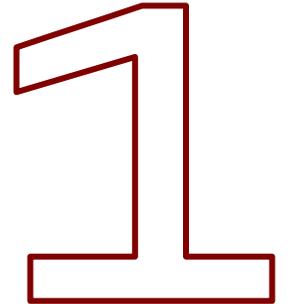


# INTRODUCTION

# POCD

"Good plans shape good decisions. That's why good planning helps to make elusive dreams come true."

Anonymous



## Purpose of the Plan

This Plan of Conservation and Development is a tool for guiding the future of Torrington. It is intended to be both visionary and action-oriented.

One purpose of this Plan is to establish common goals for the community's future. These goals involve determining a positive future outcome or positive strategies and directions for Torrington to pursue.



Skokan's Pond



Older housing stock in the North End (above);  
Reused historic building for a bank (below)



Another purpose is to outline action steps, that when implemented, will help attain that vision. If steadily implemented by Torrington residents and officials, this Plan will help protect important resources, guide appropriate development, protect community character and enhance the quality of life for current and future Torrington residents.

## Updating Tools

- holding annual public informational meetings to summarize the Plan recommendations and receive feedback from the community;
- holding workshop sessions for local boards, commission and other interested persons to discuss Plan strategies and suggest alternative language;
- revising Plan sections as appropriate; and
- re-adopting the Plan whenever there are minor text or map changes; or when the Planning and Zoning Commission wants to reaffirm the existing policies of the Plan.

## Why Plan?

Planning is something that people and organizations perform regularly since it helps prepare for future challenges and opportunities. Communities are no different. Planning provides the opportunity to:

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

Planning helps Torrington identify and address community needs, foresee the long-term consequences of current actions, make good decisions, and produce desired results.

The Connecticut General Statutes (CGS 8-23) also require municipalities to adopt a plan of conservation and development every ten years.

## How This Plan Was Prepared

Since the adoption of the last Plan of Development in November of 1989, the City of Torrington has continuously updated the Plan to react to changing conditions and modern approaches to conservation and development issues. The most recent update, in August of 2005, involved the Sewer Service Area, an important policy for the City.

During the planning process meetings were held with City agencies and officials and the public to identify planning issues for Torrington to monitor or address. These issues were summarized for the Planning and Zoning Commission and City staff began preparing sections of the Plan.

## Use and Maintenance of the Plan

This Plan is intended to provide a framework for consistent decision-making by City boards, commissions and residents with regards to conservation and development-related activities. While generally intended to guide conservation and development over the course of a decade, this Plan will lay the foundation for long-term goals reaching far into the future.

Torrington's Plan is intended to be a dynamic document. As strategies are implemented and evaluated, the Plan should be refined to address new issues, adjust a course of action or to refine strategies.

It is intended that each chapter will be updated during the term of this Plan, and that each update may result from more specific planning for that particular subject matter. For example, a portion of the Downtown and Neighborhood Chapter of this Plan is the Executive Summary of the adopted Downtown Master Development Plan, which was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

In the future, other such planning efforts might result in adoption of the executive summary as the "over-arching" plan element in a similar manner.

## Annual Update Program

Torrington might follow a program of updating Plan chapters by Theme, such as:

