



Sustainable CT Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable CT Certification Report of Darien, a Sustainable CT silver certified applicant.

Darien was certified on October 01, 2025 with 660 points. Listed below is information regarding Darien's Sustainable CT efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable CT contact for Darien is:

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Title/Position:	CHAIR / ADVISORY COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Darien was approved for in 2025 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by Darien, and Sustainable CT makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the submission, beyond that an individual reviewer approved at least some elements of the action for certification. Further, standards for actions below may have changed, and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Finally, approved actions here may include some documents and descriptions in support of action elements that were not approved, in addition to elements that were approved. In preparing your own application, please rely only on the action write-ups for the current certification year to guide your submission. Please contact info@sustainablect.org with specific questions.

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

1.1 Optimize for Equity – REQUIRED for All Certification Levels

30 Points

Approved Information: 1.1.1 (30 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [ACTION 1.1 A: - WRITE-UP - EQUITY TOOLKIT APPLIED TO ACTION 4.1, UPDATED FOR 2025](#)

PDF: [1.1.B THRIVING YOUTH DARIEN YOUTH SURVEY 2023 SUMMARY.PDF](#)

WORD: [ACTION 1.1 A - EXHIBIT OPTIMIZE FOR EQUITY - AT HOME IN DARIEN NEWSLETTER EDITED.DOCX](#)

PDF: [1.1.B EQUITY TOOLKIT NARRATIVE 2025.DOCX .DOCX - GOOGLE DOCS.PDF](#)

PDF: [1.1.B. TOWN BUDGET.JPG.PDF](#)

PDF: [1.1.D SWAPSHOP.SENIORDAY.PUBLICITY.PDF](#)

PDF: [1.1.D SWAPSHOP.SENIORDAY.AHID.EMAIL.PDF](#)

PDF: [1.1.D \(2\): SURVEY CONDUCTED BY AT HOME IN DARIEN, JULY 2025](#)

PDF: [1.1.D \(3\): SURVEY RESULTS, AUGUST 2025](#)

PDF: [1.1.D \(4\): MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS, AT HOME IN DARIEN](#)

PDF: [1.1.D SWAPSHOP.SENIORDAY.WRITEUP REVISED.PDF](#)

PDF: [1.1.D \(5\): NEWSLETTER, AT HOME IN DARIEN, WINTER 2025](#)

Documentation Details: Action 1.1 a Equity Toolkit applied to Action 4.1: none of these documents require special references or guidance for the reviewers. NOTE that the write-up has been amended for 2025 only to indicate that all components of the toolkit were accomplished within the look-back period (see red text) and therefore eligible for credit in 2025. Action 1.1.b an Equity Toolkit applied to action 8.1. Documents attached are the narrative of the TYTF survey and the community event LBGTQ+ 101 that took place as a result of the survey. The LBGTQ+ webicar is also attached as well as the TYTF 2023 survey report. Action 1.1.c Equity Toolkit Mental Health Support applied to action 13.1.C. Documents attached - one set of combined exhibits relating to Darien Public Schools response to the 2022 sudden deaths in the student community (Mental Health Director hire, Mental Health Resource Listing, Hosting Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk and Fund Raiser, Anonymous Alerts App launch, Memo noting policy change); second set of combined exhibits relating to Town of Darien's QPR training program and Town's Mental Health Task Force actions; third exhibit with a summary of the community survey conducted by Thriving Youth of Darien Survey of Mental Health and two examples of Town Newsletter excerpts highlighting mental health updates and a program announcement - Inaugural Day of Hope program. 1.1 D (2): Sample survey created for At Home in Darien to distribute to the 876 members on its email list; paper copies were also placed in the Darien senior center. 1.1. D(3): A total of 70 surveys were completed: 59 via email, 11 paper copies. 1.1. D(4): At Home in Darien's monthly calendar, August 2025, lists the types of events organized for seniors. 1.1 D(5): At Home in Darien newsletter from Winter 2025. It features an article about the Swap Swap, long before this equity toolkit was assembled.

Partners: Action 1.1 a Apply Equity Toolkit to Action 4.1 was a partnership among the Darien Senior Center, At Home in Darien, the Darien Human Services Department, and the Chairman of the Housing Authority of Darien. These organizations provided inputs and guidance with respect to the need for the map and how to distribute it. They also assured dissemination of the map by newsletters and website and, finally, cooperated in the administration of the survey we used. Action 1.1.b The Equity Toolkit was a survey and event based on the results. This was made possible by the support and collaborations between the Town of Darien, Darien Human Services in conjunction with the Mental Health Task Force, Darien Public Schools, The Depot Youth Center and The Thriving Youth Task Force. Action 1.1.c The Equity Toolkit is a series of responses and actions taken by the Town as a result of sudden deaths that occurred within the community in 2022. Town of Darien partners included Darien Human Services, Mental Health Task Force, Darien Public Schools, The Depot Youth Center, The Thriving Youth Task Force and Community Partners. Action 1.1 (D): At Home in Darien was instrumental in helping to gather information from Darien seniors.

Additional Information: 1.1.a- <https://athomeindarien.org> 1.1.a. Update for 2025: the cultural assets link remains active on the At Home in Darien website; hard copies of the cultural assets map are still available in the offices of the Mather Center (senior center), the Department of Human Services, and At Home in Darien. 1.1.b - <https://www.communityfunddarien.org/thriving-youth-darien> 1.1.c - <https://darienct.gov/187/Mental-Health-Resources-Providers> 1.1.c - <https://www.darienps.org/parents/mental-health-resources>

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Products and Services

10 Points

Approved Information: 2.3.1a (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.3.1.A ATTACHMENTS](#)

PDF: [2.3.1.A INVENTORY AND PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES](#)

PDF: [2.3.2 INVENTORY AND PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES](#)

PDF: [1- 2.3.2 ATTACHMENTS GOOGLE DOCS.PDF](#)

PDF: [2- 2.3.2 ATTACHMENTS GOOGLE DOCS.PDF](#)

PDF: [LINK TO LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY TOWN WEBSITE.DOCX.PDF](#)

WORD: [2.3.2 DARIEN LOCAL SHOPPING CHAMBER INFO.L.DOCX](#)

WORD: [DARIEN SHOP LOCAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.DOCX](#)

PDF: [2.3 AN UPDATE IN 2025 TO DARIEN LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS AND WEBSITE .PDF](#)

PDF: [ARTICLE PROMOTING LOCAL APP](#)

PDF: [LINK ON TOWN WEBSITE TO DCC](#)

Documentation Details: Please see the attached photos which are still applicable as of 2025. . 2.3.1.a documents the early May 2022 roll out of the new Chamber of Commerce app. 2.3.1.a-attachments- There are multiple screen shots of the app and it's multiple pages profiling businesses in town under 4 categories (eat/shop/play/live/work.) also two examples of how the listings are laid out in the app. Note that this was in place until 2025. 2.3.2 Details the chamber of commerce social media campaigns as well as supporting documentation in documents 2.3.2 attachments 1 and 2. 2.3 Darien Local Shopping Chamber Website Info: Shop local and various programs are identified on the Darien chamber of Commerce webpage. Town web chamber link shows the link to the Chamber of Commerce website listed on our town website. Looking for a bargain in Darien is the news piece that went out when the app rolled out. Another screenshot provided in 2025. 2.3.1. New Action Credit. Inventory and Promotes local products and services.

Partners: The Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Darien Sport Shop to create and develop the app.

2.4 Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses

15 Points

Approved Information: 2.4.1 (5 points) 2.4.3 (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.4.2 BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS FLYER](#)

PDF: [2.4.1 WORKSHEET](#)

PDF: [DARIEN SHOP LOCAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.PDF](#)

PDF: [DARIEN LOCAL SHOPPING CHAMBER INFO..PDF](#)

PDF: [BUSINESS AFTER HOURS FLYER 2025.DOCX.PDF](#)

PDF: [2.4.1 TOWN OF DARIEN SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES .DOCX.PDF](#)

PDF: [TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER - INCLUDES NEW EMERGENCY SYSTEM.PDF](#)

PDF: [TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER - INCLUDES NEW EMERGENCY SYSTEM.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [LISTS OF BUSINESSES AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS ETC PARTICIPATING IN SIDEWALK SALES FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS - 3 EVENTS](#)

IMAGE: [SHOWS FIRST SELECTMEN SPEAKING AT CHAMBER ROUNDTABLE](#)

IMAGE: [ADVERTISEMENT FOR LOCAL BIZ ROUNDTABLE WITH FIRST SELECTMEN AND TOWN](#)

IMAGE: [DARIEN TOWN PROMOTES LOCAL BIZ FATHERS DAY GRAD GIFT CARDS.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [4TH OF JULY LOCAL BIZ AND DARIEN TOWN .PNG](#)

IMAGE: [DARIEN NEW CANAAN CHAMBER LOCAL BIZ BREAKFAST 2024.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [DARIEN NEW CANAAN CHAMBER LOCAL BIZ BREAKFAST 2024-2.PNG](#)

WORD: [2.4.4 WRITE UP EMERGENCY SYSTEM DARIEN .DOCX](#)

EXCEL: [STATE OF DARIEN 2025 LIST OF ATTENDEES.XLSX](#)

EXCEL: [BIZ AFTER HOURS LOCAL BIZ EVENT ATTENDEES.XLSX](#)

EXCEL: [DARIEN NEW CANAAN LOCAL BIZ EVENT ATTENDEES LIST 9-11-24.XLSX.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: The completed worksheet and promotional flyers for the events are attached. Attendees for sidewalk sales for 3 separate years are listed on one document (3 events) 2.4.1 New Action Credit. State of the Town discussion with Municipal and business leaders in the community. Programs and events: Darien Shop Local Events and Programs. These also show events building community recognition (2.4.3) (10 points) Webpage and summary: Darien Local Shopping Chamber info Municipal Support: Town of Darien Supports Local Businesses Newsletter including new emergency notification and support system on page 2: Alerts 06820

Partners: None.

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.1 Provide Watershed Education

25 Points

Approved Information: 3.1.1a (5 points) 3.1.1b (15 points) 3.1.2a (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.1.2A \(A\) SAVE THE SOUND - WATER MONITORING: ECOLOGICAL HEALTH, 2022.](#)

PDF: [3.1.2A \(C\) UNIFIED WATER STUDY: OBJECTIVES, SUMMER 2019.](#)

IMAGE: [3.1.2A \(D\) AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF SCOTT'S/ZIEGLER'S COVE \(IN WINTER\), INCLUDED IN THE STUDY.](#)

PDF: [3.1.2A \(E\) ARTICLE FROM "DARIEN NEIGHBORS" MAGAZINE, JULY 2019.](#)

PDF: [3.1.2A \(F\) "COASTAL COMMISSION WATER QUALITY SAMPLING NOW IN FULL SWING," BY WILLIAM CAVERS, DARIEN PATCH, 6/12/22](#)

PDF: [2025 UPDATE PROVIDE WATERSHED EDUCATION](#)

PDF: [3.1.2A \(B\) MINUTES FROM DARIEN'S BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING.2/27/17 \(PP. 1-2\).](#)

WORD: [ACTION 3.1.1A WATERSHED EDUCATION.DOCX](#)

PDF: [WATER QUALITY REPORT 2025](#)

WORD: [WATERSHED PRESENTATION TO DARIEN MENS ASSOC. AND LINKS SAVE THE SOUND PROJECT AND EDUCATION.DOCX](#)

WORD: [3.1 WATERSHED EDUCATION.DOCX](#)

PDF: [3.1.2.UWS.RESULTS.TOWNNEWSLETTER.2024-OCT WATER QUALITY EDUCATION AND RESULTS.PDF](#)

WORD: [WATER SIGNS DARIEN.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 3.1.2a (A): An overview of the Unified Water Study from CFE/Save the Sound's website. Note the Town of Darien listed as a participant (green star), monitoring the following water bodies: Darien Harbor, Cove Harbor, Scott Cove. 3.1.2a (B): "Presentation by William Cavers, Coastal Commission," p. 1 is an overview of the Unified Water Study; the Board unanimously approved the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters to organize and manage Darien's participation in the Save the Sound Unified Water Study. 3.1.2a (C): Explanation of how data obtained via the Unified Water Study can inform local policy. William Cavers, Chairman Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters, Summer 2019. 3.1.2a (D): the program was again expanded in 2019 to include monitoring of additional water bodies - Scott/Ziegler's Coves. 3.1.2a (E): Educational outreach on the Unified Water Study via a local magazine. Article written by William Cavers, Chairman Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters. 3.1.2a (F): Announcement that the 6th season is underway to record the water quality of Darien Harbor, Cove Harbor, and Scott/Ziegler/Fish Islands area. 3.1.1a: This one page document incorporates the links to videos of the presentations as well as the time in the presentation at which the relevant comments are made. 3.1.1a Both New Action and Rolling Credit are sought. 3.1.2a: Rolling Credit. Institute a local monitoring program related to watershed health conducted by a citizen group. Ongoing since 2017. Program reviewed by First Selectman with William Cavers, Chairman Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters (program still current and relevant) in order to sign each year's agreement and secure insurance.

Partners: 3.1.2a (community based research): Darien's participation in the Unified Water Study was initiated by and is conducted by the Chairman of the Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters, and was approved by the Darien Board of Selectmen in February 2017. Water sampling is conducted by town volunteers and results are shared with the Darien Department of Health and Darien Board of Selectmen. Several partners play a critical role in this project and include: 1) CFE/Save the Sound oversees the Unified Water Study in which approximately two dozen other municipalities in New York and Connecticut participate; it also owns the monitoring equipment used; 2) The Darien Boat Club provides the motor boat used by volunteers to monitor water quality; 3) The Darien Nature Center provides space where monitoring instruments can be calibrated and stored (note: although this arrangement still exists, during COVID-19 equipment was stored in the basement of one of the volunteers. 4) Volunteers from Darien Men's Association and the Darien Land Trust and the Library. Additional Newsletter document with educational information about water quality and our monitoring program.

Additional Information: 3.1.2a: There were 4-6 volunteers who participate in this program. High school students were encouraged to assist in the program. Most recently in July 2025 1-2 high school volunteers. The time and commitment required by this program is substantial: volunteers go out every two weeks from May through October, usually very early on a Saturday morning, and are out on the water for 3-4 hours at a time. Calibrating the equipment and entering the data requires another 2+ hours.

3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.4.4(a): Acquire new preserved open space in your community. (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.4.4\(A\) 1: DEED DOCUMENTING PURCHASE OF CRIMMINS BY DARIEN ON 04-27-2022.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [3.4.4\(A\) 3: PHOTO OF 27 CRIMMINS ROAD \(8/17/25\)](#)

IMAGE: [3.4.4\(A\) 2: PROOF OF DEMOLITION 27 CRIMMINS ROAD 8-3-2022.JPG](#)

PDF: [3.4.4\(A\) 4: DEED DOCUMENTING PURCHASE OF GREAT ISLAND BY TOWN OF DARIEN ON 5/4/23.](#)

PDF: [3.4.4\(A\) 5: "ONCE PRIVATE LAND, GREAT ISLAND OPENS AS A NEW PUBLIC PARK IN DARIEN," CT PUBLIC RADIO, 2/16/24](#)

PDF: [3.4.4\(A\) 6: TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER, 5/12/23](#)

Documentation Details: 3.4.4 (a) 1: Deed documenting purchase - Volume 1740, Page 1099 - Town of Darien acquires 27 Crimmins Road for \$630,700. 3.4.4(a) 1: Volume 1740, Page 1103 – Section 404 of the Stafford Act provides a process for a Community, through the State, to make application for funding to be used to acquire interests in property, including the purchase of structures in the floodplain, to demolish and/or remove the buildings, and to convert the land use into perpetual open space. 3.4.4(a) 1: Volume 1740, Page 1103, Item I.a. – Compatible Uses, The land shall be used only for purposes compatible with open space, recreational or wetlands management practices; in general, such uses include parks for outdoor recreational activities, nature preserves, 3.4.4(a) 2: Proof of Demolition photo of 27 Crimmins with house removed. 3.4.4(a) 3: Three years post-demolition the property remains undeveloped. 3.4.4(a) 4: Deed verifies that certain parcels, together known as Great Island, were purchased by the Town of Darien on 5/4/23 3.4.4(a) 6: Announcement by Darien's First Selectman on the town's purchase of the 60-acre parcel known as Great Island

Partners: 3.4.4(a) (acquire new open space): a FEMA grant was used to help with the purchase of a flood-prone property.

Additional Information: 3.4.4(a) This action documents the purchase of Great Island; Action 10.7.1 will document how, through a process of community engagement, accessibility and other improvements have been evaluated.

3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use

20 Points

Approved Information: 3.6.3: Pass a Drought Restriction Ordinance (20 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.6.3 A: CODE OF ORDINANCES TOWN OF DARIEN, CT, CHAPTER 34, ARTICLE II](#)

PDF: [3.6.3 B: TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER, DATED 7/21/23](#)

Documentation Details: 3.6.3 a: Darien's drought restriction ordinance resides in the town's Code of Ordinances: https://library.municode.com/ct/darien/codes/code_of_ordinances. Please refer to Article II (Water Shortages), Sections 34-21 through 34-25, which defines a water-related public emergency, how one is determined and by whom, communication with residents, restrictions that may be imposed, and enforcement. 3.6.3 b: Notice of drought advisory can be found on p.2 of this newsletter (red highlighting). This is just one example of more modern means of notifying residents of drought conditions. Other methods described below in "Additional Information."

Partners: 3.6.3: (Pass a drought restriction ordinance): None.

Additional Information: 3.6.3: This ordinance was last updated by Darien's legislative body (Representative Town Meeting) in 2002. Section 34-22, "Publication of notice of existence of water-related emergency," in particular should be amended to include current and modern means of communicating with residents. In addition to publication in the one remaining newspaper, these would include "news" on Town of Darien website, notice in the Town of Darien bi-weekly e-newsletter, town-related social media (Instagram, Facebook), and other local online news sources. Drought-related news is also discussed at Board of Selectmen meetings, which are public and recorded for airing/on-demand viewing on Darien TV79 (government and community channel).

3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

35 Points

Approved Information: 3.10.1: Municipal Management of Invasive Species (10 points) 3.10.2: Municipal Management of Invasive Species (15 points) 3.10.3: Educate Residents on Invasive Species Management (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.10.2 \(A\). MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES \(NARRATIVE\)](#)

PDF: [3.10.2 \(B\). MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES \(PPT\)](#)

PDF: [3.10.3 \(A\). EDUCATE RESIDENTS ON INVASIVE SPECIES \(NARRATIVE\)](#)

PDF: [3.10.3 \(B\). EDUCATE RESIDENTS ON INVASIVE SPECIES \(PPT\)](#)

PDF: [3.10.3A \(A\). TOWN OF DARIEEN BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION \(WEBPAGE\)](#)

PDF: [3.10.3A \(B\). DARIEEN POLLINATOR PATHWAY: INVASIVE THREATS](#)

PDF: [3.10.3A \(C\). TOWN OF DARIEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION](#)

PDF: [3.10.3B \(A\). HOW TO IDENTIFY AND REMOVE OUR AREA'S TOP INVASIVE PLANTS](#)

PDF: [3.10.3B \(B\). "PLACE INVADERS: THE ALIENS HAVE LANDED," BY JULIET CAIN AND DEEPIKA SAKSENA, DARIEEN NEIGHBORS, NOVEMBER 2019](#)

PDF: [3.10.2 \(C\). "VOLUNTEERS TO TACKLE AN "EXPLODING NUMBER" OF INVASIVE PLANTS AT CHERRY LAWN PARK," BY RAGA JUSTIN, DARIEEN TIMES, 4/14/22](#)

WORD: [3.10.3 EDUCATE RESIDENTS ON INVASIVE SPECIES - LIBRARY.DOCX](#)

WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION DARIEEN.DOCX](#)

WORD: [DARIEEN MUNICIPAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT 3.10.2.DOCX](#)

WORD: [ADDITIONAL WRITE UP FOR EDUCATION INVASIVE SPECIES DARIEEN.DOCX](#)

PDF: [3.10.2.NATIVES.2025.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 3.10.2 (C): Article in local paper (print and online) on the background of the Invasives Working Group formed by the Parks & Recreation Commission and some of the work they plan to undertake. 3.10.3a (A): Link on Town of Darien's website (Beautification Commission's webpage) to a resource on invasive species. 3.10.3a (B): Link from Town of Darien's website (Beautification Commission's webpage) to a Darien Pollinator Pathway webpage on invasive species: what they are, the CT Invasive Plant Council's List of 12 invasive plants that threaten our environment, economy, and human health (with photos), and other invasive plant resources. 3.10.3a (C): Link on Town of Darien's website (Environmental Protection Commission's webpage) to several websites on invasive species (refer to 3.10.3 (A) narrative for details). 3.10.3b (A): PowerPoint used in the Darien Library's presentation on 6/9/22, "Weeding in the Garden of Good and Evil: A Look at Invasives." It was later emailed to all participants. 3.10.3b (B): Article on invasive species in a local print magazine with a wide distribution by co-founders of the Darien Pollinator Pathway. Environmental Protection Commission Document - explains how Darien manages and implements part of the approach to invasives and natives. An additional example document is attached called 3.10.2 Natives which is an excerpt from a recent communication from the leader of our Town Environmental Protection Commission to an applicant that exemplifies how we communicate natives and invasives and require homeowners to adhere to the requirements. 3.10.3 Educate Residents on Invasive Species - Library programs examples --- 3.10.2. New Action Credit, Municipal Management of Invasive Species, Summer 2022 3.10.3. New Action Credit, Educate Residents on Invasive Species Management, Summer 2022

Partners: 3.10.2 (municipal management of invasive species): Darien Pollinator Pathway, Darien Nature Center, Darien High School (senior internship program); 3.10.3 (educate residents): Darien Library, Darien Pollinator Pathway

3.11 Implement Green Grounds and Maintenance Program

10 Points

Approved Information: 3.11.1 Complete hyperlinked inventory for properties maintained by your municipality (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [3.11.1: INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES MAINTAINED BY THE TOWN OF DARIEEN](#)

Partners: 3.11.1: None.

Additional Information: Inventories of how properties are maintained were kept separately by the Department of Public Works, the Parks & Recreation Department, and the Board of Education. The creation of the inventory across departments was inspired by Sustainable CT during the 2022 application process. The inventory was updated to include a 60-acre parcel (Great Island) purchased by the Town of Darien in May 2023.

3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways

5 Points

Approved Information: 3.12.1: Provide education to residents to improve pollinator habitat (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [3.12.1 \(A\). NARRATIVE](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.1 \(B\). EDUCATIONAL SIGN AT DARIEN TOWN HALL.](#)

PDF: [3.12.1 \(C\). MINUTES, DARIEN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, 1/20/21 \(PP. 1-2\)](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.1\(D\). DARIEN POLLINATOR PATHWAY INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.1\(E\). SCREENSHOT FROM "DARIEN RECYCLING CENTER'S" FACEBOOK PAGE.](#)

WORD: [3.12.2 \(A\).NARRATIVE.](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(B\).HABITAT HILL](#)

PDF: [3.12.2\(C\). "SUMMER POLLINATOR GARDEN AT DARIEN'S TOWN HALL THRIVING," DARIEN TIMES, 8/26/20.](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(D\). THE VETERANS' MEMORIAL CIRCLE AT TOWN HALL](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(E\). NOROTON HEIGHTS RAILROAD STATION \(SOUTHBOUND SIDE\)](#)

PDF: [3.12.2\(F\). "PARK PLANTING: PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH," BY DEEPIKA SAKSENA AND JULIET CAIN, DARIEN NEIGHBORS MAGAZINE, JUNE 2020.](#)

PDF: [3.12.2\(G\). PRESS RELEASE, ISSUED 9/20/21; ALSO POSTED UNDER "NEWS" ON TOWN WEBSITE](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(H\). SEVERAL OF THE NATIVE TREES INSTALLED AT DARIEN TOWN HALL](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(I\). NATIVE TREE PLANTING AT CHERRY LAWN PARK \(JUNE 2022\).](#)

PDF: [3.12.2\(J\). DARIEN GETS \\$92K GRANT FOR HIGHLAND FARM POLLINATOR PATHWAY," DARIEN TIMES, 11/11/20.](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(K\). PROJECT PLAN - HIGHLAND FARM](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(L\). ONE OF THE POLLINATOR GARDENS AT HIGHLAND FARM \(JULY 2022\).](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2\(M\). POLLINATOR GARDEN AT THE DARIEN LIBRARY](#)

WORD: [POLLINATORS WRITE UP.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 3.12.1 (A). Enhance pollinator pathways by increasing residents' understanding of the importance of pollinators and practices that they can adopt to help (contains several links), including also 2025: <https://dariendma.org/general-meeting-apr-92025/#:~:text=Juliet%20Cain%2C%20%E2%80%9CPollinator%20Pathways:9%2C%202025%20%E2%80%93%20Darien%20Mens%20Association> 3.12.1(B). Sign describing the native plants installed at "Habitat Hill," how they enhance pollinators' habitat and the environment. 3.12.1(C). Discussion and vote taken by the Parks & Rec Commission to enact a multi-year maintenance program at Casey Field, located at Cherry Lawn Park, solely with organic materials to determine feasibility of phasing out practice of using chemicals in other town parks. 3.12.1(D). The Darien Pollinator Pathway has a robust following on Instagram; posts frequently about the importance of pollinators, cautions residents against using pesticides and other chemicals on their lawns, encourages installation of native species, conversion of some lawn to a more natural state, etc. 3.12.1(E). One example of a multitude of posts by the Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability encouraging residents to adopt pollinator-friendly habits. Posts are generally replicated across the Committee's other social media accounts (Twitter, Instagram). 3.12.2(A). An overview of pollinator gardens/habitats on town property or established in collaboration with the town. 3.12.2(B). Photo of Habitat Hill, a pollinator garden located on either side of the staircase leading from Town Hall to the Mather Center. 3.12.2(C). Article in local paper publicizes the pollinator garden installed at Darien Town Hall. 3.12.2(D). Pollinator garden installed near the Veterans' Memorial in front of Darien Town Hall. 3.12.2(E). One of two gardens on the southbound side of the Noroton Heights Railroad Station that, as funding permits, the Beautification Commission has been transitioning to native plants. 3.12.2(F). Article in local magazine by Darien Pollinator Pathway co-chairs describes how they transformed a grassy/weedy area at Tilley Pond Park into a pollinator garden. 3.12.2(G). Press release announcing Tree Planting Day at Darien Town Hall, planned for 10/2/21; also posted on the town website under "news." 3.12.2(H). Photo taken July 2022 shows approximately 8 of the 30+ native trees that were planted at Darien Town Hall on 10/2/21. Wire cages protect trees as they are established; this lawn area of town hall is being treated with organic products only. 3.12.2(I). Screenshot from Darien Pollinator Pathway's Instagram account showing some of the many volunteers who helped plant native trees at Cherry Lawn Park on June 4, 2022. 3.12.2(J). Article in local paper announcing the award of a \$92K state grant used to install a series of pollinator gardens at the 16-acre Highland Farm. 3.12.2(K). Screenshot from the landscape architect's Highland Farm Improvement Project plans, dated 7/21/21; pollinator gardens are indicated by green arrows. Plan also shows proposed location of several native trees. 3.12.2(M). Screenshot from Darien Library's Instagram account publicizing its pollinator garden. Posting is from June 2021. -- 3.12.1, New Action Credit, Provide education to residents to improve pollinator habitat, (Summer 2021, Summer 2022) 3.12.2, New Action Credit, Create pollinator gardens. (Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Spring 2022).

Partners: 3.12.1 (provide education): Darien Library: town funds the Library's operating expenses. Darien Nature Center: located on town property. Darien Pollinator Pathway: an entity that grew out of several town organizations, including the Nature Center and Library; the DPP works closely with the Beautification Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission and staff, and the Department of Public Works. 3.12.2 (create pollinator gardens): Garden Club of Darien: provided funds for the pollinator garden (Veterans' Memorial Circle) in front of Darien Town Hall. Commuter Action Group: provided funds to help install pollinator gardens at the Noroton Heights Railroad Station (southbound side). One Tree Planted: non-profit provided two separate grants to the Darien Pollinator Pathway for planting native trees and shrubs.

Additional Information: A few times a year the Darien Pollinator Pathway also holds a native plant sale which is advertised via social media and email. Residents are able to purchase native plants at very reasonable rates and they generally sell out very quickly! This is just one more way that residents are coming to understand the importance of - and adopting - native plants. For the past few years a number of high school seniors have chosen to work with the Darien Pollinator Pathway during their "internship" month of May (four in 2021; six in 2022). These interns work full days, every day, and while they are helping to remove invasive species, plant trees and shrubs, add mulch to beds, etc., they are learning a lot - which they reportedly share with their families. This year's group enjoyed their work so much that most of them came back to help with the tree planting event at Cherry Lawn on June 4th even though the internship had ended!

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 Inventory Tourism and Cultural Assets

15 Points

Approved Information: 4.1.1 Cultural Asset Inventory (10 points) 4.1.2 Update Your Profile on CTVisit (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [CTVISIT2022.JPG](#)

PDF: [4.1.1 CT VISIT PROFILE 2022](#)

WORD: [4.1.2 NARRATIVE](#)

EXCEL: [4.1.2 TOWN WEBSITE CULTURAL ASSET LIST](#)

EXCEL: [4.1.2 SUSTAINABLE CT CULTURAL ASSET LIST](#)

WORD: [4.1.2.C WEB BASED RESOURCE- CULTURAL ASSET STORY MAP](#)

WORD: [4.1.2.D PROMOTING RESOURCES THROUGH MUNICIPAL CHANNELS](#)

WORD: [4.1.2.E MAINTENANCE PLAN](#)

IMAGE: [4.1 CT TOURISM OFFICE PLACES TO EAT.PNG](#)

EXCEL: [TOWN ASSET LIST 2025.XLSX](#)

WORD: [4.1 \(A,B, C, AND D\) ARCGIS DARIEN CULTURAL ASSET MAP .DOCX](#)

EXCEL: [4.1 TOWN CULTURAL LIST.XLSX](#)

WORD: [4.1.E MAP TOURISM AND CULTURAL ASSETS MAINTENANCE PLAN .DOCX](#)

WORD: [4.1 DARIEN 4.1.1A AND 4.2 SUBMISSION INFORMATION 2025](#)

Documentation Details: 2025: 4.1.1a: See attached spreadsheet for Darien's 2025 cultural asset inventory. The attached spreadsheet has all the required worksheet information for each asset. Please see document titled "4.1 Darien 4.1.1a and 4.2 submission information 2025" for the link to Darien's publicly available cultural asset map resource linked on the municipal site. This inventory is updated yearly. 4.1.2: See the same document mentioned above for the updated screenshot of Darien's CTVisit profile and link to the updated profile. This is a screen shot of the Darien, CT page on Visit CT website. -- 4.1.2 Rolling Credit. CT Visit website update. 4.1.2 New Action Credit, 8/18/22

Partners: Our committee worked with Jean Hebert of CTVisit website to update and implement the addition of hyperlinks to town social media portals. We also worked with Linda O'Leary from the Town of Darien to include a hyperlink to the CTVisit website. Our committee worked with Summer Mitchell with sustainability CT to train new Darien Sustainability committee members.

Additional Information: Hyperlink to Darien CTVISIT Page: <http://www.ctvisit.com/listings/town-darien> Hyperlink to CTVisit on Town Website: <http://www.darienct.gov/about-darien-ct> Hyperlink to Darien social media platforms: <http://www.ctvisit.com/listings/town-darien> We established a hyperlink to the Town of Darien Website to the CTVisit website and included social media outlets and link in the CTVisit platform.

4.2 Support Arts and Creative Culture

30 Points

Approved Information: 4.2.2: Include arts and culture in publicly available municipal marketing (5 points) 4.2.3: Commit dedicated funding to the arts (10 points) 4.2.10 Option 1: Support arts and cultural activities offered at the local libraries (5 points) 4.2.13: Other initiative supporting arts and creative culture in your municipality not listed above (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [4.2.2 SUPPORT ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE 2022](#)

PDF: [4.2.10 SUPPORT ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE 2022](#)

PDF: [4.2.3 MUNICIPAL FUNDING FOR THE ARTS 2022](#)

PDF: [4.2.2 SENIOR CENTER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 22](#)

PDF: [4.2.10 LIBRARY EVENTS JUNE JULY 22](#)

PDF: [4.2.2 SENIOR CENTER NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022](#)

PDF: [4.2.2 SENIOR CENTER NEWSLETTER JULY 2022](#)

PDF: [4.2.3 LIBRARY BUDGET 2024-2025.PDF](#)

PDF: [4.2.3 SENIOR CENTER BUDGET.PDF](#)

PDF: [4.2.3 SUMMER PROGRAMS AND YOUTH SERVICES BUDGET 2024-2025.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [4.2.2 TOWN CULTURAL LIST.XLSX](#)

WORD: [4.2.2 SUPPORT ART AND CREATIVE CULTURE OVERVIEW.DOCX](#)

PDF: [4.2.13: OTHER INITIATIVE SUPPORTING ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE \(NARRATIVE\)](#)

Documentation Details: 4.2.3: Document "4.2.3 Municipal Funding for the Arts Write-Up" is an explanation of how the town funds arts and culture through their funding of the Senior Center. Documents "4.2.2 Senior Center Newsletter June 2022" , "4.2.2 Senior Center Newsletter July 2022", and "4.2.2 Senior Center Newsletter August 2022" are examples of the art and culture programs offered by the Senior Center. -- 4.2 Rolling Credit. Support Arts and Creative Culture. Continued Programming, Submitted 8/18/2022 by Christine LaJaunie

Partners: 2025: 4.2.2 and 4.2.3. The town works with the Mathers Senior Center, Park and Rec, and Library for funding and art and culture programs for Darien residents of all ages. See attached documents for more detail.

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.1 Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development

30 Points

Approved Information: 5.1.1a Include at least four Hazard Mitigation Plan goals (5 points) 5.1.1b Incorporate at least three sustainability concepts + one bonus (25 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [5.1 PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.PDF](#)

PDF: [5.1.A WORKSHEET 1 - 2022.PDF](#)

PDF: [5.1.B WORKSHEET 2 - 2022 UPDATED.PDF](#)

PDF: [5.1.B. SEWER COMMISSION AGENDAS MARCH THROUGH JULY 2022.PDF](#)

PDF: [5.1.B. ZONING TEXT AND MAP AMENDMENTS 2019-2022.PDF](#)

PDF: [5.1.B. RTM MINUTES 06-27-22 ON GREAT ISLAND.PDF](#)

PDF: [5.1.B. SSES REPORT FINAL 3.24.22 COVER AND TOC.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 5.1 PDF of Plan of Conservation and Development 5.1.a. Worksheet 1 indicating how at least TWO Hazard Mitigation Plan goals were incorporated into the POCD. Note BOLD sections indicating confirmation of floodplain mapping and reducing hazards in floodplains. 5.1.b. Worksheet 2 indicating how FOUR sustainability concepts were incorporated into the POCD. Worksheet 2 is entirely different than the prior application and includes 'In Action' examples of how the town has been implementing those four sustainable concepts from the POCD. 5.1.b. Sewer Commission agendas from March through July of 2022 indicating recent action on sustainable concepts from the POCD as discussed in Worksheet 2. 5.1.b. SSES Report cover page and table of contents from March 2022 indicating recent action on sustainable concepts from the POCD as discussed in Worksheet 2. 5.1.b. RTM Minutes from June 2-22 regarding the purchase of Great Island indicating recent action on sustainable concepts from the POCD as discussed in Worksheet 2. 5.1.b. Zoning Map and Zoning Regulation Amendments from 2019 through 2022 indicating recent action on sustainable concepts from the POCD as discussed in Worksheet 2. -- Rolling Credit: The original POCD was adopted in 2016 and as is typical in most Connecticut municipalities, it is only updated once every ten years. However, Worksheet 1 notes two items in BOLD that have been reviewed or acted upon this year. Worksheet 2 is entirely different than it was when our 2019 actions were submitted. A current and updated Worksheet 2 is provided for 2022 including 'In Action' examples of how the town has implemented sustainable concepts from the POCD.

Partners: Planning & Zoning Commission Town Planner

Additional Information: Actions 5.1.a and 5.1.b, submitted in 2022, are still current and relevant to the town. Note that the Town of Darien is in the process of updating the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), to be adopted in 2026. The process for how the POCD is being updated can be found on this designated website: <https://darienpocd.com>

5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

20 Points

Approved Information: Action- 5.5.1 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources-10 points Action 5.5.2 Access the Viability of an Historic asset - 10 points

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [DARIEN PLAN OF CONSERVATION PART 1](#)

PDF: [DARIEN PLAN OF CONSERVATION PART 2](#)

PDF: [DARIEN PLAN OF CONSERVATION PART 3](#)

PDF: [MATHER HOMESTEAD REPORT](#)

PDF: [DARIEN-POCD-TOWN-WIDE-SURVEY-RESULTS-06-11-2025.PDF](#)

PDF: [2025-5.5.1 HISTORIC ASSETS- PROPERTIES - GOOGLE SHEETS.PDF](#)

PDF: [2025- 5.5 COVER SHEET DARIEN, CT 2025 SUSTAINABLE CT CERTIFICATION.PDF](#)

PDF: [2025-5.5.1 HISTORIC ASSETS- TREES AND STONE WALLS - GOOGLE SHEETS.PDF](#)

PDF: [2025-5.5.1 LAND TRUST PROPERTIES - GOOGLE DOCS.PDF](#)

PDF: [2025-5.5.1 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES - GOOGLE SHEETS.PDF](#)

PDF: [2025-5.5.2 HISTORICAL ASSETS MATHER VIABILITY WORKSHEETS - GOOGLE SHEETS.PDF](#)

PDF: [2025-5.5.2 HISTORICAL ASSETS BATES-SCOFIELD HOMESTEAD VIABILITY WORKSHEETS - GOOGLE SHEETS.PDF](#)

PDF: [20250116--GREAT-ISLAND--ARCHITECTURAL-REPORT--KNIGHT-ARCHITECTURE_REDUCED.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: Darien 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development, specifically pages 1-3, 33-43, 47-57 are relevant. It is split into 3 parts. 5.5.1: New Action Credit. Inventory Historical Areas. August 2022 5.5.2 Rolling Action Credit from 2016 POCD. Reviewed by Carolyn Bayne (Darien Environmental Protection Commissioner). August 2022.

Partners: 5.5.1 The Museum of Darien was partnered with in securing some of the details on the properties. We partnered with The Mather Homestead to complete 5.5.2.

Additional Information: Great Island was purchased in May 2023. Darien's purchase of this property is a monumental addition to public space in Darien, increasing the town's publicly accessible waterfront property by 50% and overall greenspace by 11%. A beautiful landscape with several historic buildings and roughly one and a half miles of coastline, Great Island is a tremendous opportunity for the community to experience the water and the Long Island Sound.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.2 Promote Effective Parking Management

20 Points

Approved Information: 6.2.2.b. Implement Regulatory Parking Management Strategies (20 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [REGULATION AMENDMENT 1-2019.PDF](#)

PDF: [REGULATION AMENDMENT 3-2021.PDF](#)

PDF: [REGULATION AMENDMENT 5-2024.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 6.2.2.b. Regulation Amendment 1-2019 resulted in a reduction of required parking by 25% for "retail, commercial sales and services, or personal service businesses" from 1 space for each 150sf of floor area to 1 space for each 200sf of floor area; and the creation of a Quick-Service Restaurant category that effectively reduced the parking requirement for that category by a third from 1 space for each 100sf of floor area to 1 space for each 150sf of floor area. 6.2.2.b. Regulation Amendment 3-2021 resulted in a reduction of required parking for multi-family residential dwellings from 2.5 spaces for each dwelling unit regardless of size or type to 1 space for studios, 1.5 spaces for one-bedroom apartments, and 2 spaces for two-bedroom apartments. The adoption of the regulations above reduced the amount of required parking for several uses which results in smaller parking lots and less asphalt and less impervious surface. 6.2.2.b. New Action Credit. Amendment 1-2019 was adopted in July of 2019. Amendment 3-2021 was adopted in July of 2021. 6.2.2.b. Amendment to Section 795 of the Darien Zoning Regulations to permit the parking of up to ten (10) Darien Board of Education transporters up to the size of Type II, 28-passenger school buses resulted in renting space (at a designed office zone) to continue Darien Public Schools ability to serve all students and to maintain its excellent status in Education. This is in alignment with page 144 of the Town Plan which speaks to enhance the bus transit service within Darien. The related Special Permit Application #84B to allow the parking of five (5) Type II, 28-passenger school buses and two (2) wheelchair vans as part of Board of Education special education transportation resulted in insourcing all special education transportation for the District. -- 6.2.2.b. Amendment to Darien Zoning Regulations (COZR#2-2024) and Special Permit Application #84B adopted on May 7, 2024.

Partners: Planning and Zoning

Additional Information: 6.2.2.b Darien previously reduced the required size of a parking stall by 10% from 9'X20' to 9'X18' in October of 2017; and has had a Joint Parking reduction regulation for mixed-used developments since 2016.

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

5 Points

Approved Information: 6.4.2 Have at least one municipal elected official and/or staff member and/or member of a relevant commission participate in a training related to electrification of municipal vehicles. (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [6.4.2 ZERO EMISSION DEPLOYMENT ATTENDANCE DETAILS.DOCX](#)

PDF: [6.4.2 EV POLICE FLEET PANEL FLYER- JUNE 29.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: Each document is a single page, self explanatory Training occurred within the look-back period of three years (June 29, 2022) and is therefore eligible for the requested number of points..

Partners: Panel participants

Additional Information: This was the first exposure to the availability of EV police vehicles to the staff here in Darien. One attendee remarked "It was helpful, providing our town with a contact in Connecticut and a better understanding of the application of EVs in municipal fleets and police departments such as fly cars or staff inspection vehicles."

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.3 Achieve High Energy Performance for Individual Buildings

20 Points

Approved Information: 7.3.1 Achieve ENERGY STAR certification for municipal buildings (20 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.3.1: REGISTRY OF ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED BUILDINGS](#)

Documentation Details: 7.3.1: The Town of Darien owns four (4) buildings that earned ENERGY STAR certification in 2022: Middlesex Middle School, Holmes Elementary School, Royle School, Darien Town Hall. Link: https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/certified_buildings_and_plants.

Partners: 7.3.1 (Achieve high energy performance for individual buildings): Dr. Amy Thompson, Associate Director, UConn Institute for Advanced System's Engineering; Operations Director, UConn DOE IAC; Director, Smart Buildings CT. Dr. Thompson and her team: - evaluated the Town of Darien's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and identified four (4) buildings eligible for ENERGY STAR Certification; - generated and completed ENERGY STAR Application for Certification for the four (4) buildings; - coordinated process by which Darien's buildings were verified by a licensed professional; - forwarded the verified applications to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for certification. 7.3.1 (Achieve high energy performance for individual buildings): Sustainable CT program provided for licensed professional to verify applications; 7.3.1 (Achieve high energy performance for individual buildings): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR program awarded certification.

Additional Information: ENERGY STAR certification was awarded in August 2022 and therefore eligible for 5 points per building.

7.9 Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program

25 Points

Approved Information: 7.9.1: Pass a municipal resolution to opt-in to C-PACE, sign a legal agreement with C-PACE, and post a link to information about C-PACE on your municipality's website (20 points). 7.9.3: Earn credit for C-PACE projects approved by the Green Bank for commercial and industrial buildings undertaking clean energy improvements on their property (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.9.1A. RTM MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2014](#)

PDF: [7.9.1B. C-PACE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY DARIEN'S FIRST SELECTMAN, FEBRUARY 28, 2014.](#)

IMAGE: [7.9.3: C-PACE PROJECTS IN DARIEN, CT PROVIDED BY SUSTAINABLE CT](#)

PDF: [7.9.1C: LINK TO CT GREEN BANK ON TOWN WEBSITE](#)

Documentation Details: 7.9.1a. Resolution passed by Darien's legislative body (RTM) authorizing participation in C-PACE is found on p.2. 7.9.1b. Signed agreement between Darien, CT and the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority; signatures found on p. 10. 7.9.1c. For information relating to C-PACE, a link to the CT Green Bank is found on the Building Department's webpage. Link included in "Comments" below. 7.9.3. Data provided by Sustainable CT indicate that one C-PACE project was approved by the CT Green Bank and completed during the look-back period (since 1/1/22).

Partners: 7.9.3 (C-PACE projects); the CT Green Bank processed applications and approved funding for eligible projects.

Additional Information: Darien Building Department webpage with C-PACE description and link: <https://www.darienct.gov/157/Building-Department>

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

20 Points

Approved Information: 8.1: Hold a sustainability event (20 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [8.1: COMPLETED TEMPLATE](#)

Documentation Details: 8.1: Self-explanatory.

Partners: 8.1 (sustainability events): there are several partners, and they vary by event. Please refer to completed spreadsheet.

Additional Information: This is a sampling of sustainable events held in Darien since 1/01/22.

8.2 Provide Effective Community Communications

15 Points

Approved Information: 8.2.1 (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [8.2.1A.1 COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION.DOCX](#)

PDF: [8.2.1A.2 TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER, FIRST SELECTMAN EDITION - BIWEEKLY.PDF](#)

WORD: [8.2.1A.5 WORKSHEET.DOCX](#)

WORD: [8.2.1A.4 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY NARRATIVE.DOCX](#)

PDF: [8.2.1A.6 DARIEN TV79 PROGRAM GUIDE 8-8-25.PDF](#)

PDF: [8.2.1A.6 DARIEN TV79 PROGRAM GUIDE 8-8-25.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [8.2.1A.3 MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS CONTENT 2025.XLSX](#)

WORD: [8.2.1B IMPLEMENTATION NARRATIVE.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 8.2 New Action credit for communication strategy

Partners: None

Additional Information: The position of Media Relations Manager was defined and approved in late 2021 and filled in early 2022. The role of the MRM is to develop and administer a program fostering public understanding of the Town's goals, policies, programs and services by creating and enabling accurate, clear and concise communication between the Town and both the news media and the general public. An inventory of town communications channels and a plan to disseminate information through multiple platforms has been established and is ongoing.

8.7 Engage with Youth on Community Sustainability

10 Points

Approved Information: 8.7.1 (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [8.7.1 B: "DARIEN TESTS OUT NEW TOWN FLAG DESIGNED BY DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR," MOLLIE HARSH, CT INSIDER, 5/15/25](#)

PDF: [8.7.1 C: DARIEN OFFICIALLY CHANGES ITS TOWN FLAG WITH A NEW DESIGN BY LOCAL TEEN," MOLLIE HARSH, DARIEN TIMES, 7/10/25](#)

IMAGE: [8.7.1 D: TOP 3 FLAG DESIGNS](#)

PDF: [8.7.1 E: ARTICLE: "DARIEN STUDENT LEADS EFFORT TO REMOVE MYLAR BALLOONS FROM EVENTS," RICHARD KAUFMAN, DARIEN PATCH, 5/1/25](#)

PDF: [8.7.1 F: TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER, 6/6/25](#)

PDF: [8.7.1 A: COMPLETED WORKSHEET 1](#)

Documentation Details: Most documents are self-explanatory. 8.7.1 f: The piece entitled "Protecting and Preserving Nature" can be found on p. 10 (see red arrows).

Partners: None.

Additional Information: The student (Harris C.) has expressed that this experience was transformative for him in several ways including elevating his understanding of municipal government, the importance of listening to others, and the need for compromise.

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.3 Recycle Additional Materials

40 Points

Approved Information: 9.3.1 (40 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [9.3.1 G: RECYCLING CENTER PAGE, TOWN OF DARIEN WEBSITE](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 E: LETTER OF AGREEMENT FROM SCOTT LOGAN, CURIE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, TO DARREN OUSTAFINE, DARIEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS \(DATED JANUARY 30, 2017\)](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 I: BROCHURE: "WHAT AND HOW TO RECYCLE AT THE DARIEN RECYCLING CENTER"](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 H: DARIEN RECYCLING AND REFUSE CENTER SITE MAP](#)

IMAGE: [9.3.1 B: SCREENSHOT: BYE BYE MATTRESS WEBSITE LISTING "TOWN OF DARIEN TRANSFER STATION"](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 F: FY25 ANNUAL MUNICIPAL RECYCLING REPORT FROM DARREN OUSTAFINE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TO MS. PAULA GUERRERA, CT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION \(DATED 7/15/25\)](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 A: COMPLETED WORKSHEET 1](#)

IMAGE: [9.3.1 C: SCREENSHOT: USAGAIN WEBSITE SHOWING DARIEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS \(TOWN OF DARIEN\) AS A DROPBOX LOCATION](#)

IMAGE: [9.3.1 D: SCREENSHOT: PAINTCARE WEBSITE SHOWING DARIEN TRANSFER STATION AS A COLLECTION SITE](#)

Documentation Details: 9.3.1 a: Lists four non-mandated materials that can be recycled in Darien; includes evidence of implementation and outreach to residents. Note that hyperlinks for Bye Bye Mattress and PaintCare require that the zip code, 06820, be entered to see Darien as a drop off location. 9.3.1 e: Attached to Letter of Agreement is a description of the Curie Pack ionizing smoke detector mail-back kits. 9.3.1 f: Report filed with CT DEEP by Darien DPW for FY25: non-mandated materials collected and recycled are highlighted with red arrows. 9.3.1 g: Press releases announcing recycling programs for mattresses, paint, and smoke detectors (see red arrows). Website link: <https://www.darienct.gov/287/Recycling-Center>. 9.3.1 h: Recycling Center site map shows locations of all recyclables, including the 4 non-mandated ones discussed here (see red highlighting). This document is posted on the town website: <https://www.darienct.gov/287/Recycling-Center> and is frequently shared on social media to remind residents of all materials that can be recycled and where to find the drop-offs. 9.3.1 i: This document is mailed to residents with all new or renewed annual permits and lists everything that can be recycled at the Darien Recycling Center (the 4 non-mandated materials are highlighted in red). Copies are also available at the counter of the Public Works Office, and it is also posted on the town's website: <https://www.darienct.gov/287/Recycling-Center>.

Partners: 9.3.1 (recycle additional materials): The Town of Darien has partnered with the following non-profits and businesses to offer recycling of non-mandated materials to its residents: 1) Bye Bye Mattress/Mattress Recycling Council - hauling subcontracted to Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling (no charge - extended producer responsibility); 2) PaintCare - subcontracts hauling and recycling to Clean Harbors of CT, Inc. (no charge - extended producer responsibility); 3) USagain (town is paid a fee per ton of textiles); 4) Curie Environmental Services (town pays a fee per container filled)

Additional Information: Outreach to residents extends beyond the brochure included with new/renewed Recycling Center permits and information posted on the town website. Social media (Instagram and Facebook) posts by "Darien Recycling Center" frequently focuses on various aspects of recycling, including the non-mandated materials in this action submission. These posts are often reposted and/or shared by the town's media manager: Darien Recycling Center: <https://www.instagram.com/darienrecyclingcenter/> Darien Recycling Center: https://www.facebook.com/DarienRecyclingCenter/?notif_id=1754473449122285¬if_t=page_user_activity&ref=notif

9.4 Compost Organic Waste

15 Points

Approved Information: 9.4.1 (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [9.4.1.A: TOWN OF DARIEN RECYCLING & REFUSE CENTER INFORMATION BROCHURE \(2025\)](#)

PDF: [9.4.1.B:: TOWN OF DARIEN WEBSITE: RECYCLING CENTER](#)

PDF: [9.4.1.C: TOWN OF DARIEN FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING GUIDE](#)

PDF: [9.4.1 D: FY ANNUAL MUNICIPAL RECYCLING REPORT, DATED 7/15/25](#)

Documentation Details: 9.4.1.a: Food scraps are listed under "Recycle these materials at the Darien Recycling & Refuse Center" (see red arrow). This brochure (updated for 2025) is included with every new and renewed permit for the Darien Recycling Center. Copies are also available in the Department of Public Works office. 9.4.1.b: Contains a link to an online brochure with information relating to the food scrap program. <https://www.darienct.gov/287/Recycling-Center> 9.4.1.c: Brochure that explains how the town's drop-off food scrap program works, why it's important to divert food from the waste stream, etc. This brochure is included with every food scrap kit sold, is available in the Department of Public Works office, and is available on the town's website. 9.4.1.d: Tonnage of food scraps diverted for FY25 can be found on p.2 of this report submitted by Darren Oustafine, Assistant Director of Public Works, to Paula Guerrero at the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection: Tonnage reported: 52.88 tons.

Partners: 9.4.1: Darien's food scrap program was piloted in October 2018 after the town was awarded an Innovation Grant (\$8,460) from Recycle CT. Darien also received lots of advice and support (sourcing of materials, templates, etc.) from members of the Sustainability Committee in Scarsdale, NY.

Additional Information: The food scrap program is widely publicized on town social media: Darien Recycling Center Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DarienRecyclingCenter> Darien Recycling Center Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/darienrecyclingcenter/>

9.5 Promote Waste Reduction and Reuse

30 Points

Approved Information: 9.5.2 (5 points) 9.5.3 (10 points) 9.5.4 (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [9.5.2 B: MINUTES, DARIEN REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2023](#)

PDF: [9.5.2 C: WEBPAGE, DARIEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: RECYCLING CENTER](#)

PDF: [9.5.2 D: "WHAT AN HOW TO RECYCLE AT THE DARIEN RECYCLING CENTER"](#)

PDF: [9.5.2 A: SPONSOR OR HOST AN OUTREACH PROGRAM TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS ON WASTE CONTAMINATION \(NARRATIVE\)](#)

PDF: [9.5.3 A: COMPLETED WORKSHEET 1](#)

PDF: [9.5.3 B: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION \(FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM CAMPAIGN\)](#)

PDF: [9.5.4: WASTE REDUCTION INITIATIVE: THE DARIEN SWAP SHOP](#)

WORD: [9.5.4 SWAP SHOP INSTAGRAM.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 9.5.2 b: The presentation by the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Sustainability is referenced on p 2; 9.5.2 c: The town's website provides links for Recycle CT's recycling guide and an educational brochure included with all new/renewed permits for the Recycling Center. Website link: darienct.gov; click on Town Services, Department of Public Works, Recycling Center. 9.5.2 d: This trifold brochure lists all recycling opportunities at the Darien Recycling Center as well as what is accepted in single stream recycling and what is not. It is distributed along with new/renewed annual permits to the Recycling Center and is on the town website. The updated version for 2025 (as represented in the narrative) will soon replace this one on the town website.

Partners: 9.5.3: Darien Library, Darien Nature Center, Whole Foods (Darien)

Additional Information: 9.5.4: The Darien Senior Center also operates a small woodshed where, for a nominal fee, volunteers will repair small wood items (chairs, tables, etc.). Link here: <https://www.darienct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3803/DSP-Brochure-2024>

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.4.1 (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [10.4A: DEVELOP AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY GROWING SPACES \(NARRATIVE\)](#)

PDF: [10.4B: TOWN OF DARIEN WEBSITE: CHERRY LAWN COMMUNITY GARDENS](#)

PDF: [10.4C: TOWN OF DARIEN WEBSITE: DARIEN CULTURAL ASSETS MAP](#)

PDF: [10.4D: DARIEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEBSITE: COMMUNITY RESOURCES](#)

PDF: [10.4E: DARIEN MAGAZINE CT: "ROOTED IN PLACE," 7/17/24](#)

PDF: [10.4G: TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER, 6/20/25](#)

IMAGE: [10.4F. SCHEMATIC OF CHERRY LAWN COMMUNITY GARDENS](#)

Documentation Details: 10.4b: The Cherry Lawn Community Gardens webpage is found on the Town website: www.darienct.gov (click on "Departments & Services," "Parks and Recreation," "Beaches and Parks," "Cherry Lawn Park"). The webpage gives a full description of the program. 10.4c: The Darien Cultural Assets Map is found on the town website: www.darienct.gov (click on "Living Here," "About Darien," "Cultural Assets") 10.4.d. Mention of the community garden is found on the Chamber's website: www.darienctchamber.com (click on "Darien Resources," "Community Resources") 10.4f. Schematic posted at Cherry Lawn Community Gardens shows the location of all plots, location of shed, etc.. This was posted in 2018 but is still current. 10.4g: Publicity about Cherry Lawn Community Gardens' 50th anniversary celebration is found on p.2 (see red arrow)

Partners: 10.4 (promote community growing spaces): Cherry Lawn Community Gardens was established by the Darien Community Association Garden Club in the early 1970's, but is now self-administered by the Cherry Lawn Garden Coordinating Committee (members listed in document 10.4.b, above). Cherry Lawn Community Gardens is located on municipal property at Cherry Lawn Park. The program is co-sponsored by the Darien Parks & Recreation Department, which helps with maintenance, program promotion, and conducts annual mailings for renewals.

Additional Information: The Darien Library also promotes gardening through its seed library, established in 2017, and through its many programs/workshops with experts on various gardening topics. The seed library provides a variety of free seeds (vegetables, herbs, flowers), enjoyed by hundreds of people each year.

10.5 Support Equitable Food Access and Local Farmers

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.5.2 (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [10.5.1B: DARIEN FARMERS' MARKET WEBSITE](#)

PDF: [10.5.1C: DARIEN HEALTH DEPARTMENT "TEMPORARY EVENT FOOD SERVICE PERMIT APPLICATION PACKET"](#)

PDF: [10.5.1D: DARIEN HEALTH DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE](#)

IMAGE: [10.5.1F: TOWN OF DARIEN PUBLICITY FOR 2025 DARIEN FARMERS' MARKET \(INSTAGRAM\)](#)

PDF: [10.5.1A: DARIEN FARMERS' MARKET \(NARRATIVE\)](#)

PDF: [10.5.1G: TOWN OF DARIEN PUBLICITY FOR 2025 DARIEN FARMERS' MARKET \(TOWN NEWSLETTER: JUNE 6, 2025\)](#)

PDF: [10.5.2B: DARIEN SENIOR PROGRAM'S "HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS" NEWSLETTER \(AUGUST 2024\)](#)

PDF: [10.5.1E: TOWN OF DARIEN HUMAN SERVICES WEBPAGE, "PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS"](#)

PDF: [10.5.2A: CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEBPAGE LISTING OF FARMERS' MARKETS BY TOWN \(LAST UPDATED 6/3/25\)](#)

IMAGE: [10.5.2C: CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2025 S/FMNP MAP](#)

Documentation Details: 10.5.1a: Overview of Darien Farmers' Market 10.5.1b: Darien Farmers' Market website 10.5.1c: Darien Health Dept. form for permitting food vendors 10.5.1d: Darien Health Dept. fee schedule for permitting food vendors 10.5.1e: Darien Human Services Dept. processes FMNP vouchers to eligible seniors 10.5.1f & 10.5.1g: Town publicity for Darien Farmers' Market 10.5.2a: As listed by the CT Dept. of Agriculture, benefits accepted by the 2025 Darien Farmers' Market include S/FMNP. Website listed below in "Additional Comments" 10.5.2b: Darien Senior Center newsletter entry publicizes SFMNP vouchers. This newsletter is from 2024 but program is current for 2025 as seen on Darien Human Services website (10.5.1e) and on CT Dept. of Agriculture website (10.5.2a and c). 10.5.2c: Screenshot from the current CT Dept. of Agriculture website showing Darien on the 2025 S/FMNP map.

Partners: 10.5.2a: the vouchers for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program are funded through the CT Department of Agriculture. Program description here: <https://portal.ct.gov/doag/adarc/adarc/farmers-market-nutrition-program>

Additional Information: 10.5.2a: CT Dept. of Agriculture listing of 2025 Farmers' Markets that accept S/FMNP vouchers found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/doag/adarc/farmers-markets/2025/farmers-markets-list-updated-june-10-2025.pdf?rev=231e0aa252454f6da393fa8cbb9285aa&hash=F1089D11F98371371E76A380EC76A8C0>

10.7 Improve Outdoor Access for All

40 Points

Approved Information: 10.7.1 (10 points) 10.7.2 (30 points) 10.7.1 Great Island Access (20 Points) The Town purchased Great Island, a 60-acre waterfront property, from a private owner on May 5, 2023. This acquisition marked a significant conservation effort by the Town to protect the island from development and add open space for the residents. The Town plans to develop Great Island into a public space with a focus on ecological sustainability, community engagement, and recreational opportunities. The vision includes: - Creating trails for strolling and riding, allowing visitors to enjoy the natural landscape and wildlife such as bald eagles. - Preserving the island's historical significance and natural environment while providing access to the water. - Developing amenities that support passive recreation like walking, nature observation, and mental health benefits. - Implementing infrastructure improvements including widened access roads, parking areas, signage, and sanitary facilities to accommodate visitors safely. - Exploring sustainable funding through leasing arrangements, user fees, or public-private partnerships to maintain operations long-term. The design principles for the Master Plan are derived from the priorities, goals and design intentions and formulated to: - Bring people to Great Island - Preserve character and diversity of existing landscape zones - Prioritize pedestrian experience - Connect people to the coast - Preserve historic fabric of architectural significance - Concentrate activation to reduce impact - Minimize presence of automobiles - Create spaces for community events and gatherings to activate Great Island To date, four community engagement workshops led by a consultant, Reed Hilderbrand, have been held for the Great Island Vision and Master Plan on September 21, 2024, November 16, 2024, March 1, 2025, and May 17, 2025, to collect public input and promote engagement. Two community surveys were also conducted to collect input from Town residents. As a result, two documents - Vision Plan and Master Plan have been developed as of July 2025. The next step involves design and construction. 10.7.2A Cherry Lawn Park Renovation (10 Points) The Town of Darien, Parks and Recreation Department, with support from the Playground Advisory Group, undertook a major renovation of Cherry Lawn Park in 2024. Cherry Lawn Park covers 27.5 acres off Brookside Road. The park offers a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities. There are 3 tennis courts, 4 pickleball courts (plus 2 courts lined for pickleball on the tennis courts), a basketball court, community gardens, a playground area, a natural pond, gazebo, walking trails, a multi-use field (Casey Field), a softball field, several picnic areas and a public restroom. The park is also home to the Darien Nature Center. Renovation included installing: - new playground structures designed to be inclusive for all ages and abilities, with separate play areas for children aged 2-5 and 5-12. - an ADA-compliant patio and walkway to improve accessibility. - new restroom facility and a water fountain, enhancing visitor convenience at the park. - landscaping near the pond area, led by advisory groups and Parks and Recreation Commission focused on invasive species management Construction began in late May 2024 and lasted about two months, with the new playground opening by mid-August 2024. Funding was supported in part by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal grant. Community involvement and fundraising took place in March 2024 through initiatives like a brick fundraiser connecting the parking lot to the playground area. 10.7.2B McCuane Park Renovation (10 Points) In 2023, the McCuane Park playground in Darien underwent a complete replacement and renovation of its playground equipment, officially reopening on August 5, 2023. McCuane Park is a 7.5 acre park located off Noroton Avenue near the Noroton-Heights Firehouse. The field is home to the Darien Little League. The fields are used by minor and major league age groups, Challenger baseball, and girls softball. Darien Little League raised funds, built and renovated the fields, building facility as well as the playground in 2004. The park is used heavily throughout the spring, summer and fall and has three playfields, children's playground equipment and swings, as well as a community building with concessions, comfort, and picnic facilities, and indoor batting cages. All facilities are handicap accessible. A summary of the 2023 improvements to the playground: - Existing playground fully replaced with all new equipment. - New climbing walls installed. - Existing slides replaced with new slides. - Addition of a distinctive "twirler" feature. The playground equipment upgrade was funded by \$175,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act and supplemented by a \$22,000 donation from Federal Realty. The renovations aimed to modernize and enhance the play experience for children.

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [GREAT ISLAND VISION PLAN FINAL JANUARY 2025](#)

PDF: [10.7.1 GREAT ISLAND WORKSHEET.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [10.7.2 CHERRY LAWN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 2024.JPG](#)

PDF: [10.7.2 PARKS AND REC COMMENTARY 25-26 BUDGET PAGES 2 AND 3.PDF](#)

PDF: [10.7.2 CHERRY LAWN PLAYGROUND OPEN DARIEN PATCH 081424.PDF](#)

PDF: [10.7.2 MCGUANE PARK REOPENING ARTICLE AUG 2023.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [10.7.2 MCGUANE PARK BUDGET STATUS](#)

Documentation Details: 10.7.1A Vision Plan - The vision for Great Island as noted in the Vision Plan is to: - Enable access and engagement - Balance Use and Preservation - Build Community - Protect and Sustain 10.7.1A The Master Plan file size is too large to upload and can be found using this link. Other documents include presentations materials. <https://greatisland.darienct.gov/documents> 10.7.1A Great Island Worksheet has responses to 3 required questions 10.7.2B Cherry Lawn Playground Construction Announcement May 2024 indicating construction period 10.7.2B Cherry Lawn Playground Reopening Article August 2024 reporting on completion of work and renovation details 10.7.2B Parks and Recreation Commentary Pages 2 & 3 indicates planned renovation and status of completion of Cherry Lawn renovations 10.7.2C McCuane Park Reopening Article Aug 2023 10.7.2C McCuane Park 2025 Budget Status

Partners: 10.7.1 The Town has formed an advisory committee tasked with overseeing post-purchase work. Reed Hilderbrand was selected as the consulting firm to develop the vision and master plan starting in 2024 with workshops inviting resident input on how best to activate the island's potential while protecting its ecology. 10.7.2 The Town was supported by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Playground Advisory Group

Additional Information: All project documents related to the Great Island vision and master planning effort are available on a website dedicated to the Great Island project and through the Town's website. <https://greatisland.darienct.gov/documents> <https://www.darienct.gov/1379/Great-Island-Advisory-Committee>

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.1 Implement an Affordable Housing Plan

45 Points

Approved Information: 11.1.3 (45 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [11.1.3 A: TOWN OF DARIEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 6, 2022](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 F: TOWN WEBPAGE DEDICATED TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS \(ADUS\)](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 E: TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER, DATED 5/24/24](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 H: TOWN OF DARIEN ZONING MAP, DATED 2/12/25](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 I: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE DARIEN ZONING MAP FOR 1, 16, 22 THORNDAL CIRCLE, DATED 7/30/24](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 J: PLANNING & ZONING ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE DARIEN ZONING REGULATIONS IN THE NOROTON HEIGHTS BUSINESS ZONE, DATED 3/1/22](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 L: PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION RE: 346, 310, 264 HEIGHTS ROAD, DATED 3/22/22](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 K: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION FOR 346, 310, 264 HEIGHTS ROAD, DATED 3/22/22](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 B: COMPLETED WORKSHEET 3](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 C: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION RE: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS \(ADUS\), DATED 5/7/24](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 D: POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON ADUS BY DIRECTOR OF LAND USE AT PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING ON 3/12/24](#)

PDF: [11.1.3 G: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE DARIEN ZONING MAP FOR 3 PARKLANDS DRIVE, DATED 1/25/22](#)

Documentation Details: 11.1.3 a: "Strategies and Actions for Implementation" are found in Chapter 6, pp. 31-36; 11.1.3 c: The resolution on ADUs is found on pp. 5-8; 11.1.1 d: This PPT is linked on the town website; the recorded meeting is available for viewing on demand at Darien TV79: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXxIwJf-Ep4> 11.1.3 e: Info on ADUs is found by scrolling to p.3; 11.1.3 f: Webpage contains information for residents on what ADUs are, requirements for approval, a checklist, application instructions, etc. 11.1.3 g: Adoption of the zoning map amendment to rezone a portion of 3 Parklands Drive is found on p.3; 11.1.3 h: The zoning map amendments for both 3 Parklands Drive and Thorndal Circle are highlighted (see red arrows, lower left); 11.1.3i: Adoption of the zoning map amendment to rezone 1, 16, 22 Thorndal Circle is found on p. 4; 11.1.3 j: Approval of amendments to Sections 743 and 746 of the Darien Zoning Regulations can be found on pp 3-4. 11.1.3 k: The approval of four 3-bedroom units in Building 2 is found on p. 2; reference to a childcare center operated by the Goddard School in the surface level of Building 1 is on p 3; notes that the project sponsor's proposed amendments to Sections 743 and 746 of the Darien Zoning Regulations in the Noroton Heights Business (NH) Zone were adopted by the Commission on 3/1/22 can be found on p. 4.

Partners: None.

Additional Information: 11.1.3 c: By a two-thirds vote of both the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) and the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) the town successfully opted out of the requirement of Public Act 21-29 in 2022. However, after careful study and consideration of the subject of ADUs the PZC developed regulations in response to the interest in ADUs as a flexible and practical solution to housing challenges. 11.1.3 g: This zoning map amendment lead to P&Z Commission Corrected Adopted Resolution dated 2/24/25 to raze the existing office building on site, convert and redevelop the property as multifamily residential with 60 units, of which 8 will be deed-restricted affordable. Construction is underway with an expected completion date of late 2026/early 2027. 11.1.3i: This zoning map amendment lead to P&Z Commission Adopted Resolution dated 2/4/25 in which portions of a suburban office campus will be redeveloped as multifamily residential with 175 units, of which 25 will be deed-restricted affordable. Earliest expected completion date: late 2026. 11.1.3 j: An application for 346, 310, 264 Heights Road utilized these zoning amendments and was approved on 3/22/22. This demonstrates implementation of the strategy to incentivize commercial property owners to have business uses on the ground floor and residential units on upper floors. This development includes 65 residential units, of which 10 are deed-restricted affordable.

11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options

30 Points

Approved Information: 11.2.2 (30 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [11.2.2A: 2020 AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPEALS LIST](#)

PDF: [11.2.2B: 2024 AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPEALS LIST](#)

Documentation Details: 11.2.2 On page two of each Affordable Housing Appeals List, the row for Darien is highlighted. The 2020 Appeals List (baseline year) indicates a percent affordable of 3.56%. The 2024 Appeals List (most current year) indicates a percent affordable of 4.36%. That is an increase of 0.80% which qualifies the town for 30 points in this category (10 points for every 1/4% increase).

Partners: None

Additional Information: At Darien's Representative Town Meeting held on 9/23/13 an ordinance was passed to create a special trust fund to provide affordable housing for the Town of Darien (Ch. 55 of the Town Code outlines its purpose, sources of funding/investments/limitations, expenditures from the fund, and authorization: https://library.municode.com/ct/darien/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COORTODACO). In the past three years monies have been directed to this fund but the most recent allocation was in August 2019 when the Town of Darien transferred \$363,851.46 to the Darien Housing Authority for the construction of a 55-unit affordable housing development ("The Royale") at 719 Boston Post Road.

11.3 Implement Policy for Sustainable, Diverse Housing Options

20 Points

Approved Information: 11.3.3 (20 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [11.3.3: DARIEN INCLUSIONARY ZONING REGULATIONS](#)

PDF: [11.3.2.A: ALLOW FOR DIVERSE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS \(NARRATIVE\)](#)

PDF: [11.3.2B: 2022 DARIEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN](#)

PDF: [11.3.2C: PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION, 10/3/23](#)

Documentation Details: 11.3.2b: A discussion of "special" (non-traditional) housing in Darien can be found on pp. 10-11 (see red highlighting); 11.3.2c: A zoning map amendment to allow for the reconfiguration of a building to house volunteer firemen; 11.3.3: Page V-36 Section 582, Applicability: Applies to all zones that allow dwelling units which is the vast majority of the zoning districts in town. Section 583, Affordable Requirements: When creating FOUR or more dwelling units, 14% must be affordable to those making equal to or less than 80% of the State Median Income using the maximum housing payment calculations outlined in Section 8-30g-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (Section 584). Page V-37 Section 585, Incentives: There is a 50% density bonus and other zoning bonuses for providing more than the minimum number of affordable units. However, this does not require at least 20% of the units to be affordable, so we are basing our qualification for this action on the 14% requirement noted above. --- The original regulation was adopted in 2009 with sections amended in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2017, and 2021. In 2021, the standard changed to requiring 14% of all units in developments of 4 or more units to meet the affordability criteria. The prior language required 12% of units in developments of 5 or more units to meet the affordability criteria. Given the text amendment in 2021 which increased the affordability requirement, we are applying for New Action Credit. Perhaps it could alternately be considered for rolling credit given the increased requirement adopted in 2021 and the ongoing, meaningful impact on the community as new residential development with four or more units must meet the affordability requirement for a higher percentage of units.

Partners: Planning & Zoning

Additional Information: (11.3.2 a): The Cottage is located on municipal property.

12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention

12.3 Collect and Share Homelessness Data

10 Points

Approved Information: 12.3.1 (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [12.3 NARRATIVE ON DATA COLLECTION.DOCX](#)

EXCEL: [12.3.1 ACTIONS TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS - SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING BY CLIENT.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: These documents are self explanatory. -- 12.3 New Action Credit. This database was established in March of 2021.

Partners: This action was undertaken by the town's Human Services Department.

13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

25 Points

Approved Information: 13.1.1 All Abilities Buddy Program (15 points) 13.1.1 Slow Down in Town Campaign (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [13.1A.2 PARKREC BUDDY PROGRAM 2022 CATALOG](#)

WORD: [13.1A.3 BUDDY LEADER JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

WORD: [ACTION 13.1B OUR OWN SUSTAINABILITY ACTION - SLOW DOWN IN TOWN - FINAL NARRATIVE.DOCX](#)

WORD: [13.1A.1 ALLABILITIES BUDDY PROGRAM.DOCX](#)

WORD: [ACTION 13.1B SLOW DOWN IN TOWN DARIEN- DOCUMENTATION \(EXHIBITS COMBINED IN 1 FILE\).DOCX](#)

WORD: [13.1A.4 FALL 2022 P&R BROCHURE.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 13.1A. 1 All Abilities Buddy Program Narrative 13.1A. 2 ParkRec Buddy Program 2022 Spring/Summer Catalog: PDF pg.1_catalog cover announces New Buddy Programs. PDF .2_mentions return from pandemic. PDF pg.3_highlights the All Abilities Buddy Programs. PDF pg.4-8_describes All Ability course details. 13.1A. 3 Buddy Leader Job Description is self explanatory 13.1B 1 Slow Down in Town Narrative 13.1B 2 Five exhibits combined in one document: mission statement, Town Website, FaceBook, Patch, Instagram 13.1A New Action Credit for new All Abilities Buddy Program developed in 2021 and continued in 2022. Implemented in connection with 1.1B Optimize for Equity. 13.1B New Action Credit for Slow Down in Town started in 2021 and continued in 2022. 13.1C 7 exhibits relating to Darien Public Schools response to the 2022 sudden deaths in the student community (Mental Health Director hire, Mental Health Resource Listing, Hosting Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk and Fund Raiser, Anonymous Alerts App launch, Memo noting policy change) 13.1C 3 exhibits relating to Town of Darien's QPR training program and Town's Mental Health Task Force actions 13.1C 1 exhibits to show community survey conducted by Thriving Youth of Darien Survey of Mental Health - October 2023 article from the Darien Times 13.1. MentalHealth1 Grief Loss Support Health Series July 2022

Partners: 13.1A: The Parks and Recreation Department with input from the Darien Youth Director collaborated with multiple partners to identify and implement the Buddy Programs, as part of the Town's general youth offerings: Project Buddy Up, The Darien Depot, Noroton Presbyterian Church, and A Better Chance_Darien have assisted to develop a network of volunteers, define their roles and responsibilities and provide initial training. These efforts are ongoing and coordinated with the town and staff who schedule and implement the youth programs. 13.1B: Slow Down in Town: This program was a collaboration among the Police Department, the Board of Selectmen, the Police Commission, Post 53 (town ambulance service), the Representative Town Meeting and volunteers (e.g. school children). 13.1C: Town of Darien with the Human Services, Board of Education, Darien Library, The Darien Depot, Thriving Youth Darien and the School Parent Organizations have responded by raising mental health, especially with the youth, and fostering a more supportive environment through various initiatives.

Additional Information: The All-Abilities Buddy Program, offered through the Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Project Buddy Up and other community organizations, addresses the social and emotional wellbeing of children by expanding access to recreational programs. The addition of a teen buddy to select Parks and Rec offerings expands the reach of these offerings and enables inclusivity without separation. Furthermore, the program provides a unique opportunity for older youth to volunteer, expand their social interaction skills, develop other valuable skills, and make a difference in the lives of others in their community. In 2022, Darien suffered the tragic loss of several individuals, including students, some by suicide. The community sought mental health support and rallied together by partnering with local schools, community organizations and foundations to raise awareness on suicide prevention, share mental health resources and improve the health and wellbeing of the community.