

# HARBOR MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES\*

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This chapter contains the City of Norwalk's goals and objectives for use of Norwalk Harbor\*\* and for conservation of the Harbor's vital natural and cultural resources. These goals and objectives are directed toward achieving balance between a number of equally important public purposes, including: protection and enhancement of environmental quality and the quality of life associated with the City's location on Norwalk Harbor and Long Island Sound; provision of opportunities for water-dependent recreational activities and public access to the Harbor; continuation of water-dependent businesses and Harbor-related economic benefits to the City and region; and maintenance of the health, safety, and welfare of those who use the Harbor and waterfront.

The 13 goals and accompanying objectives should be thought of as basic guidelines for managing Norwalk Harbor; they establish a guiding framework for management decisions by the Harbor Management Commission and other City agencies with programs or authorities that directly or indirectly affect the Harbor and waterfront.

The goals and objectives provide a foundation for the more detailed harbor management policies in chapter three of the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan*; for the guidelines and water use plans in chapters four and five; and for the responsibilities and recommendations for Plan implementation in chapter six.

Goals and objectives are numbered for reference purposes, not to denote priority. The goals are summarized as Figure 2-1.

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\* This chapter includes the 2009 amendments to the City of Norwalk's harbor management goals and objectives as established in chapter two of the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan* adopted by the Norwalk Common Council in 1990 and amended by the Council in 1993. (The Plan's goals and objectives were not amended in the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan 1997 Plan Addendum* adopted by the Council in 1998.) The 2009 additions to the previously adopted and amended goals and objectives are shown in **bold type**; the 2009 deletions are shown as "~~struck-out~~."

\*\* The goals and objectives are herein established to apply to all of the waters of Norwalk Harbor as defined in Section 1-205 of the Norwalk Charter excepting the Five Mile River area.

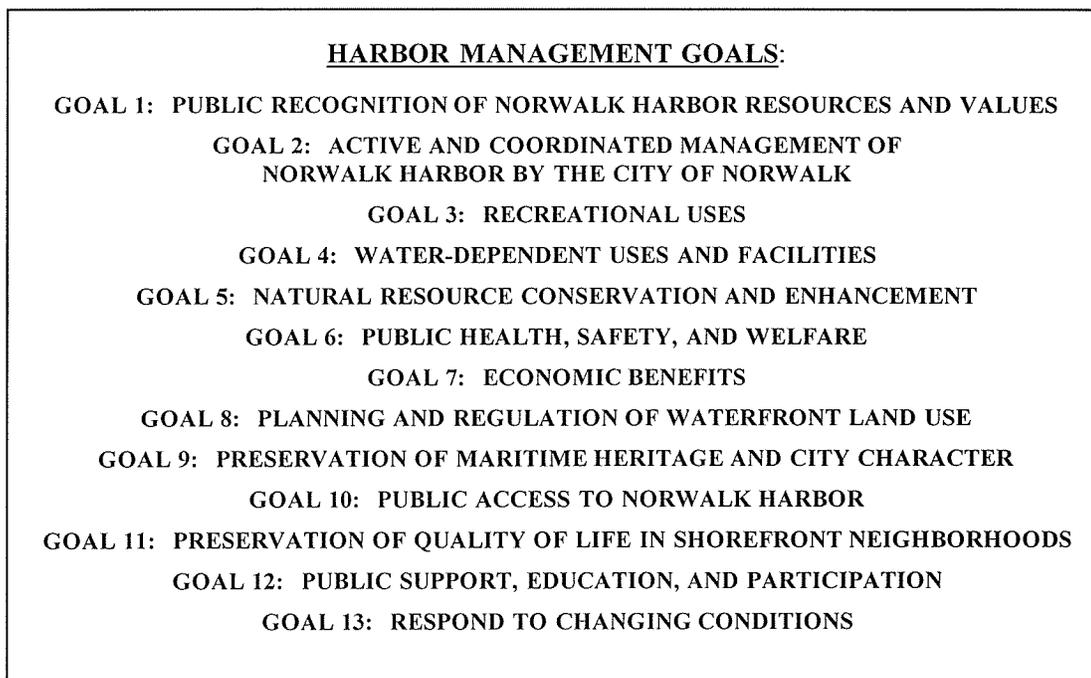


Figure 2-1: Summary of Goals for Managing Norwalk Harbor.

~~Goal 1: To establish short and long term policies, guidelines and strategies to be used by City, State and Federal agencies for guiding decisions affecting Harbor uses, activities and development.~~

**GOAL 1: PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF NORWALK HARBOR RESOURCES AND VALUES**

**Achieve widespread public recognition of the important recreational, environmental, economic, cultural, and other resources and values associated with Norwalk Harbor, and of the importance of those resources and values to the overall quality of life in the City of Norwalk.**

~~To promote public awareness of Harbor resources, and support for Harbor management activities.~~

**GOAL 2: ACTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT OF NORWALK HARBOR BY THE CITY OF NORWALK**

**Actively manage use and conservation of Norwalk Harbor in the public interest, for the benefit of all City residents and the general public. Maintain—in accordance with the intent of the Connecticut Harbor Management Act (Sections 22a-113k through 22a-113t of the Connecticut General Statutes) and Chapter 69 of the Norwalk Code—a principal role for the City of Norwalk in the planning, management, and regulation of activities on, in, or contiguous to the Harbor.**

~~Goal 2: To establish, through implementation of a Harbor Management Plan incorporating the above policies, guidelines and strategies, an increased role for the City of Norwalk in the management and regulation of Harbor area activities in coordination with State and Federal agencies.~~

OBJECTIVES:

**2.1 Implement the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan* in accordance with authority provided by the Connecticut Harbor Management Act and Chapter 69 of the Norwalk Code.**

**2.2 Adopt and/or amend City ordinances, rules, and regulations, as needed, for implementing the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan* and regulating use and development of the Norwalk Harbor and waterfront in the public interest; effectively enforce all ordinances, rules, and regulations affecting the Harbor and waterfront.**

~~To establish specific rules and regulations for implementation and enforcement of the Harbor Management Plan.~~

**2.3 Obtain and allocate funds dedicated for management and improvement of the Harbor and waterfront for the benefit of the public, consistent with the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan*.**

~~To obtain funds to be used specifically for Harbor related administration, operation and maintenance.~~

**2.4 Maintain a significant ~~To promote and support a major~~ role for the **State of Connecticut Harbor Master for Norwalk Harbor** ~~Norwalk Harbormaster~~ in the implementation and enforcement of the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan*, **subject to guidance from the Harbor Management Commission.****

**2.5 Achieve and maintain consistency and coordination among the plans and programs of all City agencies affecting the Harbor and waterfront, including the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan* and Norwalk Plan of Conservation and Development.**

**2.6 Achieve and maintain coordination with other municipalities, including municipalities with jurisdictions adjoining the Harbor and in the Norwalk River watershed, to address issues of common concern affecting the Harbor, watershed, and Long Island Sound.**

**2.7 Achieve and maintain coordination for harbor management purposes with regional, State, and Federal authorities with programs and responsibilities affecting the Harbor.**

~~To establish procedures for the most efficient and coordinated administration and management of the Harbor by City, State and Federal jurisdictions.~~

**GOAL 3: RECREATIONAL USES**

**Maintain and enhance opportunities for beneficial recreational use of the Norwalk Harbor and waterfront, consistent with the capacity of the Harbor and waterfront to support that use without significant adverse impacts on environmental quality or the public's health, safety, welfare, and enjoyment.**

~~Goal 3: To maintain a mix of recreational boating, other recreational uses, commercial/industrial activities, and fishing opportunities in the Harbor along with a mix of waterfront land uses.~~

OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1 Maintain and enhance opportunities for recreational boating and boating-related uses of the Harbor;** ~~To promote and support the~~ **continued operation,** development, enhancement, and expansion of public, private, and commercial boating facilities, **including marina, boatyard, and boat launching facilities,** consistent with public needs and environmental protection objectives.
- 3.2 Establish and maintain opportunities for nonboating recreational use of the Harbor and waterfront, including opportunities for walking, bicycling, picnicking, nature observation, land-based fishing, enjoyment of water views, special public events on waterfront sites, and other beneficial activities.**

**GOAL 4: WATER-DEPENDENT USES AND FACILITIES**

**Support and maintain a diversity of water-dependent uses and facilities that individually and collectively enhance the quality of the Norwalk Harbor and waterfront, the local and regional economy, and the quality of life in Norwalk.**

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.1 Encourage** ~~To promote and support the~~ development and continued operation of truly water-dependent land uses (including boat service facilities and commercial port **facilities activities**), as distinguished from nonwater-dependent and water-enhanced uses.

- 4.2 **Encourage** ~~To promote~~ and support the continued operation and growth of commercial finfishing and shellfishing activities.
- 4.3 **Support the continued operation and enhancement of nonboating water-dependent facilities and areas, including waterfront park and beach areas and other facilities that provide opportunities for public access to the Harbor.**
- 4.4 **Support the continued and timely maintenance of navigation structures and facilities, including but not limited to the channels and anchorages of the Norwalk Harbor Federal Navigation Project, to serve the needs of recreational and commercial vessels and to maintain the viability of water-dependent uses.**

**GOAL 5: NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT**

**Conserve and enhance the environmental quality, natural coastal resources, and ecological functions and values associated with Norwalk Harbor.**

~~Goal 4: To protect the natural environmental resources of Norwalk Harbor.~~

OBJECTIVES:

- 5.1 **Recognize that the water and other natural resources found in the Harbor are part of the Norwalk River and Long Island Sound watershed systems and that actions within those systems can have important impacts on other parts of the systems, or on the systems as a whole.**
- 5.2 **Plan and manage use and development of the Norwalk Harbor and waterfront in a manner consistent with the natural capacity of the Harbor and waterfront to support use and development in an environmentally sound manner; avoid new or expanded uses that exceed the natural capacity of the Harbor and waterfront to support those uses in an environmentally sound manner.**
- 5.3 **Properly manage, protect, and where feasible, restore natural coastal resources on, in, or contiguous to the Harbor, including surface water resources, tidal wetlands, intertidal flats, fisheries resources, shellfish resources, island resources, beaches, floodplains, and other resources; protect and enhance the ecological functions and values associated with natural coastal resources, including functions and values related to fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and floodwater storage and buffer.**

~~To ensure proper management and protection of the Harbor's natural resources, including tidal wetlands, shellfish beds, fisheries resources, intertidal flats, beaches, and other resources.~~

- 5.4 ~~To~~ Ensure proper management and protection of the Norwalk Islands, including protection of habitat resources and **management** use of the publicly owned islands for public recreation.
- 5.5 **Achieve and maintain the highest reasonably attainable quality of surface water in the Harbor.**  
~~To promote improved water quality.~~
- 5.6 **Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on coastal resources that may be caused by use and development of the Harbor and waterfront; direct future uses and development away from fragile and sensitive coastal resources.**
- 5.7 **Support the preservation and enhancement of the scenic quality associated with the Harbor and waterfront, including preservation and enhancement of scenic views.**
- 5.8 **Balance efforts to protect and enhance environmental quality with efforts to provide recreational opportunities, sustainable economic growth, and other public benefits.**

#### **GOAL 6: PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE**

**Plan for, manage, and regulate use and development of the Norwalk Harbor and waterfront to assure orderly and efficient use and to provide for the continued public health, safety, and welfare.**

~~Goal 5: To plan for and regulate use of the Harbor in a manner that assures safe, orderly and efficient use of the water and the waterfront.~~

#### OBJECTIVES:

- 6.1 ~~To~~ Prohibit unauthorized encroachments into designated **navigation** channels, anchorages, **fairways**, and **all other water areas of Norwalk Harbor.**
- 6.2 **Encourage and** ~~To~~ support the continued and timely maintenance of Norwalk's existing Federal navigation channels and anchorages, consistent with current and projected need.
- 6.3 ~~To~~ Achieve optimum use of **channel**, anchorage, fairway, and **other** navigation areas through **implementation** ~~the establishment~~ of area-specific water-use **provisions** policies and plans.
- 6.4 **Maintain navigation safety in the Harbor for visiting and resident recreational vessels, excursion boats, small nonmotorized vessels such as canoes and kayaks, commercial vessels, including tugs, barges, and commercial fishing boats, and all other vessels operating in the Harbor.**

- 6.5 Encourage and support effective enforcement of applicable City, State, and Federal laws and regulations to maintain boating safety in the Harbor.
- 6.6 Avoid or reduce potential conflicts among vessels operating in the Harbor, including conflicts between motorized and nonmotorized vessels, and conflicts between recreational and commercial vessels.
- 6.7 Provide facilities and services to support effective response to emergencies on, in, or contiguous to the Harbor, including water access facilities to accommodate emergency vessels.
- 6.8 Maintain public safety at waterfront park and beach areas, City-owned street ends, and other locations providing opportunities for access to the Harbor.
- 6.9 Reduce or avoid the potential impacts of flooding and erosion on, in, or contiguous to the Harbor.
- 6.10 Plan and manage use of the Harbor and waterfront in a manner consistent with the capacity of the Harbor and waterfront to support that use without unacceptable impacts on public health, safety, and welfare.
- 6.11 Achieve timely removal of any derelict, abandoned, or deteriorated vessels and structures from the Harbor.

#### **GOAL 7: ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

**Recognize and pursue opportunities for economic growth and community development associated with Norwalk Harbor; achieve sustainable economic growth and community development in harmony with conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.**

##### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 7.1 Support beneficial use and development of commercial waterfront areas, consistent with City goals and objectives for encouraging water-dependent uses and conserving and enhancing the environmental quality associated with the Harbor and waterfront.
- 7.2 Maintain consistency and coordination between harbor management efforts and redevelopment plans and programs affecting the Harbor.
- 7.3 Encourage and support water-based tourism activities and the associated economic, recreational, and other benefits of those activities in Norwalk.

**GOAL 8: PLANNING AND REGULATION OF WATERFRONT LAND-USE**

**Plan for and regulate waterfront land-use in a manner consistent with the capacity of the natural and man-made environment to support that use, and in coordination with planning and regulation for use of Norwalk Harbor.**

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 8.1 Recognize that waterfront land-use and development may have a significant influence on the use and condition of Norwalk Harbor, and that planning and regulation of waterfront land-use should be undertaken in coordination with planning and regulation for use of the Harbor.**
- 8.2 Effectively apply City land use policies and zoning regulations to guide the beneficial use and development of the Norwalk Harbor and waterfront, recognizing the importance of the City's coastal resources and existing water-dependent land uses.**
- 8.3 Ensure coordination between the actions of the Harbor Management Commission and the actions of other City agencies, including but not limited to the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission, for planning and regulating land use on the Norwalk Harbor waterfront; support implementation of the Norwalk Coastal Area Management Plan.**

~~To promote and support implementation of the goals, objectives and recommendations of the Norwalk Coastal Area Management Program.~~
- 8.4 Give high priority and preference to the development of water-dependent uses on land adjoining the Harbor.**
- 8.5 Recognize that the Harbor waterfront has a limited capacity (carrying capacity) to support use and development, and that this capacity is subject to change over time; avoid new or expanded uses and development on the waterfront that exceed the carrying capacity of the natural and man-made environment to support such uses and development.**
- 8.6 Carefully evaluate the potential impacts on coastal resources and public water access opportunities associated with proposals for waterfront use and development.**
- 8.7 Ensure that all work and structures on, in, or contiguous to the Harbor are properly authorized by the appropriate City, State, and/or Federal authorities.**

**GOAL 9: PRESERVATION OF MARITIME HERITAGE AND CITY CHARACTER**

**Preserve the City's existing character and maritime heritage associated with Norwalk Harbor and Long Island Sound.**

~~Goal 6: To protect and maintain the maritime heritage and character of Norwalk and utilize Harbor resources to promote and enhance community development.~~

OBJECTIVES:

- 9.1 Preserve resources with cultural significance on, in, or contiguous to the Harbor, including historic, scientific, and archaeological significance.**
- 9.2 Ensure that economic growth and development enhanced by proximity to the Harbor are consistent with City and neighborhood character and the carrying capacity of the Harbor and shoreline to accommodate that growth.**

**GOAL 10: PUBLIC ACCESS TO NORWALK HARBOR**

**Provide long-term opportunities for safe and enjoyable public access to Norwalk Harbor for active and passive recreational uses.**

~~Goal 7: To promote and support public access to Harbor waters and other resources.~~

OBJECTIVES:

- 10.1 Maintain and where feasible improve existing water access areas, including publicly owned properties and City-owned street ends, for beneficial public use.**  
  
~~To pursue opportunities for improving existing public access areas and providing new areas.~~
- 10.2 To ensure that opportunities for boat mooring, anchoring, and navigation activities within Harbor waters are available to all on a fair and equitable an equal basis, consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine and Federal requirements for use of the Norwalk Harbor Federal Navigation Project.**
- 10.3 Encourage and support To promote the provision of ample, safe, and well-maintained adequate anchorage, dockage, and related facilities for visiting transient boaters.**
- 10.4 Provide new water access areas in appropriate locations to increase opportunities for public use and enjoyment of the Harbor.**

- 10.5 Encourage and support the organization and staging of special Harbor-related events to provide recreational opportunities for the general public, attract visitors to the City and region, and contribute to achievement of the City's goals for community development and enhancement.**

~~To promote special water-related events and exhibitions designed to attract local residents and visitors and contribute to community development and enhancement efforts.~~

- 10.6 Protect the public's right of free navigation and use of the land and water resources seaward of the mean high water line, consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine and the riparian/littoral rights of waterfront property owners.**

**GOAL 11: PRESERVATION OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN SHOREFRONT NEIGHBORHOODS**

~~Goal 8: To Protect and enhance the existing quality of life in shorefront residential neighborhoods.~~

OBJECTIVES:

- 11.1 To Ensure that new waterfront development and facilities on, in, or contiguous to the Harbor do not adversely affect the character of shorefront neighborhoods.**
- 11.2 To Provide a continuing public forum for the presentation and discussion of all public concerns, including the concerns those of shore area shorefront residents, related to the quality and character of the Norwalk Harbor and shorefront neighborhoods. resources.**

**GOAL 12: PUBLIC SUPPORT, EDUCATION, AND PARTICIPATION**

**Maintain public support for implementing the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan*.**

OBJECTIVES:

- 12.1 Provide a continuing public forum for the expression and discussion of all concerns related to the use and conservation of Harbor resources and implementation of the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan*.**
- 12.2 Encourage and support special programs and events that will increase public awareness of Harbor resources and support for implementation of the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan*.**
- 12.3 Encourage and support educational and scientific uses of the Harbor.**

**GOAL 13: RESPOND TO CHANGING CONDITIONS**

**Monitor conditions on, in, or contiguous to Norwalk Harbor and consider any amendments to the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan* and supporting City ordinances that may be needed to respond to changing conditions and circumstances.**

OBJECTIVES:

- 13.1 Conduct an annual review of Harbor and shoreline conditions and of the status of implementing the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan*.**
- 13.2 Amend the *Norwalk Harbor Management Plan* as necessary in accordance with a specific procedure including requirements for the hearing of public comments and concerns.**