

New Haven Coastal Program

City Plan is now updating the 1983 Coastal Program. Pursuant to the Connecticut Coastal Area Management Act, the program forms the basis of the City Plan Commission's coastal site plan review findings and is an essential part of our review of zoning applications, coastal land use decisions and public investment priorities.

Since the program's inception, the City of New Haven has been an active participant in coastal area management. In the late 1970's the city worked closely with DEP and the city's legislative delegation on adoption of the Connecticut Coastal Management Act (CCMA) and soon thereafter applied the new law at the local level. In May, 1980, the New Haven Zoning Ordinance was amended to add a new section 55, Coastal Management District. In February, 1983, the Municipal Coastal Program was established.

The City Plan Commission is responsible for the coastal program and administers most of the coastal site plan reviews. In 2003 alone, the City Plan Commission reviewed 35 coastal site plans. The Commission is committed to CCMA objectives and continues to advocate for water-dependent uses, environmental stewardship and public access to our coastal resources. Of note, the coastal site plan review process has dramatically increased the number of public access easements in New Haven.

In recent years, the City of New Haven has prepared new city policies addressing coastal areas.

In 2001, a Harbor Plan was issued. The Harbor Plan advocates for a balanced approach focused on three guiding principles: economic development, cultural enrichment and environmental sustainability. These principles were codified as city policy with the adoption of the new Comprehensive Plan of Development in 2003.

The comprehensive plan likewise discusses a new generation of land use planning objectives within the coastal area. For example, the plan promotes a more concentrated port district in the East Shore and a new mixed use project in Fair Haven.



The Harbor Plan, 2001, articulated a more comprehensive approach to coastal area planning.