrator, Community Development Department, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Open Space Committee.
NHCR-18	Identify the funding potential and necessary application steps for purchase by the state, the Town of Bristol, the Bristol Land Trust and any other land conservation group of development and/or conservation rights to Bristol's remaining farms and other significant historical and cultural open space resources.	v			v	Community Development Department, Planning Board, Bristol Land Trust
NHCR-19	Continue to Implement recommendations by the Hydraulic Study commissioned by the Bristol County Water Authority, when complete.		v			Town Council
NHCR-20	Make the Bristol Water Authority subject to oversight by the State Public Utilities Commission					Town Council

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	(PUC) or other similar State organization such as the RI Water Resources Board.					
<b>NHCR-21</b>	Monitor development activity in surrounding areas that may impact Bristol's water supply, including but not limited to water resources in Warren, the Swansea, Seekonk, and Scituate reservoir areas.	√			√	Town Council
<b>NHCR-22</b>	Establish priorities and continue to acquire land, rights-of-way, or easements along tributaries, estuaries, coastlines, and streams (for example Silver Creek) to buffer these areas from development and provide limited public access. Improve public boat launch sites along Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay and Bristol Harbor.	√				Planning Board, Community Development Department, Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, Town Council, Harbor Commission.
<b>NHCR-23</b>	Pursue the following policies for the historic downtown of Bristol and for other areas of special natural, historical, or cultural significance. a) Consider tax incentives for historic district properties. Enlist horticulturalist from the state, Blithewold and other sources to establish metrics for water runoff control by native plantings, rain gardens and other natural remediation methods. Utilize vegetation to control water runoff and infiltration as recommended in the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Instillation Standards Manual revised December 2010 b) Adaptive reuse of underutilized historically significant buildings and other buildings of architectural and economic importance must be developed in compliance with historical preservation and architectural design goals. Consider uses/development in light of environmental risks. c) Update the downtown urban design plan	√			√	Town Council, Planning Board, Town Administrator, Community Development Department, Historic District Commission.

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	that was done for the Town by the Sasaki Group in 198 (and provide for continuing urban design review services on an as-needed basis. Urban design is an effective tool for demonstrating physical feasibility and long-term community goals. The design should reflect the goals and policies of this plan. The downtown area included by the plan should be bounded roughly by Silver Creek and environs on the north, Wood Street and environs on the east, Union Street on the South, and the harbor on the west. Within the overall area of the urban design, certain locations should receive special focus, e.g. Robin Rug, the downtown waterfront along Thames Street, the block bounded by Bradford, Hope, State, and Thames streets, and the Bristol Industrial Park and along Hope Street to the north.					
NHCR-24	Define criteria for establishing and evaluating Areas of Critical Cultural Significance. Based on the cultural resources identified by this plan, criteria could include: historic or current farm use, historic structures or sites, historic districts, clusters of buildings and sites listed on or qualified to be listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places, institutions representing or promoting historical or cultural sites or activities, areas where social interaction has traditionally occurred (such as houses of worship, civic organizations, the Town Common, RWU, etc.), critical landscapes identified by the RIDEM and RIHPHC landscape survey, and important large scale plantings.		√			Planning Board, Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Development Department
NHCR-25	Monitor the archeological resources in culturally sensitive areas in a manner consistent with state law and with standards of good archaeological practice. Adopt regulations to protect such resources if threatened by development.		√			Planning Board, Community Development Department, and Historic District

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						Commission.
<b>NHCR-26</b>	Work with the Roger Williams University School of Architecture, complete a neighborhood planning analysis in order to better identify natural and cultural elements in the various parts of Bristol that should be protected. Encourage mixed use of historic properties where such use promotes preservation of historic structures and enables economic feasibility of historic preservation projects.					Town Council, Community Development Department, and Roger Williams University.
<b>NHCR-27</b>	New construction on the Town Common should be strongly discouraged, unless such uses are related directly to existing uses. New uses, such as housing, should not be permitted on the Common. Adopt a municipal or public zone for Town-owned open spaces. For the decommissioned school buildings on the Town Common, create a creative overlay zone to facilitate the reuse for arts uses.	√			√	Planning Board, Town Council, Community Development Department, and Town Administrator.
<b>NHCR-28</b>	Expand the local historic district in phases over the next five to ten years as follows:  Phase 1: By the end of 2018 extend the district north and south along both sides of Hope Street (Route 114) to the town lines.  Phase 2: By the end of 2023 encompass the National District.			√		Historic District Commission, Town Council, Community Development Department.
<b>NHCR-29</b>	Continue to monitor, update and organize information about the Town's historic and cultural resources, including its existing National Register Districts.	√			√	Planning Board, Town Council, Community Development Department, Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission.
<b>NHCR-30</b>	Carefully consider the historic and built environment impact of allowing the demolition of		√			Town Administrator,

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	buildings for open air parking. Develop a comprehensive parking strategy to provide adequate parking in Downtown in ways that will not disturb the fabric of the town. Encourage pedestrian connections.					Town Council, Community Development Department, Planning Board, Historic District Commission.
NHCR-31	Examine a special design review process for Areas of Critical Environmental and Cultural Significance. Continue the coordinated approach with the Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board and other relevant bodies, to provide a non-binding review process that would produce clear recommendations for all projects during the early design phase. This must include ensuring that waterfront development allows for public access to the water.					Planning Board, Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Development Department.
NHCR-32	Implement planning guidelines to protect and regain the ability to see the bays and walk to the water's edge, particularly with regard to the future development or redevelopment of waterfront properties, whether residential or commercial, in the Downtown Historic District.		v			Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Community Development Department.
NHCR-33	Adopt agreed upon street-side improvement standards for lighting, benches, curbing and landscaping, consistent with current standards. Coordinate between Historic District Commission, Planning Board and Public Works to preserve historic elements. Create a list of allowable temporary uses. Adopt policies to require burial of utility cables underground to both improve appearance and reduce the incidence and expense of power outages. Require granite curbing on any state road repair by the RIDOT in the downtown historic district.		v			Town Administrator, Department of Public Works, Historic District Commission, Community Development Department, and Conservation Commission.

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NHCR-34	Continue to implement the recently adopted Wayfinding Plan that carries this same "look" of the signage at the Town borders throughout the directional and identification signage in town, e.g., parking, museums, the waterfront, shops, hotels and inns.	√				Town Administrator, Department of Public Works, and Historic District Commission.
NHCR-35	Engage the Newport Chamber of Commerce in an advertising campaign to publicize and promote the Bristol - Newport Heritage Trail. Continue to partner with non-governmental organizations (Explore Bristol, Voices of Bristol, Roger Williams University, Newport Convention and Visitors Bureau, etc.)					Town Administrator.
NHCR-36	Make sure waterfront development allows for preservation of viewscapes and public access to and along the water.				√	Planning Board
NHCR-37	In conjunction with implementation of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 Stormwater Management Plan, distribute the Department of Environmental Management "After the Storm" educational brochure to notify the public about ways to decrease residential non-point source pollution and point source pollution targeting waterfront properties.	√				Town Administrator and Community Development Department.
NHCR-38	Continue to Educate and train town departments, commissions, and boards on Low Impact Development (LID) principles and require developers to comply with same. Continue the URI cooperative extension.				√	Town Administrator and Community Development Department.
NHCR-39	Continue to develop and expand cultural and natural heritage programs in the local schools so as to more strongly familiarize children with Bristol's history and cultural richness. Example: Mosaico's Sense of Pride Program. Engage the elderly population in the historic programs as well with programs such as oral history.	√			√	School Department, Town Clerk, Town Council and other appropriate non-governmental agencies

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NHCR-40	E establish a 200 ft. buffer zone along the Mt Hope Bay shoreline extending from Hopeworth to the Mt Hope Bridge. Further establish a walking trail within the above noted Mt Hope Bay shoreline 200 ft. buffer area, including lateral access. <b>Needs Map</b>		√			Planning Board, Community Development Department, and Town Council.
NHCR-41	Implement “green infrastructure” projects in areas of poor drainage and to help water quality. Include green parking lots and the retrofit of existing paved streets, where feasible, to lessen the amount of impervious area and create landscaping areas with swales and rain gardens that help with drainage. Consider “ecological art” projects in neighborhoods which not only help with drainage but also create a sense of place.	√	√			Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Community Development
NHCR-42	The Kickemuit River is an asset to the community for its recreational and natural value. The preservation of this water as a SA water body, suitable for shellfishing and recreational water uses, is of utmost importance and a goal of the Town. The area surrounding the Kickemuit River and its tributaries will be maintained to preserve the high water quality of the river.				√	Town Council, Planning Board, and Community Development Department.

The Natural, Historical and Cultural portions of the plan are graphically presented in Map 11 (Historic Resources: Districts, Buildings and Sites), Map 12 (Historic Resources: Landscapes and Views), Map 13 (Wetlands and Floodplains) and Map 14 (Soils).