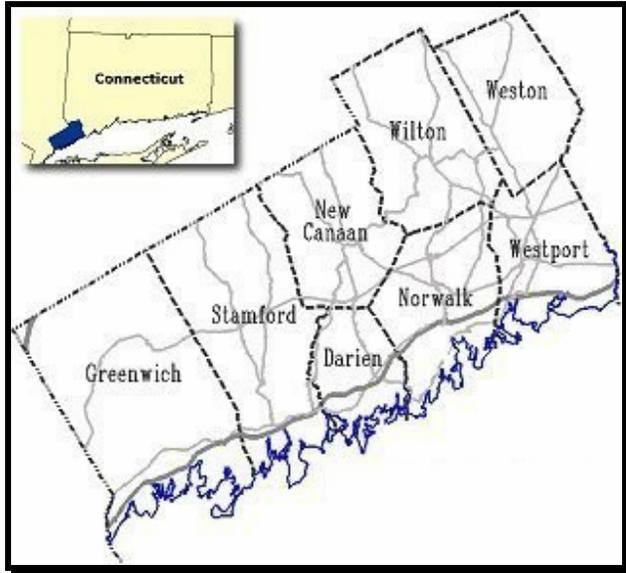


CHAPTER 5

PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT



REGIONAL ISSUES

Overview

The Town of Darien, located in Fairfield County, is part of the Southwestern Connecticut region. The Town is located between two of the largest cities in Connecticut, Norwalk and Stamford, and is bisected by I-95 and Route 1/Boston Post Road. Its location between these two major cities provides both opportunities as well as challenges.

Darien is a member of the South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA), which consists of eight towns/cities: Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. Darien shares a common interest with these communities because of: their general location within the State; impacts of I-95 and the Merritt Parkway; Route 1 (Boston Post Road); and, the Metro North Railroad. Other shared regional issues include: telecommunications, housing, and environmental protection. The latter encompasses, but is not limited to, aquifer protection; flooding and storm water control; air quality concerns due to industries in the region and transportation facilities as well as externally generated problems; protection of fresh water resources for recreation and drinking; and most importantly, Long Island Sound and the coastline (all of which are covered in further detail in the Regional Issues Appendix).

The policies listed herein reflect the necessity of working with other communities and State agencies to accomplish these goals.

This Chapter concludes with a review of this Plan's consistency with both the Regional and State Plans of Conservation & Development.

Policies

Support and coordinate the provision of public transportation (rail, bus, taxi). This may occur through a variety of regional planning mechanisms.

Encourage placement of telecommunication antennas within church steeples, flagpoles, or other inconspicuous locations throughout the community.

Encourage co-location of telecommunication antennas.

Work with SWPRA to study housing issues at a regional level.

Consider a variety of housing options within the parameters of the Darien Zoning Regulations.

Protect and enhance Long Island Sound.

Work with and lobby our State and Federal Legislators to address air quality and emission problems.

Support local, regional and State efforts to provide protection and preservation of groundwater aquifers.

Recommendations

1. Continue to work with SWRPA on increasing the attractiveness of alternative transportation including, but not limited to, car pools, van pools, and ridesharing.
2. Institute programs that require small scale storm water detention systems in new developments, and where appropriate, encourage installation of neighborhood detention systems in existing developments.
3. Work with appropriate agencies to encourage improvements to the train service, train stations, and the areas around the stations (sidewalks, lighting, etc).
4. Institute educational programs to address stormwater as part of NPDES Phase II.
5. The Town should continue to maintain strong participation in the SWRMPO (Southwestern Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization), through the First Selectman's office.
6. Continue to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the adjacent cities regarding the exit ramps on I-95.
7. Establish a traffic ombudsman, who is responsible for regional traffic issues relative to Darien.
8. Continue to encourage State representatives to work for changes in the affordable housing Statutes.
9. Work with SWRPA to establish Regional Emergency Response system.