

Jamestown Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies

Please use the following colored dots on this board to mark your priorities: ●

Housing & Neighborhoods

GOAL Create a diversity of housing types (such as homeownership, rental, employee preference, etc.) to meet the needs of Jamestown’s low-moderate income residents, town employees, and special populations while maintaining Jamestown’s unique mixture of village and rural character.

GOAL Attain the 10% low and moderate housing goal set by the state.

GOAL Ensure the long-term affordability of Jamestown’s housing stock.

GOAL Strengthen partnerships and build community support for affordable housing development.

GOAL Revise the zoning ordinance to further promote affordable housing.

GOAL Identify potential locations for affordable housing development.

GOAL Identify existing resources and new dedicated, consistent funding source(s) for affordable housing development.

POLICIES

Support workforce housing initiatives for local employees and essential workers.

Promote housing rehabilitation and adaptive use of existing structures

Preserve existing affordable housing units through extended affordability restrictions

Implement programs which ensure the long term affordability of Jamestown’s housing

Strengthen partnerships and build community support for affordable housing

Revise the zoning ordinance to promote affordable housing

Regulate short-term rentals to protect year-round housing availability.

Encourage small-scale housing solutions

Identify and prioritize suitable location for affordable housing development

Expand and secure consistent funding sources for affordable housing projects

Invest in infrastructure improvements to support affordable housing development

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📍 Land Use

GOAL To preserve and enhance Jamestown’s rural character while promoting sustainable growth that aligns with the town’s environmental, housing, and economic goals.

GOAL To enhance housing diversity and affordability to support year-round residents and essential workers

GOAL To adopt land use policies and zoning strategies which would strengthen Jamestown’s local economy through year-round economic development initiatives.

📋 POLICIES

Maintain and update Jamestown’s land use regulations to guide development consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, addressing housing diversity, zoning alignment, and resilience to climate impacts.

Incorporate resilience planning into land use regulations to address climate change impacts.

Encourage zoning strategies that expand a diversity of year-round housing opportunities while preserving neighborhood character.

Develop a permanent, sustainable funding source for the Jamestown Affordable Housing Trust

Encourage adaptive reuse of existing properties and homes for affordable housing

Promote zoning flexibility to enable year-round economic activities

Encourage adaptive reuse of existing properties for economic activities

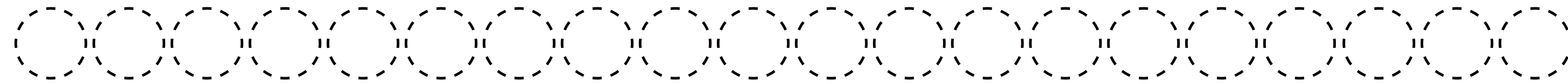
Prioritize connectivity to the commercial village through land use strategies

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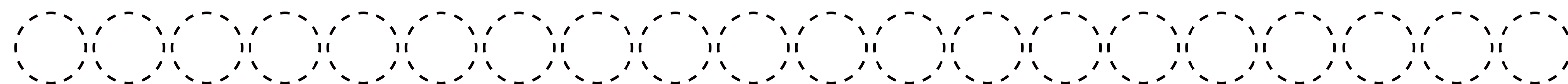
Please use the following colored dots on this board to mark your priorities:

Economic Development

GOAL To achieve a diverse local economy that caters to residents by offering an abundance of job opportunities and a wide variety of basic goods and services, while maintaining an affordable tax base.

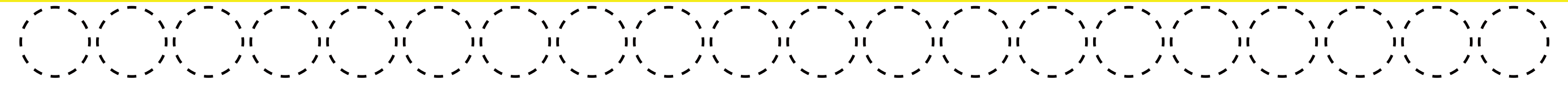


GOAL To promote year-round tourism that reduce off-season economic decline and ensures local businesses can be self-sustaining.

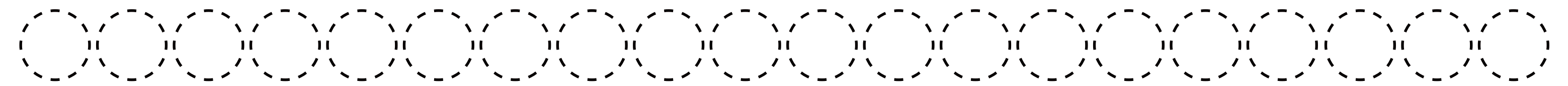


POLICIES

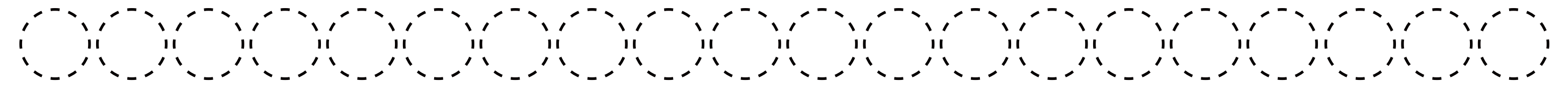
Incentivize growth of local businesses in existing commercial zones.



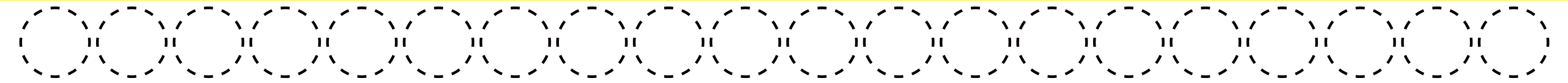
Encourage a robust year-round tourism economy that highlights local businesses and the most scenic, historic, and culturally significant parts of Jamestown.



Leverage the waterfront's rich history and architectural character to enhance the local economy and foster sustainable growth in commercial districts, while balancing goals to preserve the town's historic integrity



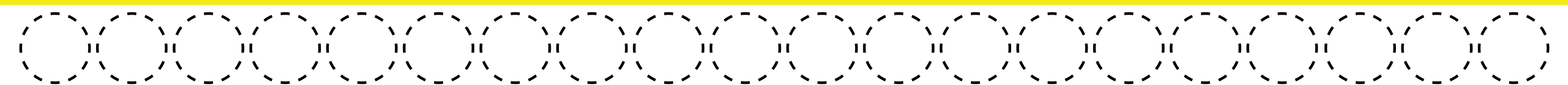
Ensure that new or expanded development within the commercial zones is compatible with existing character of the community



Participate in State and Regional Planning to monitor and influence the effect, on Jamestown and its residents, of changes in surrounding communities and activities within the environment including Narragansett Bay.



Prioritize affordable rentals and financial assistance for local businesses to grow in Jamestown.



Expand lodging options to encourage tourism without straining water and sewer capacity.

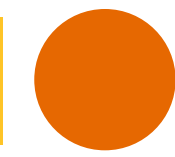


Maintain access to a vibrant commercial waterfront and high-quality public landside facilities.



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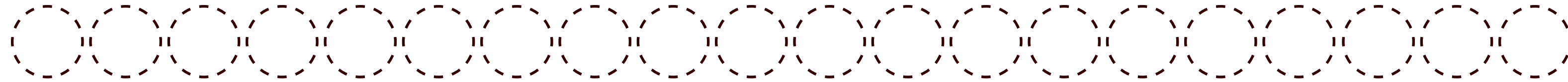


Historic & Cultural Preservation

GOAL To protect and preserve all significant historical and cultural resources



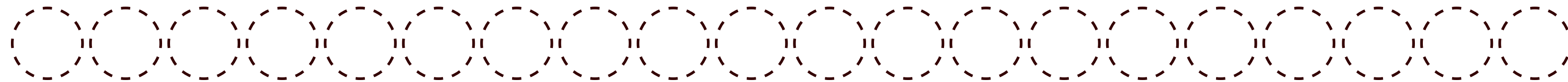
GOAL Preserve and strengthen the rural and historical village character of Jamestown



GOAL Adopt historic preservation as a sustainable practice in Jamestown's codes

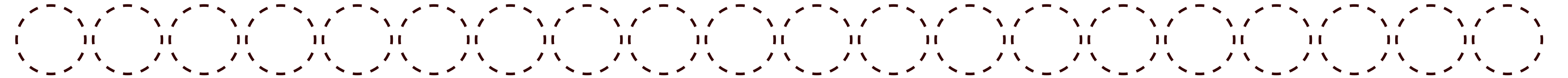


GOAL Enhance public awareness and engagement in historic preservation

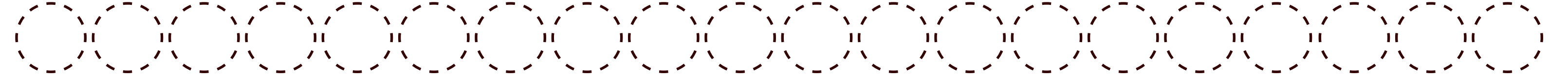


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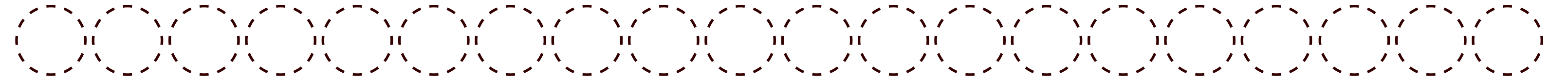
Protect and archive historic documents to prevent further deterioration and ensure accessibility for future generations.



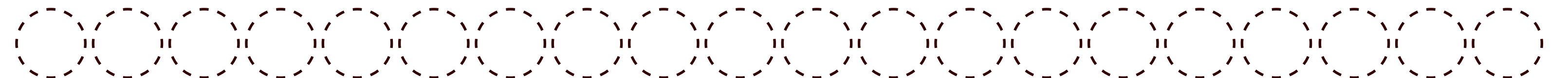
Preserve and restore historic sites of Jamestown to maintain the town's unique historical and cultural heritage.



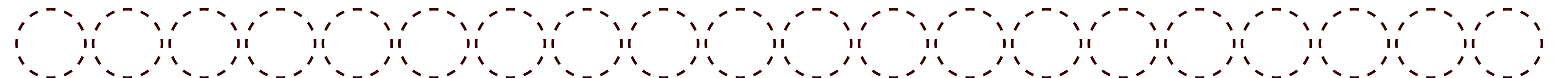
Maintain and enhance historic scenic views and corridors on the island by incorporating preservation strategies into land use planning.



Evaluate and consider the establishment of historic districts in Jamestown in collaboration with the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission.



Encourage adaptive reuse of historic properties by integrating preservation-friendly zoning and financial incentives.



Promote public awareness by providing educational programs and interpretative signage about Jamestown's historic and cultural assets.



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Public Services & Facilities

GOAL Achieve high-quality facilities that integrate energy efficiency, resilient design, and meet the needs of residents without compromising neighborhood character or community resources.

GOAL Maintain high quality, affordable public services to Jamestown residents as feasible and cost efficient.

GOAL Achieve a multifaceted solid-waste program that meets the state’s recommended 35% recycling and 50% waste diversion rates.

GOAL Develop a technologically advanced network of public facilities to meet the evolving needs of residents of all ages.

POLICIES

Site, design, build, maintain, and operate public facilities to be compatible, as far as possible, with the character of the neighborhood in which they are located.

Ensure the cost of public services remains reasonable.

Increase the quantity and improve the quality of the Town’s existing drinking water.

Ensure public services are adequate to accommodate Jamestown’s growing population.

Integrate Townwide energy and sustainability goals into municipal building design and construction.

Consider the consolidation of the Lawn Avenue and Melrose Avenue schools to account for declining student populations.

Assess technological upgrades across facilities to keep pace with a modernizing world.

Promote library programs that are educational and engaging for residents of all ages.

Maintain the library’s vast collection online and in-person to ensure equitable access for all.

Consider options for the redevelopment of the Fort Wetherill building.

Continue to integrate Recycling recommendations into standard practices of the Transfer Station and Town overall.

Identify sources of inflow and infiltration and remove from sewer collection system.

Allocate sufficient funding to emergency service departments to adequately protect public safety and security.

Retain a healthy, age-appropriate force of emergency personnel to maintain public safety.

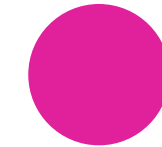
Consider constructing a satellite fire station located in Jamestown’s North End.

Support social programs that help residents of all ages to live long, fulfilling lives.

Consider food composting as a Town-wide service to reduce solid waste stream and meet State and local solid waste goals.

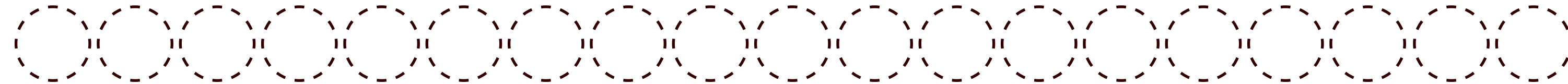
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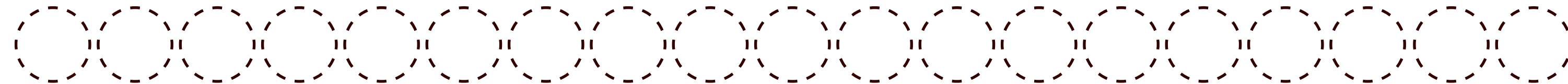


Sustainability and Resilience

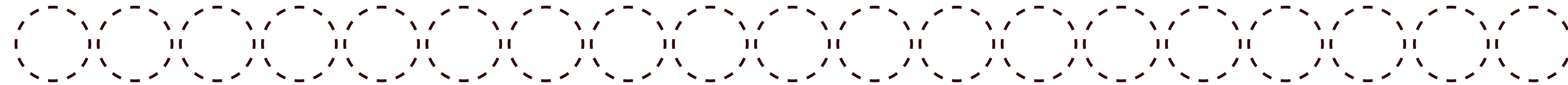
GOAL Promote a climate-resilient community by proactively planning for natural hazards, especially for fragile and scenic coastal areas



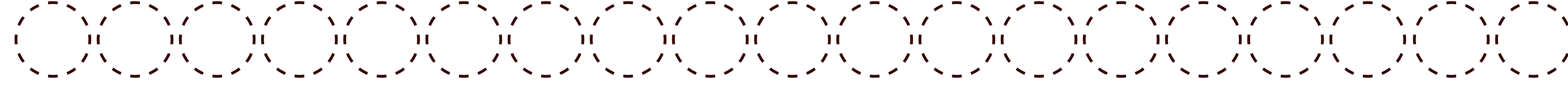
GOAL Safeguard Jamestown's ecological systems and cultural assets, through green infrastructure and sustainable practices.



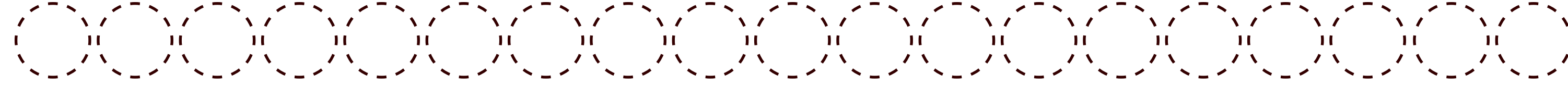
GOAL Achieve a greener, more sustainable Jamestown with minimal reliance upon fossil fuels.



GOAL Ensure vulnerable populations, infrastructure, and essential services are supported before, during, and immediately following natural disasters.

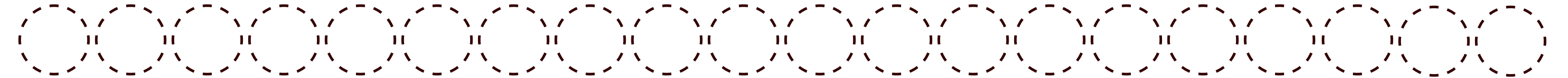


GOAL Promote alternative energy systems that reduce costs to local residents.

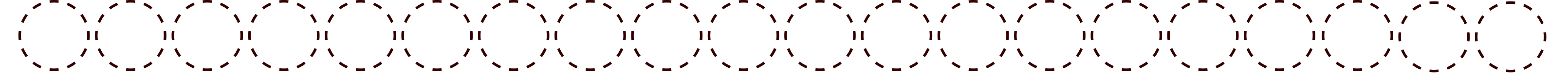


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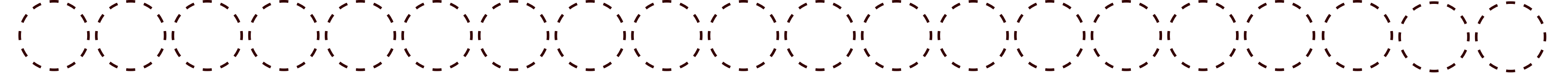
Encourage the adoption of coastal adaptation measures, especially in low-lying areas of Jamestown.



Proactively plan for natural hazard vulnerability including those hazards which may increase due to climate change.



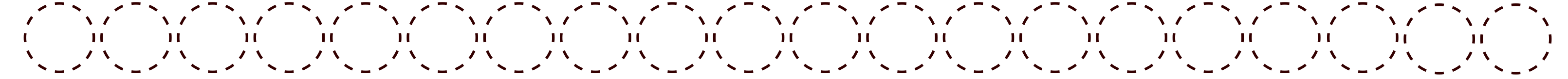
Prioritize nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to manage stormwater, reduce runoff, and mitigate flooding.



Consider Townwide transition to building electrification and renewable energy system installation.



Promote the use of electric vehicles and low-carbon transportation options to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector.



Assist vulnerable populations with planning for natural disasters.



Ensure critical infrastructure is protected from natural hazards to prevent significant disruptions to integral systems.



Manage costs associated with energy efficiency and alternative energy systems for municipal scale programs and residential scale projects.



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Transportation

GOAL Provide safe, efficient, and balanced local circulation patterns that prioritize safety for all transportation modes and accommodate existing and future population growth.

GOAL Promote multimodal transportation infrastructure to support healthy lifestyles, environmental sustainability, and community resilience.

GOAL Strengthen connections between transportation and land use planning to reduce congestion, parking pressures, and dependency on single-occupancy vehicles.

GOAL Enhance Jamestown’s connectivity to the broader region through reliable and efficient public transit and marine transportation.

POLICIES

Promote a coordinated system of bicycle routes linking residential areas to recreation, scenic and cultural areas throughout the island while retaining roads rural character.

Improve roads to provide an acceptable level of service at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

Provide an acceptable level of service for parking in the village commercial area.

Actively promote alternative forms of transportation, including marine, and insure walkability and bicycle friendliness throughout the island, especially in the Commercial Village area.

Expand and enhance bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to provide safe, convenient, and accessible transportation options for all ages and abilities.

Integrate green infrastructure and sustainable practices into transportation projects to mitigate environmental impacts and adapt to climate change.

Encourage the adoption and use of electric vehicles (EVs) and low-speed electric transportation to reduce carbon emissions and enhance local air quality.

Encourage compact, walkable, and bike-friendly development patterns in village areas and near key community destinations.

Align parking strategies with economic development goals, balancing the needs of local businesses, residents, and visitors.

Work with RIPTA and regional partners to improve bus and shuttle service frequency, reliability, and connectivity for Jamestown residents.

Support ferry services and marine transportation options, particularly connections to Newport and Providence while not increasing parking congestion in the Village.

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Natural Resources

GOAL Protect the long-term quality and sustainability of marine, freshwater, and groundwater resources.

GOAL Preserve and protect Jamestown’s unique, fragile, and scenic coastal areas to maintain econological function, mitigate climate impacts and retain the island’s natural beauty.

GOAL Maintain and enhance equitable public access to the shoreline.

GOAL Protect native vegetation and wildlife habitats across Jamestown to support biodiversity, ecological health, and climate resilience.

POLICIES

Actively consider and implement measures to protect the quality and quantity of the Island’s freshwater resources.

Protect and enhance the quality and quantity of Jamestown’s public drinking water watersheds and private well areas through protection, monitoring, and responsible land and water use practices.

Continue to assess groundwater resources, and seek funding to do so, in the rural service area of town to inform management, protection, and restoration efforts

Promote integrated water resource management by supporting innovative strategies, infrastructure, and community programs that advance water conservation, improve efficiency, reduce runoff, and protect water quality.

Implement land use, stormwater, and wastewater management practices that reduce nutrient and pollutant runoff into Jamestown’s salt marshes and coastal waters, in order to protect water quality and marine habitat health.

Develop and maintain a prioritized list of unique, fragile, and scenic coastal properties for acquisition and protection for targeted shoreline conservation efforts.

Enhance public access to coastline through stewardship of existing rights-of-way, improved infrastructure, and proactive coastal management in compliance with the 1999 and 2013 Shoreline Access and Right-of-Way Report and Inventory.

Encourage land management that provides opportunities for public waterfront access.

Manage and protect areas designated as Significant Natural Habitats by the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program and other relevant agencies, through conservation practices that maintain ecological integrity, control invasive species, and minimize human disturbance.

Give appropriate consideration to the protection of natural vegetation and habitat during all phases of development planning, review, and construction.

Encourage wildlife management for the health, safety and welfare of Jamestown residents.

Encourage the usage of native vegetation where possible.

Enhance the urban forest to support ecological health and visual character.

Proactively plan for natural hazard vulnerability including those hazards which may increase due to climate change.

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Parks/Open Space/Recreation

GOAL Preserve and manage significant conservation and open space on the Island.

GOAL Develop a comprehensive Land Acquisition Action Plan to raise funds through bonding and grants to acquire and/or protect the remaining ecologically significant undeveloped land and working farmland in Jamestown for the preservation of drinking water, coastal resources, scenic vistas, access to the shore, and open space.

GOAL Promote public awareness and community stewardship for the conservation of open space and shoreline access.

GOAL To protect and where possible increase the current acreage of working farmland, while supporting sustainable agricultural practices and agritourism consistent with Jamestown’s rural character.

GOAL Provide all residents and visitors with safe, inclusive, and accessible passive and active recreational opportunities, including enhanced shoreline and boating opportunities.

POLICIES

Investigate and apply growth management strategies that prioritize conservation of open space and limit development pressure on ecologically sensitive lands.

Promote innovative and collaborative land conservation tools, including easements and land trust partnerships.

Support public education and stewardship initiatives focused on open space, shoreline access, and ecosystem health.

Utilize preservation strategies to protect scenic views, shores, and critical habitats

Ensure long-term protection of publicly owned open spaces through active management and public access planning.

Identify and prioritize acquisition of undeveloped land that supports water protection, scenic quality, and habitat continuity.

Maintain farming as a viable economic and cultural land use through farmland preservation and community-based agriculture.

Support sustainable aquaculture as part of Jamestown’s rural economy while safeguarding water quality and marine ecosystems.

Keep public participation in community recreational programs at current high rates.

Improve and expand, where necessary, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities

Promote implementation of the 2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to enhance access to recreation and open space.